



2005



2006



Together Now for a Democratic, Secular Republic in Iran

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Coming together from:

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District of Columbia
Florida
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Nevada
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**For a Democratic,
Secular
Republic in Iran**

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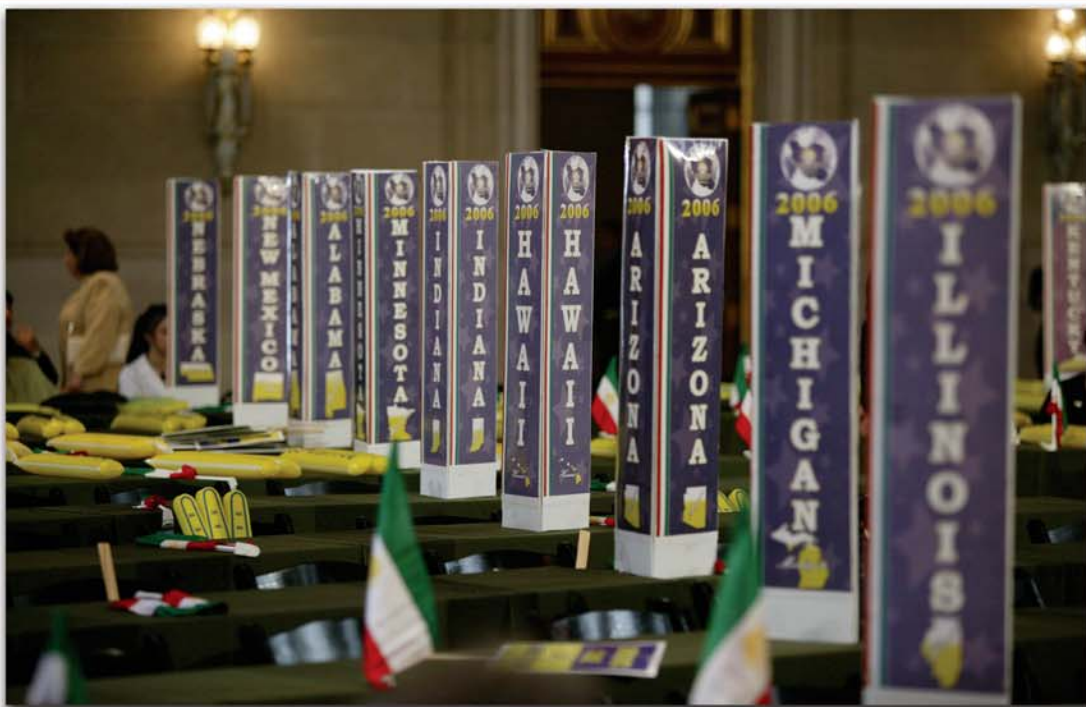
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About Iranian-Americans Nationwide	2005 National Convention: Coming Together	2006 Convention and Moving Forward
<p>The United States contains the highest number of Iranians in the world outside Iran. The Iranian-American community has generated a significant number of individuals notable in many fields, including medicine, engineering, and business. Sizeable concentrations of Iranian Americans live in the state of California. There are also large numbers of Iranians in Washington DC, and around Dallas and Houston, Texas.</p> <p>Iranian communities in the US have also religious and ethnic diversity which is a close representative of Iran's own demographic variety. Azeri, Kurdish, Arab as well as Jewish, Christian, Zoroastrian and Baha'i Iranian-Americans are important components of the larger Iranian communities in the U.S.</p> <p>Iranian-Americans are among the most successful immigrants in the United States. They have made their presence felt in all areas of socio-economic life; from engineering, medicine, science, business, and academia, the arts and music.</p> <p>Despite their relatively short life as an immigrant group, Iranian-Americans have accomplished significant economic and professional achievements in the United States. According to the U.S. census, they are among the most educated and financially successful immigrants in the country.</p>	<p>The Iranian-Americans' impact on public policy arena is felt increasingly in political circles. For the first time in 2005, the Iranian-American communities and organizations came together under the National Convention for a Democratic, Secular Republic in Iran. Proven to be among the most active, committed, and organized segments of the Iranian Diaspora in the U.S., their political platform of 2005 National Convention was organized on four Pillars:</p> <p>Human Rights: Tehran must be confronted publicly and privately for its violations of human rights. Speakers on this platform addressed the need for direct and persistent condemnations of human rights, gender apartheid, and violence against religious minorities in Iran.</p> <p>Terrorism: Tehran continues to support terrorist groups and undermine the stability in Iraq through its extensive network with extremists groups in the region. Speakers on this topic presented strategies to deter future acts of terrorism sponsored by Tehran.</p> <p>Nuclear Threat: Tehran is defiantly pursuing its nuclear program with an aggressive timetable. With various options are on the table, Tehran also senses indecision and disunity in the West. Speakers offered a roadmap for a cohesive approach Tehran's nuclear threat.</p> <p>US Policy: No one in Washington can claim that appeasement and a foreign war represent viable policy options on Iran. Speakers presented a third option, which is to support democratic change by the Iranian people.</p>	<p>With the experience of their first National Convention behind them, in 2006 the Iranian-Americans embarked on a year full of activities to redefine their role.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aligning efforts for a much needed policy Tehran's regime. - Strategy to be present, active and in touch with Iran - Drive through commitment to deliver results locally and nationwide <p>In 2006, Iranian-Americans declared that they are TOGETHER NOW. Through their activities and enhancing their network, Iranian-Americans are asserting the needed voice in order to bridge the gap on US-Iran policy. With the mission to Move Forward in the year ahead, the platform of the 2006 National Convention was organized in three different planks:</p> <p>Rising Challenge: Since August 2005, an already radical regime in Tehran has become more radical with Ahmadinejad and his policy of terror in Iraq, race for nuclear arms and suppression at home. The Convention platform outlined the areas of concern and Ahmadinejad's growing danger to world peace and security.</p> <p>Need for Democratic Change: The Iranian people's resolute struggle for liberty inspires the Diaspora to rally for a democratic change. Instead of a foreign war or continued appeasement, the platform expressed support for the home grown movement for democracy that can indeed end the tyrannical regime in Tehran.</p> <p>A Free, Prosperous and Secure Future: Convention declared that Iranian-Americans stand for an Iran free of tyranny, nuclear threat, and terror. To this end, their state-delegates approved a US-policy which relies on Iran's indigenous and patriotic resistance movement coupled with UN Security Council sanctions.</p>



Dear friends,

At a crucial juncture and with much enthusiasm and commitment for a free, prosperous, and peaceful Iran, the 2006 National Convention for a Democratic, Secular Republic was held on May 25 at the Andrew Mellon Auditorium in Washington, DC.

