



Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY)



Former Senator Joseph Lieberman

# Free Iran Rally

Thousands Rally Against Rouhani, Call for Free Iran

September 20, 2017 | United Nations, New York





*Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, President-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, remarks:*

... “Why is the President of a regime that has consistently rejected the UN allowed to appear at the General Assembly?”

...“Any diplomatic or commercial ties with the regime must be made contingent on a halt in torture and executions.”

... “I urge all governments and especially the United States to close all paths for dealing with the regime’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC).”





The entire world knows that  
**“the good people of Iran want change”**  
and that **“Iran’s people are what their  
leaders fear the most.”**

*President Trump’s UNGA Speech, September 19, 2017*







## *Eliot Engel (D-NY)*

*House Foreign Affairs Committee Ranking Member*

Good afternoon everyone, welcome to my hometown, New York City.

**When I look up I see all these wonderful signs. They're all wonderful, but the one I like the best says "Free Iran."** The Iranian people are great people, but right now they are being kept down by leadership that strangles them. But we're not going to allow that leadership to continue to strangle, we're going to fight until we have a free Iran. Now change can come from within. There are many young people in Iran, people who have only known oppression, have only known this horrific government, have only known things that are against the Iranian people. We believe that from within change can come because the Iranian people have always been leaders, have always been able to do what's right, and this terrible regime that strangles the Iranian people has got to end - and the sooner the better.

**...and we are not going to stop until the Iranian people are free once again.**

Now I can tell you that you have a lot of friends in the U.S. Congress on both sides of the aisle. And I can tell you nothing gave me greater pleasure just as within the past year to go

to Iran and Albania and meet people from Camp Liberty to help get them out, to make sure that they were safe. I was very pleased we were able to do that.

...So I say to the Iranian government, to the mullahs in Tehran, to the people that don't allow the Iranian people to breathe free, let's have a fair and free election in Iran. Let the Iranian people decide who they want to represent them and what kind of a government they want to have. And I'll bet you if they have a chance to vote it won't be a theocracy, it won't be a kind of a group and office that's been forced on them now, it will be a democracy just like we have here in the United States of America.

I want to make you this pledge. I want to pledge to you that I will work with all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, work with all the government officials, keep the pressure on the regime which hurts the Iranian people, and continue to demand that the Iranian people have the same rights as the American people of free and fair elections showing what the Iranian people really want. Only then can change come from within. I have no doubt if and when that referendum is held in Iran we will be able to go to Iran and watch the Iran people in democracy, not in a government that hurts them, kills them, does everything that's bad for them.

**We have to say that the United States must always stand with the freedom loving people of Iran.** I want to pledge to you that I will continue to fight for a free Iran, will continue to fight for all the things we want. And I want to thank all of you for your great courage in coming here and saying free Iran. God bless you and God bless the Iranian people





## Senator Joe Lieberman

*Former Democratic Senator from Connecticut (1989-2013)*

.... when it comes to Iran the change from the last administration to this one is a change from night to day, from darkness to sunlight....and the fact is, in the years and almost two years since the agreement was implemented, nothing about the atrocious, aggressive, extremist behavior of Iran has changed. President Trump sees that and speaks to it. He also knows and has said clear what we have felt—I certainly have—which is that the agreement which was negotiated was a terrible agreement. It was not good for the United States. It was not good for the people of Iran. It was not good for the world....

...the other thing that has happened is the allies that have come to our cause, and I thought it was most dramatically expressed in a meeting in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. President Trump was there, but more than 50 Arab nations stating more clearly than ever before in a more unified voice that the current regime in Iran not only represents a threat to the people of Iran, it represents a threat to the entire region and to the world. We are not alone. We are not alone in fighting for freedom for Iran. We have some great countries who are in the same region who are willing to stand up with us and say it's time to change the regime in Iran....

... So I think it's not us but it's the regime in Iran that is saying to us we will not change. We will never change. And therefore, we have to say, with increasing support I believe certainly here in the United States and from nations throughout the Middle East and I hope the rest of the world, if the regime in Iran will not change, and I know it won't, then we must change the regime.

... In the last year there have been 11,000 protests throughout the country against the regime, against its corruption, against the exploitation of the economy by the IRGC, and against the denial of basic human and political rights. And those protests go over into political protests as well, increasingly as calling out to the government, which doesn't want to hear it, but really to the people of the world that it's time for a truth commission about what happened to those 30,000 human beings killed by the Iranian government in the late '80s. It's time for a truth commission in Iran the way there was a truth commission in South Africa after the end of apartheid. So, there is the beginning of a protest movement, and it's not in its infancy anymore. It's expanding. There are different ideological groups, different ethnic groups, and in my opinion by far the most organized and effective and ready to be part of an opposition movement as the leaders is of course the People's Mujahedeen of Iran led by Mrs. Maryam Rajavi.