With diverse backgrounds, many faces and voices of Iranian-American leaders and delegates from nearly 40 states represented a vision for a democratic Iran. Rising above the current debate between the extremes of military option or negotiations, they pressed for an indigenous solution: democratic regime change by the Iranian people and their resistance.

The 2006 Convention was the culmination of a year-long effort by the most active and dedicated segments of the Iranian Diaspora. It strove to reinforce efforts to isolate the leadership in Tehran and empowering the Iranian people to bring about change. These Iranian-American communities have played a vital role in the public diplomacy arena to unmask Tehran's false claims to popular legitimacy and nuclear nationalism; they are indeed the de facto partners to the efforts aimed at isolating the Iranian regime.

The presence of an "Iranian" component at the frontlines of the campaign against the current Iranian leadership over the issues of Iran's democracy deficit, nuclear proliferation, sponsorship of terrorism, and meddling in Iraq; is essential to the success of this campaign.

Building stronger ties to bring about democracy for Iranians and security for Americans and the entire Middle East was echoed strongly in the convention. United States Senators, Members of U.S. House of Representatives, former government officials, Middle East and Iranian experts, and religious leaders joined representatives of Iranian-American communities in addressing the Convention.

A main highlight of the event was establishing direct phone link with activists inside Iran, who, with great risk to their lives, conveyed the desire of the Iranian nation for a free Iran.

Delegates also marked the centennial anniversary of Iran's anti-dictatorial 1906 Constitutional Revolution, a constant source of inspiration and true national pride. Rejecting Ahmadinejad's claim to nuclear nationalism, the Convention reflected Iran's true national aspiration by calling for peace and a nuclear-free Iran.

The 2006 National Convention ratified three components of its platform as well as its action plan for the next year.

Zari Sariri
Convention Director



"My name is Shekofeh Sharif and I am honored to be your host and welcome you to the 2006 National Convention for a Democratic, Secular Republic in Iran. This year, we also have messages from our beloved homeland Iran. The call for democracy in Iran is very strong and we are proud to have the brave voices of Iranians who are resisting the terrorist regime of Ahmadinejad. In solidarity with the Iranian people, our convention this year is organized on three platforms:

- I. Tehran's Regime: the Rising Challenge:
- II. Call for Democratic Change:
- III. Free, Prosperous, Secure Future."



Congressman
Tom Tancredo
(R-CO)
Member of
International
Relations
Committee



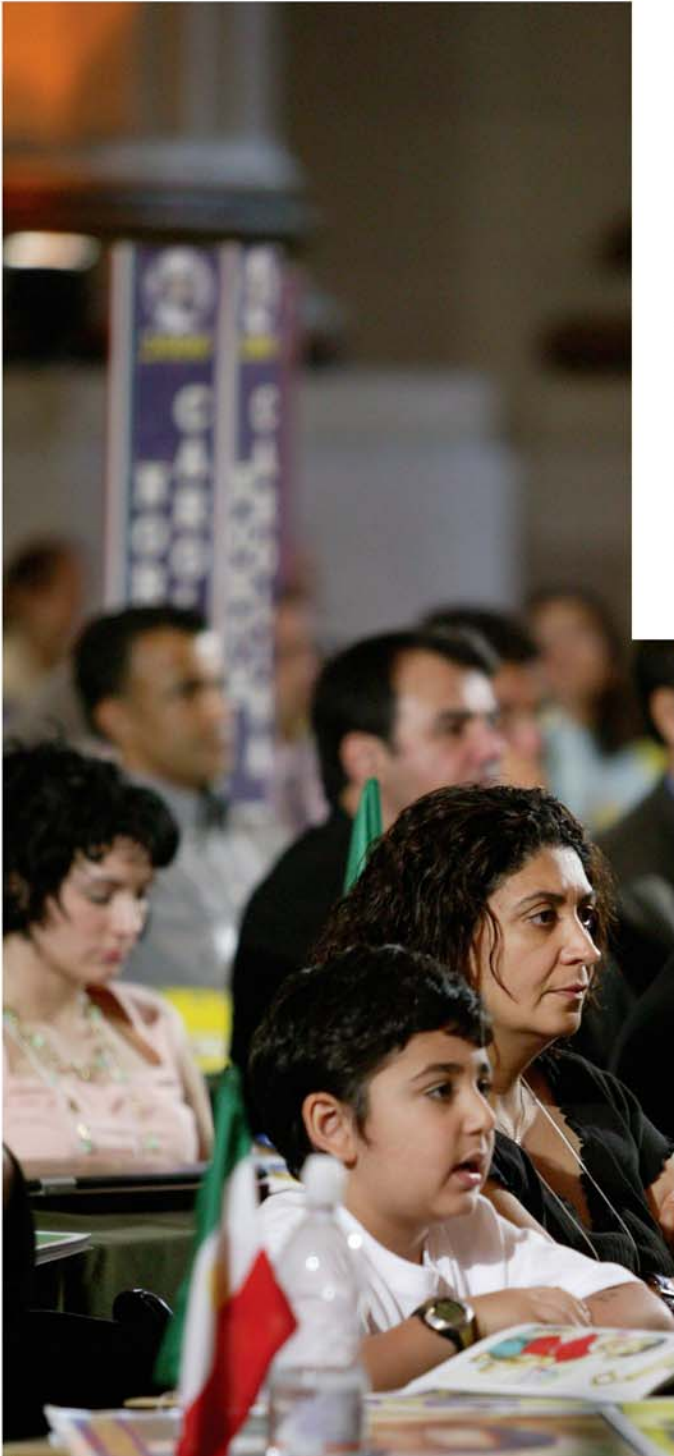
Dear Convention Members,

I want to welcome all of the people of your organization to Washington, DC! I am honored that you invited me to speak. I wish I could be with you all today, however previous commitments require my presence in Colorado.

I want you to know that I am disturbed by the violations of human rights by Iran. The Iranian regime's human rights record was condemned for the 52nd time by the United Nations in December 2005. Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad continues to suppress ethnic and religious minorities. Political activists and reporters have been arrested, imprisoned, tortured and executed in Iranian Kurdistan, as well as Khuzistan.

Furthermore, I am extremely concerned by Iran's defiance of the international community in its pursuit of developing a nuclear weapons program. This endangers the stability of the region and the world. Democratic, peace-seeking Muslims like you deserve credit for your tireless struggle against fundamentalist regimes like the one in Iran today. With your continued dedication and hard work, democratic change will someday come to Tehran,

Sincerely,
Thomas Tancredo
Member of Congress



"I came here today to ensure the voice of the voiceless in my native land is heard in Washington. The Iranian people want democratic change, not war or negotiation with the Ahmadinejad's regime. We must simply support them through a just policy."

**Mr. Tim Ghaemi, Business
Consultant, President of
Colorado's Iranian American
Society**



My Dear Friends of the Iranian-American Community:

I welcome you today to Washington for your National Convention. I regret that the press of business in the Senate today makes it impossible for me to join you in person, but I want you to know that I share your aspiration for a free and democratic Iran where human rights are respected, not only today but every day.

This year marks the centenary of the first effort towards establishing democracy in Iran with the convening of Iran's first parliament. It would be easy to lose heart if we compare the high hopes of 1906 with the grim situation of today. But the democratic forces in Iran have assets they lacked one hundred years ago — an Iranian community dispersed throughout the world who will not let their homeland be forgotten; and a recognition that democracy and human rights are no longer the special privilege of the West, but the birthright of all humanity. I thank you for raising public awareness in the United States to the need for peaceful change in Iran, and I wish you every success for your convention this year.

Sincerely,
Tom A. Coburn, M.D.
United States Senate

"This convention is yet another sign of popular will for a democratic, secular republic in Iran."

**Mr. Khodadoust,
President of
Iranian-American
Community of
Oklahoma**



Thank you, I'm glad to be back among friends.

It's good to see some Texans out there. It is written we hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal. And they've been endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights: among these is life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. These words were written by Thomas Jefferson in the American Declaration of Independence, the document that is right down the street from where this convention is. Those are the bedrock ideals of the American nation. And although those words were written to assert the freedom for all Americans, the reach is much broader. The United States does not claim a monopoly on freedom; instead we work to insure that people from all nations receive the entitlement of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, no matter where those nations are and no matter who those people happen to be.

President John F. Kennedy who's buried in sight of this building said when he was President of these United States, during his inaugural address, "Let every nation know, whether it's wish is ill or well, that we shall pay any price, we will bare any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe in order to insure the survival and success of liberty. This much we pledge and more".

So I join many of my friends and colleagues in calling for President Kennedy's message to live on. The United States of America must continue to assure the people of Iran that we support the people of Iran and their desire for freedom and liberty.

In this world we live in, and we are all citizens of the world, there has never been a greater need for a free and stable Iran. When literal and figurative explosions occur in the Middle East, they are affected and aftershocks are felt around the world including the United States.

So I join you today at the 2006 National Convention for a Democratic Secular Republic in Iran, to say that the future of Iran lies within its people and with her children.

Last year I had the honor to stand before you at the Daughters of the American Revolution's Constitution Hall and call on the Daughters of Iran to make your country free. That message, that song, still needs to be sung: the daughters of Iran must make Iran free.

So my message today is the same. But for the people of Iran, each day, a new life under the repressive regime brings greater importance for the words that are spoken throughout this city and throughout this convention. And those two words are liberty and freedom, liberty and freedom for all people. I'll leave you with this: those who seek true liberty and freedom and real democracy in Iran, those who live under the shadows of tyrants, those men and women and children have a friend in America.

Thank you very much.

Thank you.



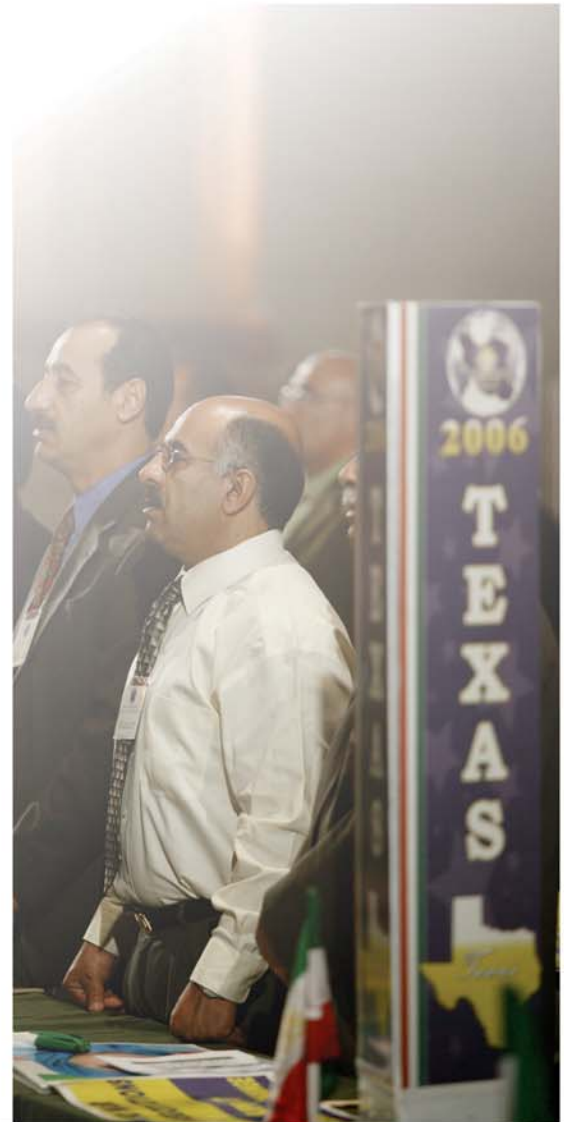
Congressman Ted Poe, (R-TX)
Member of International
Relations Committee

Members of Iranian-American Community of Texas welcome Congressman Poe to 2006 Convention.



"I support this convention because it represents the will of the Iranian people who reject a nuclear regime in Tehran."

Mr. Ali Soujani,
President of Iranian-American Community of Texas



"For me the issue of women's rights is an important element in Iran policy debate. I support this convention because it is pressing for both democracy and equality in Iran."