So I hope that President Trump will move on from his eloquence yesterday and not only decertify Iran, followed hopefully by Congress with your help reinstating economic sanctions against Iran, but that we will do what we did during the dark years for the people of Eastern and Central Europe who had to live under the tyranny of the Communists, and that is in Iran to support the opposition groups, to support the freedom fighters, to support the People's Mujahedeen of Iran, and all others who are our allies in Iran against our enemies who control the country.







## Ambassador John Bolton

*U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations (2005-2006)*

*Excerpts*-Thank you, thank you very much. Well, it's a pleasure to be here today. The only cloud in the sky really is that Rouhani is addressing the UN General Assembly. But I predict in short order somebody that this group wants to represent Iran will speak for Iran in the United Nations. And I think it's important that we stress the urgency of getting the mullahs out of power in Tehran. "

**"My suggestion is that the motto should be that the regime will not celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019."**

I think it's very important that the United States declare as its official policy that the regime in Iran needs to change. I think the world needs to hear this with clarity. And I think President Trump laid the ground work for that announcement in his speech to the General Assembly yesterday when he stressed that the prime victims of the regime in Tehran were the people of Iran themselves. This is a critical statement by the president because any regime that's as murderous and totalitarian as this one is cannot possibly have international legitimacy.

**"Legitimacy only comes from the voice of the people."** That's what real national sovereignty means. Just as the American Constitution declared where sovereignty lies, it lies in we the people for the United States, that's where legitimacy and sovereignty lies for the country of Iran as well, with the people and not with the regime.

...There are not two separate problems here, the North Korean problem and the problem of the Ayatollah's regime. They are basically the same problem. The axis of evil is not a metaphor, it's a reality. [applause] And I think we've seen this for a long time. The Mullahs got their first missile capability 25 years ago when North Korea sold it to them. They worked together with North Korea on expanding and enlarging and increasing the capability of their missile forces for the entire period of time since then, including in 1998 in particular when North Korea declared a moratorium on launch testing from the Korean peninsula; they simply shifted their missile program to Iran. And why not? The objectives of the missile programs are the same. They're to deliver nuclear weapons. They're not to launch weather or communication satellites. So when you see North Korea under its leader Kim Jung Un or as the president now calls him, Rocket Man, when you see North Korea firing missiles, these are missiles that could easily be transferred to control by the regime of the mullahs to be launched in the region, or as North Korea's capability increases, around the world.

...And I hope that President Trump's speech yesterday sends a clear signal to those who are aiding the regime, sends a clear signal to Russia, a clear signal to the Chinese who want to benefit from Iranian oil, that this regime is different from past governments of the United States. And that what the president said yesterday about North Korea applies to the regime in Tehran as well, is that denuclearization is the only acceptable future, the only acceptable future.







## Giulio Terzi

*former Italy's Foreign Minister*

"I wanted to assure you that you have very close friends in Italy and in Europe, and we continue to pursue and to support your goals with all the efforts that you can make and reserve to your right to have a country responsible and accountable to the rule of law in any possible way."



## Senator Robert Torricelli

*Former Democratic Senator from NJ*

As we speak, as you stand here, only yards away, within the sound of my voice, Rouhani speaks to the leaders of the world.

"This is a building and an organization that was created for peace, justice, and human reconciliation. A murderer, an abuser of his people, a torturer does not deserve in that hallowed building."

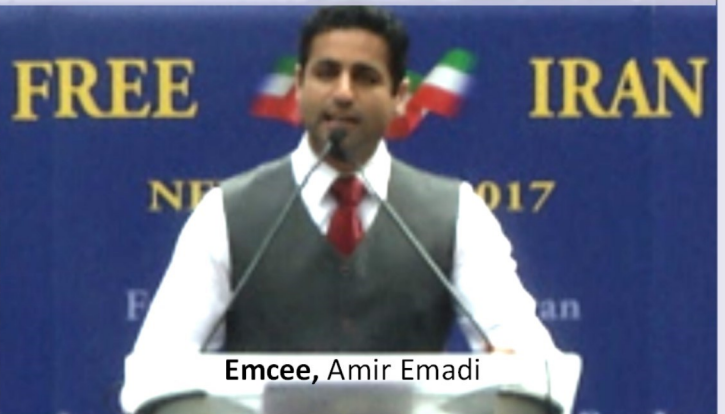
"Isn't 40 years enough for the oppression of the Iranian government?"