**Mrs. Mahbobeh Ghoreishi,
Member of Iranian-American
Community of Texas**



Congressman Michael McCaul (R-TX)
Member of International
Relations Committee



The United States Congress continues to work and pass legislation with the intention of helping Iran and its citizens employ a democratically elected government whose motives are to serve all Iranians equally and help our world become more peaceful. For the past 18 years the Iranian Government has worked against peace and diplomacy and therefore against the best interests of its citizens. A nuclear Iran is unacceptable to the U.S., to the Middle East and to the people of Iran who suffer every day under a dictatorial regime. The United States Congress understands these problems and will continue to help Iran's citizens achieve the democracy they have long deserved. Thank you for your time and your dedication to this noble cause.

Michael T MacCaul
Member of Congress
10th Congressional District of Texas



Congresswoman Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX)
Member of Homeland Security Committee

I have long been an advocate of a free, independent, and democratic Iran; an Iran that is non-threatening to its neighbors and that honors its commitments in the world community. There is no dissent in the world community about the inherent dangers of nuclear proliferation in the region.

In recent months, the regime in Tehran has become more radical in its rhetoric, and more aggressive in the support of terrorists. Iran must be required to honor non-proliferation pacts in no uncertain terms or be referred to the Security Council for sanction.

We must do everything in our power to ensure that Iran is never able to threaten the peace and stability of the region. To do this will require international cooperation and multi-lateral diplomacy.

Congratulations to you on the occasion of your second National Convention for a Democratic and Secular Republic in Iran, and may we all soon see peace and stability return to all of the Middle East.

Statement by Congresswoman Sheila Jackson-Lee
Member of Congress
18th Congressional District of Texas



The 2006 National Convention

Congressman Bob Filner,
(D-CA) co-Chair of Iran Human Rights and Democracy



Greetings and welcome to Washington DC!

As a member of the United States Congress, and strong believer in human rights and democracy, it is a pleasure to speak to you on this day of solidarity with members of the Iranian resistance.

Last year, we witnessed Iran's sham elections, which brought in President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Since, then it has become even clearer that the regime will not allow democracy and human rights to blossom in Iran. On the contrary, they continue to hold tightly to their power, conduct public executions, condone stonings, and other brutal human rights violations, support international terrorism, seek nuclear weapons, and ignore the will of the majority of Iran's population.

The people of Iran deserve better. I have had the pleasure of meeting many Iranian citizens who have fled this brutal regime and are clamoring for democracy, and I believe the United States must stand with them in their struggle. The current United States position of allowing the Europeans continue negotiating with the "carrot-stick" approach is not feasible. Nor is the solution an Iraq-style invasion.

Instead, there is a "third way." We should allow Iranian opposition groups to challenge the regime and build the peaceful, democratic nation that they dream of.

You will be happy to know that I am working hard here in our nation's capital to convince my colleagues to embrace this "third way." We have formed the Iran Human Rights and Democracy Caucus to raise awareness in Congress about the grave situation in Iran and the need to support the Iranian resistance. You can count on me to continue to stand with you as you build support for an Iranian-led effort to bring human rights and democracy to Iran!

Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johns (D-TX)
Chair of 107th Congressional Black Caucus

It is great to hear the cheerfulness and the energy in your voices, and I understand you are from 48 different states.

Thank you for allowing me to come to give just a few remarks to your national convention. Since the establishment of the Islamic republic of Iran, 120,000 people have been executed for their political beliefs. Teenagers are publicly hanged as you know, women are stoned to death, and journalists and bloggers are arrested and imprisoned. I believe it is important that we do shed the light on what is going on about this violence. I have an international program, an initiative rather than that's called "a world of women for world peace" ...So we are gathered here today to ask the international community to raise their objections to the atrocities and demand that Iran stops silencing those who fight against violence, to tell the clerical regime in Iran to respect women's rights and to abolish the anti-women laws and regulations...Throughout the years the Iranian people have shown their resolve to fight against tyranny and after enduring years of war, the Iranian people are adamantly antiwar opposed to foreign aggression, and they are people well deserving of a peaceful existence and democratic government. Just the fact that they have been willing to stay steadfast lets us all know that all strength is there to overcome.

The Iranian regime should be reported to the United National Security Council for their violation against human rights.

And we are gathered today to request that policy makers support the innocent people of Iran. And to raise our collective voices to end this gross violations of human rights in Iran. I know that all of us speaking in one voice can get attention and can make more and more things possible. While it may not be possible to do it all one time, we must be sure that it continues to move and never stop, even if it's a slow pace, continue to make it move. I have a little experience in fighting for rights; right here in this country and the one thing I've learned, you don't gain everything overnight.

But you never give up, never give in, you keep on working toward that goal. And one day you'll begin to the results of your work. And I believe that now.

Congressional Support

"This convention stands on a hundred years of struggle for democracy and freedom in Iran."

Professor Ali Parsa, Historian and Expert on Islam, Fullerton University



"The Iranian people are very clear on their demands, they desire a democratic change. Options such as military attacks or more negotiation with Tehran will not deliver democracy for the Iranian people. Our convention represent this message."

Dr. R. Sadeghpour,
Member of Iranian-American
Community of Massachusetts



Ambassador James Akins
U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia during the Nixon
administration. An internationally respected expert
on Middle East and energy issues.

"We are now In our second Iraq war, The first one ended inclusively and, in my mind, there are still many questions about our actions and non-actions which ultimately must be answered — but not here or now. The current war in Iraq was badly conceived and stupidly executed but there was, for me, at least one unexpected. shining, honorable act. The Mojahadiin which had fought the Mullahs in Iran and argued for a democratic, secular state, were imprisoned, tortured and killed by the mullahs. Those who could escape fled to Iraq. This was not easy for them given Saddam's unprovoked attack on Iran a decade earlier. However, Saddam never used them militarily in any way. And he did save them from death at the hands of the Iranian mullahs.

In the first days of the invasion of Iraq ,we bombed Camp Ashraf, where the Mojahadiin were based; but they did not return fire.. The American army quickly took effective control of the camp. I know there have been "Iranian experts" in this country who have argued — and some still do . that we could win points in Iran by turning the Mojahadiin over to the Mullahs as they insist we must. However, some American — I don't know who — effectively opposed this, arguing that we would have Mojahadiin blood on our hands forever as it was absolutely certain that they would be tortured and killed. We would gain nothing but contempt from the mullahs for our stupidity and naiveté.

Mojahadiin sources in Iran were the first to give us detailed accurate information on the Iranian nuclear activities. If they were as isolated and ineffectual as many of their American enemies insist, it seems highly unlikely that their sources inside Iran would be so good.

I'd like to live long enough to see the formation of a liberal, democratic, secular Iran with explicit full rights for women and religious minorities—and even for those, like me, who have no formal religion at all. I'm sure this wish is shared by most Americans and most Iranians."





"Salaam and thank you very much.

Members of the coalition, expatriates of Iran, thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak before you today. I'm honored to speak before a collection of people that are committed to a cause that is important. The cause of seeing progress made in the state of Iran which has played such an important role throughout history and played a role at times in promoting democracy.

Ladies and gentlemen I'm here to speak today in support of democracy for Iran. I'm here to speak today in support of democracy in Iran by Iranians for Iranians. I believe that with the right policies this can occur without war and with peace... We know that Iran has had a long history of being a great civilization. There was a time when Iran led the efforts for democracy in the Middle East. One only needs to look back at the constitutional revolution of 1906 (the first of its kind in the region) where we saw a period of unprecedented debate and a burgeoning press. We saw laws that provided new freedoms, freedoms of speech, association, security and right of property. Later we saw that between the world wars, Iran was an active member in the international community maintaining important commercial ties and political ties with the United States and others...

For years Iranians and Americans shared common interests creating strong and lasting bonds in science, sports, arts and business. Iranians and many of you in this room studied abroad including in the U.S and contributed to humanity as great scholars, doctors, lawyers, scientist, business leaders and writers. But in the last quarter century, that great tradition has been hijacked and sabotage. The once proud history has been taken over, derailed and eroded. A clerical fundamentalist regime has come into place and has thrown away the promise to the future and the hope for tomorrow. This regime has veered far off the road of progress, deviating from its noble past. Rather than remaining active and a credible member of the international community it chose to become a leader in anti-democratic activity. Iran has gone from seeking to better the world to seeking nuclear weapons...

But ladies and gentlemen, this road to democracy is not and will not be an easy one. It will be full of challenges. And we do know that as we pursue this it will not come from outside, it must come from inside.... Now the responsibility of promoting change within Iran does fall simply to its people. The international community must do its part. The international community must continue to take active steps to advance the cause of democracy and not fall in the false practice of appeasement. It must use its diplomatic context, trade, investments, and leverage constructively to convince the hardliners that there is a price to be paid for their misguided policies. The Security Council must stand up, pass meaningful resolutions and be prepared to back them up... We cannot allow bloodshed, we cannot allow chaos and misery to remain and spread. This cannot be allowed to happen in Iran. We must support those who seek democracy, reform and respect for human rights. I believe in democracy.

I believe in a rule of law. I believe if we plant the seeds, water them, allow them to grow, together we will see a different Iran tomorrow. I commend you for the work of pursuing democracy. It's a cause that is noble; it's a cause that is righteous. So as you leave keep in mind, that what you are pursuing is for the betterment of tomorrow. What you are pursuing is for the betterment of future generations. There are people that are counting on you to remain committed and do this the right way. I wish you luck and I commend you for your service. Thank you very much."



Ambassador Pierre-Richard Prosper was nominated by President George W. Bush on May 16, 2001 to become the second United States Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues. After being confirmed by the U.S. Senate, he was sworn in on July 13, 2001.

" My family has seen the face of terror and that is why we are here to say this regime will not change and it is not wanted by the Iranian people. In this convention, we say, democratic change is only by the Iranian people, not war or more talks with this regime."

Mr. Mohammad Alafchi, Engineer, Association of Iranian Americans in New York





Maryam Rajavi, leader of Iran's organized resistance, the National Council of Resistance of Iran.



"By obtaining the nuclear bomb and changing the balance of power, the mullahs want to prevent the Iranian people from toppling them...let me say, on behalf of the Iranian people and Resistance, that the religious fascism in Iran is the root cause of the current crisis. So a correct policy to deal with this crisis must include the idea of ending this dictatorship and establishing democracy in Iran. A policy that allows the mullahs to continue their rule of terror in Iran is not just against the Iranian people's desires, but will also fail to end the threats that this regime poses to peace and stability in the region. In the end, being soft on the mullahs will only increase the

Distinguished Senators, Members of the House, Eminent personalities, advocates of peace and human rights who have gathered in the National Convention of Iranians in Washington, DC, Hello and thank you all, especially my fellow Iranians who have gathered in Washington from all across the United States.

Today, the crisis over Iran has become the top concern for the international community.

What is the nature of this crisis? Is it an international dispute over Iran going nuclear? Is it a dispute between the United States and the Iranian regime? Is it a dispute over Islam?

No, it's none of these. At its core, this is a confrontation between the Iranian people and the ruling religious fascism. This battle for freedom has continued for 27 years. By obtaining the nuclear bomb and changing the balance of power, the mullahs want to prevent the Iranian people from toppling them. If this means taking the world to the brink of war and catastrophe, then so be it.

Two weeks ago, UN inspectors found traces of highly-enriched uranium from a site in Tehran that could be used to build nuclear bombs. Imagine this terrible prospect: nuclear weapon in the hands of a brutal dictatorship, which has executed 120,000 political activists, committed hundreds of terrorist attacks, meddled in Iraq and is openly trying to set up an Islamic Caliphate.

How could we stop this nightmare from coming true?

We have all heard many answers. But let me say, on behalf of the Iranian people and Resistance, that the religious fascism in Iran is the root cause of the current crisis. So a correct policy to deal with this crisis must include the idea of ending this dictatorship and establishing democracy in Iran.

A policy that allows the mullahs to continue their rule of terror in Iran is not just against the Iranian people's desires, but will also fail to end the threats that this regime poses to peace and stability in the region. In the end, being soft on the mullahs will only increase the possibility of a war.

That's why the Iranian Resistance has put forth a third option: No appeasement, no war, but democratic change by the Iranian people and Resistance. This is the only viable solution because it's what the people of Iran want. In more than 4,000 protest actions in the past year, the Iranian people have demanded this change.

The ruling mullahs see the end of their regime in the rise of the popular movement and the Iranian Resistance. This is the correct solution because it relies on an organized Resistance with a vast social base. The People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran, the main component of the Resistance, is at the core of this movement. By advocating a tolerant and democratic Islam, it is the answer to Islamic fundamentalism.

We must not let the mullahs misuse the anti-war campaign as an excuse for their drive to obtain nuclear weapons. If they do, that would make war inevitable. If you want to defend world peace, you must also oppose the mullahs' efforts to obtain the bomb.