**Representatives of Iranian Youth Communities** were instrumental in getting the word out on social media. “This is the generation that has not even seen Iran, nevertheless, they are hopeful that one day soon, they will rejoice with their extended family members in a democratic Iran,” said Mahtab Amin.



**Emcee, Amir Emadi**



**Syrian Opposition Members** condemned Rouhani and the regime for their support of Assad’s regime in Syria. “Without Iran rulers’ support, Assad would have been long gone,” they said.





## Religious Leaders

The Very Rev. Eddie Alleyne Speaking

Dozens of faith community leaders from across the nation (especially New York) actively participated in the rally to express support for the Iranian people & to condemn Iran regime's suppression of religious & ethnic minorities.

**Rabbi Joseph Potasnik** and **Rabbi Gerald Sussman** expressed their support for the Free Iran Rally.

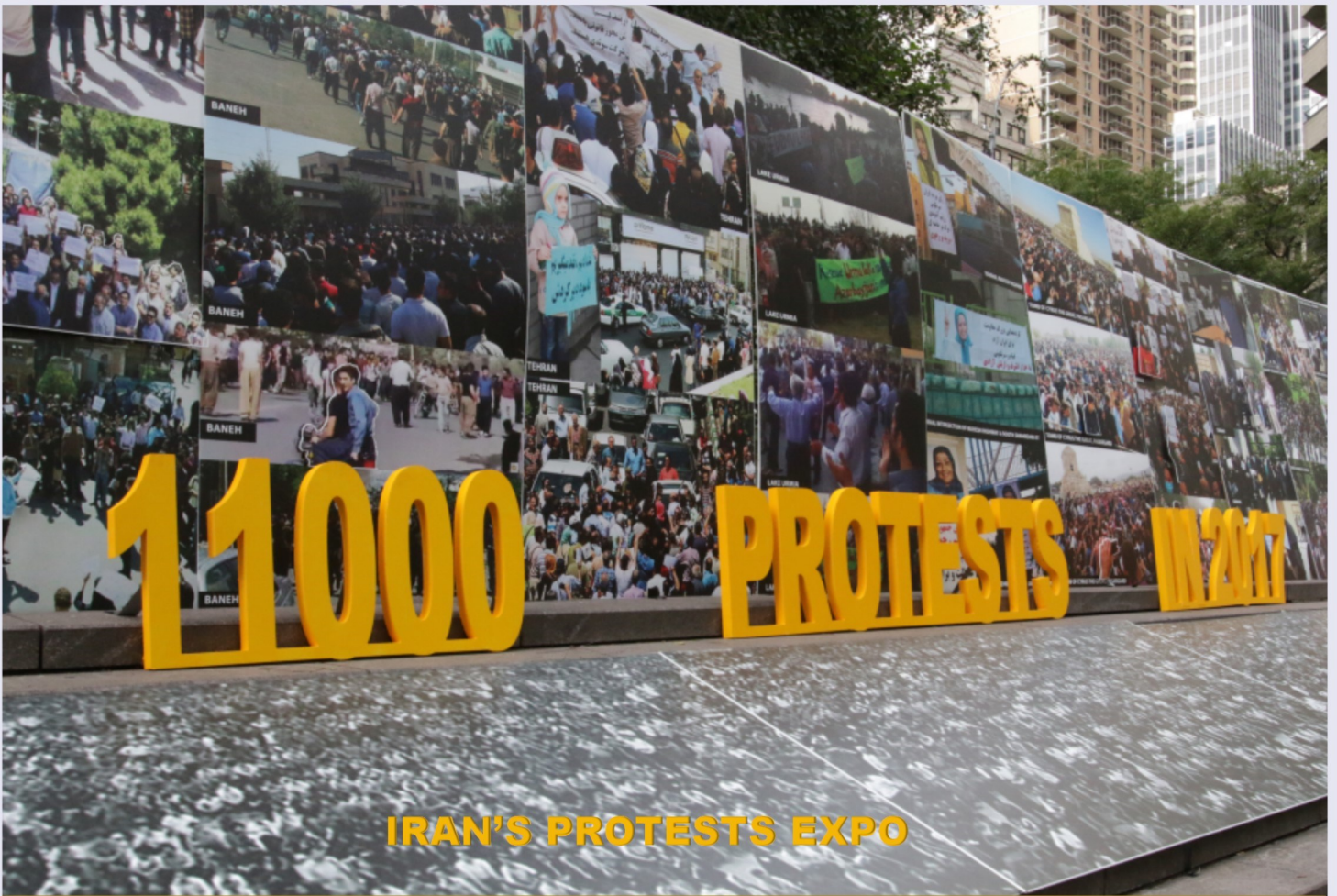


Bishop Dr. Angel Nunez Speaking



Bishop Dr. Robert Stearns Speaking





**IRAN'S PROTESTS EXPO**

2017 PROTESTS IN DIFFERENT CITIES ACROSS IRAN



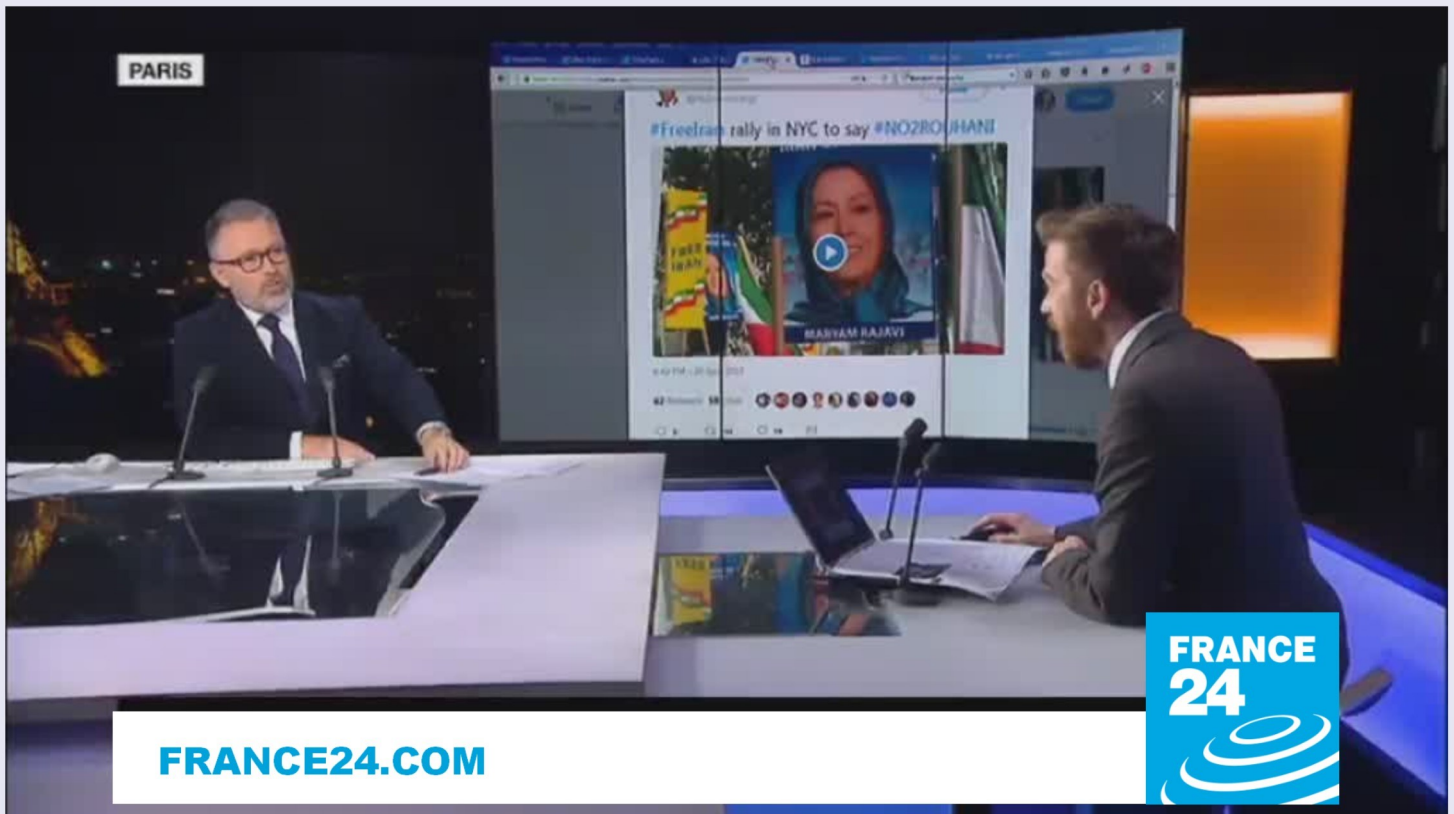
**DEPICTING THE 120,000 FALLEN FOR FREEDOM ALREADY**



# *Iran: change is inevitable*







Dozens of media outlets covered the New York's Free Iran Rally



Compiled by



Organization of Iranian American Communities – US

1717 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Suite 1025  
 Washington DC 20006  
 Ph: 202 - 559 - 9232  
 www.oiacus.org