The Iranian regime's diplomatic missions abroad, agents of its Ministry of Intelligence and Security and the pro-mullahs lobbies in Western countries have been trying to sell the idea that the mullahs' nuclear program is a national effort supported by the Iranian people. This propaganda has only one purpose: to prevent a decisive policy against the regime. Let me say it loud and clear: the mullahs' nuclear program is totally against Iran's national interests and a vast majority of Iranians oppose it. From an economic, political and environmental perspective, these projects will have terrible consequences for the Iranian people. That's why the regime has been hiding these projects even from its own parliament...





...Democracy in Iran serves the interests of the peoples in the region and global peace and security. Today, U.S. leaders affirm that the policy of supporting dictatorships to uphold stability and security in the past 60 years was mistaken.

At the same time, they correctly stress that "the rights of the Iranian people are denied by a number of unelected officials."

But even at this late hour, Western countries are keen to keep their bridges with this regime and are considering fresh incentives to offer it. They refuse to recognize the right of the Iranian people to resist against this tyranny and they continue to keep in place the unjust terrorist label against the Iranian Resistance that was meant to appease the mullahs.

The terror tag on the PMOI is the hallmark of a policy which has put the mullahs' regime to be on the verge of obtaining nuclear weapons and domination of Iraq.

Beyond slandering a legitimate resistance, this label reflects the ongoing policy of concessions to the mullahs who are a threat to international peace and security.

For this reason, any policy that wants to defuse the threats posed by the religious fascism in Iran must first remove the terror label against the PMOI.

Our ancient nation and our proud resistance, whose roots are spread throughout Iranian society, have remained firm for 27 years in the face of the most ruthless repression.

Despite all the difficulties, this resistance will finally open the path to democracy and freedom in Iran. The perseverance of freedom-loving women and men in Ashraf City in Iraq along the Iranian frontier and the brave uprising of Iranian women, workers, students and other sectors of society reflect the will for democratic change in Iran.

Ladies and gentlemen,

At a time when the world needs a united front and a consensus to act decisively against the mullahs and prevent them from obtaining nuclear weapons, Russia and China are sadly standing by this regime. But let's not forget that Russian and Chinese support for the mullahs' regime is one result of the opportunity created by years of Western appeasement of the mullahs.

Forming an international consensus on Iran strongly depends on a firm policy followed by the United States and Europe. So long as the West sends a signal of "business as usual" to Tehran by keeping the PMOI on the terrorist lists, so long as the regime's meddling in Iraq is ignored, so long as the mullahs' proxies are given a share in the political leadership of Iraq and so long as the flagrant human rights violations in Iran are ignored, the world community will remain divided.

My best wishes to all of you at the National Convention of Iranians in Washington. God bless you.

Thank you

For this reason, we insist on the following demands:

The clerical regime must face sanctions by the world community.

This regime is the enemy of the Iranian people and must be expelled from the community of nations.

The leaders of this regime must be put on trial for crimes against humanity, including the massacre of 30,000 political prisoners.

The PMOI must be removed from the terrorist lists. The Iranian people's Resistance must be recognized.

"... the mullahs' nuclear program is totally against Iran's national interests and a vast majority of Iranians oppose it. From an economic, political and environmental perspective, these projects will have terrible consequences for the Iranian people...Western countries are keen to keep their bridges with this regime and are considering fresh incentives to offer it. They refuse to recognize the right of the Iranian people to resist against this tyranny and they continue to keep in place the unjust terrorist label against the Iranian Resistance that was meant to appease the mullahs...Our ancient nation and our proud resistance, whose roots are spread throughout Iranian society, have remained firm for 27 years in the face of the most ruthless repression. Despite all the difficulties, this resistance will finally open the path to democracy and freedom in Iran."



Second Contact: "We want only a democratic, secular republic, where the religion is separate from government. Myself, as a member of the Women's Association, and as one who spent a number of years in the mullah's prisons, and who has tolerated torture and difficult conditions, and also understand what the Iranian women go through, I say that we do not want such a regime. We do not want a foreign imposed war either. We ask that the European nations stop appeasing the regime and let the Iranian people determine their own destiny. The people of Iran are capable of and will topple this regime and will install a democratic government. Specifically we support Mrs. Maryam Rajavi's plan stating that appeasement of the mullahs, nor foreign war is a solution. We believe her plan is the only one leading to our freedom and will bring about a regime change in Iran."

Let me once again thank you for allowing me to speak on behalf of the Iranian women and youths, and for lending support to our cause."



First Contact: "Let me first of all thank you for affording me the opportunity to address your convention so as to articulate the wishes and rightful aspirations of the Iranian people."

I am Sharhzad, speaking with you today from Tehran, and representing a number of NGOs and women rights activists. Let me begin by updating you on the latest news on the ongoing oppositions both in Tehran and in a number of other Iranian cities.

Of the demonstrations, these in Tabriz and other Azarbaijan cities must be mentioned. These demonstrations enjoy the solidarity with and support from the students, women, and intellectuals. In Tabriz, the shop keepers, youths, students, and the public at large have in the last 3 days demonstrated in large numbers expressing their opposition to the mullah's regime. A significant number the demonstrators and youths have been injured and or arrested. Expressing their solidarity with the people of Tabriz, this Tuesday evening, students clashed with the security forces in Tehran University, which continued into Wednesday.... **You may also be aware that Ahmadinejad's administration has again started the chain execution of political prisoners, thus undermining and oppressing the ever growing voices of the women in society."**

Third Contact: " With great regards for freedom loving people across the globe, especially my countryman living outside of Iran, I thank you for the opportunity to address your gathering today."

My name is Saeedeh. I am speaking to you, on behalf of a group of graduates from various Tehran universities. We aim to use this venue to report that extensive oppression in Iran not only continues now, but also increases on a day to day basis. The people of Iran can no longer tolerate such brutal treatment, the ever increasing poverty, and the profound injustices. The mullah ruling our country wish to obtain nuclear weapons solely to secure their own survival and to impose their unjust, oppressive, and brutal dictatorship not only on the people of Iran, but also the region. We the people of Iran, specially the freedom seeking women, youths, and the intellectuals denounce this shameful, inhuman, and oppressive regime. Presently, and as you likely heard in the news, various universities, including the University of Tehran, the Poly Technical University of Tehran, and The University of Zanjan, Tabriz, and Oromieh have been the site of demonstrations denouncing the religious dictatorship in Iran, where students chanting "death to the dictators" have clashed with the security forces. They are saying no to a regime which by inciting ethnic conflict and by pursuing the strategy of divide and conquer wishes to maintain its repressive ways and to entrench its grip on power."

Fourth Contact: "We want the international community to know that even if they do not consider us, the long suffering Iranian people, they must be vigilant of the danger Iran poses to the world peace and security. If the world sits still, this regime will sooner or later obtain nuclear weapons capability, and will then impose to the world its full breath of terrorist, and expansionist policies. Before it is too late, any dealing with this illegitimate regime should be stopped, and decisive sanctions must be imposed on it. In conclusion, let me again send my regard to all my fellow Iranians living abroad and hope that we meet again soon in free and prosperous Iran. Peace and freedom be with you all."





Marjan, Iran's prominent singer, broke her silence in 2005 Convention in support of Iran's democratic movement. Her performance in 2006 was dedicated to youth and student movement in Iran. Performing "Oh, Youth of Iran" she sang: "Oh, thou youth, I am familiar with your pain. You are the voice of the third generation. Our hearts are near, as we struggle together." Marjan also performed her song for the political prisoners and thousands executed since 1979. Calling on the regime, Marjan sang: "You have killed so many, injured thousands, and silenced some. But what will you do with the roots. The roots that are giving the struggle for freedom and democracy so many branches and leaves. The call for freedom is like the roots of a tree., its growth is inevitable and will continue until the spring of liberty is here. "



The Iranian-American Youth Delegation greeted Marjan with flowers and expressed their gratitude for her performance dedicated to the youth of Iran.

"On behalf of the Iranian student and youth in exile, we declare our support for a democratic change in Iran and the objectives of this convention. We stand in solidarity with the student movement in Iran who are risking their lives every day to end tyranny and terror. The people of Tabriz and Sanandaj, we are inspired by your courage and bravery. For the student of Tehran Universities who staged anti-government protests over the last couple of days, we support your call and make sure that the world community will hear your voice.

Like you, we also believe a nuclear bomb in the hands of radical Ahmadinejad and his regime will leave no hope for prosperity and future for generations to come.

Let's be very clear. Iranians are not asking for military help or war to remove the danger in Tehran. There is no need for foreign attacks on Iran. But there is need for an Iranian solution. Such solution was presented by Mrs. Maryam Rajavi who said "Change brought about by the Iranian people and the Iranian Resistance". We support Rajavi's call and her leadership. This is the solution. Thank you."





Moslem Eskandar Filabi
Iran's National Wrestling Champion, three-time Olympian. He has won 17 gold, silver and bronze medals in international competitions and honored as a national

"I salute you for all your efforts and continued struggle for the past 27 years. I carried the flag to the stage on purpose in memory of all the national heroes and sports champions who have lost their lives for freedom, peace and democracy. Our beloved nation despise the current regime. The polls show that more than 90% of the population opposes this regime and those who indeed stand up to this regime are the real national champions and heroes. Let us not forget, this regime has executed many young men and women. Youth as young as 14 or 15 years old have been killed by this regime...the time has come for the international community to stand on the side of the Iranian people who have rejected this regime and continue with their heroic resistance to tyranny and Islamic Fundamentalism. True sportsman and national champions are in the streets shouting slogans against the mullah's regime. I sincerely hope that the West will reach out and recognize the true voice of change before it is too late and mullahs are armed with nuclear bombs..."

"As a former wrestling champion, I am deeply proud to see such a strong call for democracy in my homeland. A mullah-free Iran resonates deeply among those of us who are forced to live in exile. I would like to be able to visit my homeland, but that is not possible until mullah's regime is gone"

Ali S-Rad
Member of Iranian-American Community of Virginia



" For the first time in our history, our nation is fortunate to have an organized resistance movement that is capable of surviving all the threats and danger coming from Tehran's regime. Our resistance has proven to form a united front against Islamic fundamentalism which has proudly stretched from City of Ashraf to Tehran, Tabriz, Zanzan, Ardabil, Ahwaz, Kermanshah, Mashhad to Paris, London, Berlin and Washington. By raising the flag of lion an sun, the call for freedom and democracy will soon rid our nation from the anti-human mullahs". Mr. Reza Sabahi



Amir Aram, Iran's well-known singer among the artists and musicians performed his song in the name of democracy and freedom. He sang " oh, the proud and risen nation of Iran, fight for democracy. Fight against the enemy of our homeland and nation. Fight with bravery and courage."



"On behalf of Iranian scholars and professionals, we are here to declare that there is no national pride in placing the world's most dangerous weapon in the hands of the ruling butchers in Iran -- As Einstein did not find any national honor in leaving the secrets of nuclear energy in the hands of Adolf Hitler.

The same ruling mullahs led a "cultural revolution" some years ago in which thousands of Iranian scientists, scholars and students were purged from the universities, and many arrested, imprisoned, tortured and executed.

The same ruling mullahs have devised backward economic policies that have destroyed or brought to halt numerous industries in the country...we have lost so many of our fellow scientists and scholars under this regime. These agents of death and destruction do not speak for the Iranian people. This regime has crushed every student uprising and they are doing so again as we speak. They can not claim a genuine love and support for scientific and technological strives....

As Winston Churchill once said: "An appeaser is one who feeds a crocodile, hoping it will eat him last." We ask the world community: Do not feed this blood thirsty crocodile. Remember that the chief crocodile, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is promising the world an Armageddon.

We support the political solution offered by Mrs. Maryam Rajavi who says Iranian people and their movement for peace and democracy can and will remove this terrorist regime from power.

Let me finish by once more expressing our solidarity with the Iranian scholars and the university students in their struggle for freedom of speech, and freedom to for an environment that is conducive to the pursuit technological and scientific advances. "



Dr. Kazerounian,
scholar from
Connecticut University.



Professor Tassojie, scholar
from **California**

"I call upon the Western governments to stop the policy of appeasement which for the past two decades has bear no fruits expect misery, hardship, torture and execution for the Iranian people...there is a democratic alternative for Iran. The Iranian people have risen. The new uprisings in Azerbaijan provinces, the student movements in universities in Tehran and other cities, which is ongoing, the strikes by the workers in different sectors, the women movement among many others, are all indicative of the ripe condition for regime change in Iran.

Let us make it clear. Iranians do no want military interventions by foreign forces. Iranians also say no to appeasement policy...there is a third alternative however that has been proposed by Madame Rajavi...we call on all to support and promote this alternative...We need to let the US policy makers, especially those in the State Department, to become familiar with the aspiration of the Iranians for democratic change, of that of NCR, and of the third alternative for a regime change that has been proposed by Madame Rajavi."



"I am a former political prisoner. I was arrested in 1982 and six months later two of my sisters were arrested as well. They were both student activists in Shiraz University. Just one week before I released, my 14 year daughter was arrested. She escaped execution, but so many of her close friends were executed. I am here today to say the goal for freedom and equality in real for Iranian women. Women will build the future of Iran and that is why I am here today to support this convention."

Robab Baraie, Member of Committee for Political Prisoners in Washington D.C.



"We are very delighted and honored to be here as representatives of Iranian women. Time and again the women in our homeland have stood up to tyranny and have said NO to discrimination and dictatorship.

Their last courageous act was holding the commemoration of the International Women's Day on March 8th of this year in 2 parks in Tehran. The Iranian regime had forbidden any assembly and celebration on that day. Hundreds of women defied the decree, stood up and raised their voice against theocracy in Iran. Security forces reacted with unprecedented brutality and attacked the crowd with clubs, electric batons and cable. Women held up their signs and chanted slogans such as: "equality is our natural rights", "era of slavery must end", "violence against women must end", and "we want justice, we want peace".

Women who were interviewed stated that: "The price of freedom is high and women are willing to pay. We are suffering but we are empowered. We believe in change and it is possible. Our only demand from world community is to isolate this regime and recognize our voice for change."

Women are standing up and saying NO to the misogynous policies and laws of the clerical regime. Tens of thousands of them have been imprisoned, tortured and executed. Scores have been stoned to death on fallacious charges. Women in our homeland are considered inferiors and treated as second class citizens. But this is one side of the coin. On the other side we see these women leading the most outstanding resistance and organized movement against the Islamic Fundamentalist regime in Iran.

We are proud to support these women's perseverance and resolve. They represent three generations of women who are saying NO to the Islamic Fundamentalism. Their resistance is led by Maryam Rajavi's leadership and vision for a democratic Iran. Women of Iran are against the appeasement policy towards the clerical regime. The policy has shown to be a total failure which has only emboldened the Mullahs in their violent suppression of women and any voice of dissent.

Women of Iran are also against any foreign aggression and war. They want regime change by the Iranian people and their resistance. This third option was offered by Mrs. Rajavi as the political solution to the crisis over Iran.

The women of Iran are against the Mullahs acquiring nuclear weapons. They want peace and stability in their country and in the region.

The international community cannot and should not close their eyes to the atrocities committed by the Iranian regime against its people.

We are here to say that the clerical regime should be taken to the United Nations Security Council and held accountable for the gross violations of human rights.

We are here to be the voice of Iranian women and say NO to tyranny and YES to freedom and democracy."





Professor Rabbi Daniel Zucker
Mr. Mansour Lavaie
Mrs. Maryam Akhvan

A delegation of Iranian religious monitories along with Professor Rabbi Zucker addressed the crowd on the issue of religious discrimination in Iran. Rabbi Zucker in his remarks called for democracy in Iran and chanted with crowd "Azadi Emrooz". Mr. Lavaie, representing Iranian Zoroastrians, said "any negotiation with Ahmadinejad's regime will result in failure. The time for talks with Iranian regime has come to an end. It is time to make the right decision and that is to recognize the Iranian people and their resistance for democracy in Iran." Mrs. Akhavan, Iranian Christian of Maryland called upon the western government to close the door on the Iranian regime.



Mrs. Lynn Smith Derbyshire
Of Beirut Veterans of American



"I am deeply proud to see such a strong call for democracy in my homeland. A mullah-free Iran resonates deeply among those of us who are forced to live in exile. I would like to be able to visit my homeland, but that is not possible until mullah's regime is gone"
Mr. Kasra Nejat, Iranian American Cultural Association of Missouri

"On October 23, 1983, a suicide bomber, in a explosive laden truck designed as water carrier, drove in to the Marine barracks in Beirut Lebanon, killing 241 men, and wounding many other. One of the men who was murdered that day was Captain Vincent Smith. Our family called him Vince...he was my mentor, my confidant, my protector and friend....and the government of Iran had him murdered. I am not alone in my grief or in my mission... President Bush, I know that you are a man of courage. Stand with us today—the Beirut Families—as we have cried these 23 long years for justice... And stand with the Iranian Opposition to free the people of Iran, who have been in bondage so long that they cannot remember the feel of freedom. Now is the moment. The Iranian people are ready now. The Iranian Opposition is poised and ready to overthrow this evil regime. But their hands are tied. The Iranian people are not terrorists. Ahmadinejad is the terrorist. My brother Vince was a man of honor, and fairness and love... In his name, and to honor his memory, I ask you to do all in your power to help us, The Beirut Families, finally achieve justice. And I ask you to give the Iranian people the opportunity to fight for freedom."



Resolution Adopted in 2006 National Convention

We the Iranian-American delegates of the 2006 National Convention for Democratic, Secular Republic who have come here from 40 states across America, are holding our convention at a time when the heroic uprising by hundreds of thousands of courageous people in East and West Azerbaijan and Zanjan provinces earlier this week demonstrated their rage and abhorrence toward the religious dictatorship ruling Iran.

On the eve of the centennial of the Constitutional Revolution, the people, the youth and the university students in Tabriz and other cities of Azerbaijan once again conveyed to the despicable theocratic dictatorship that Azerbaijan is still the bastion of freedom and the home to uprising and revolt against tyranny,

As the 2006 National Convention of Iranian Americans for a Democratic, Secular Republic comes to a close, be it resolved that:

1. Iran is ruled by a theocratic tyranny intrinsically and structurally incapable of reform and meeting the basic and legitimate political, social and economic demands of Iranians.
2. Harsh crackdown on dissidents at home, manifested in at least 250 executions since Mahmoud Ahmadinejad became President, the export of fundamentalism and sponsorship of terrorism abroad, specifically the effort to dominate Iraq, and the quest for nuclear weapons, are the sole strategic guarantee for the regime's survival. As such, the Tehran regime will never abandon them.
3. The Iranian regime seeks political and military regional hegemony. To this end, having a nuclear arsenal is an indispensable pillar and a strategic imperative of Iran's expansionist foreign policy.
4. Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khomeini's move to put the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps in control of all levers of power and the nuclear program, and the presidency of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, was meant to ensure the success of nuclear weapons drive and the endeavor to dominate Iraq.
5. While the mullahs' regime is getting closer to acquiring nuclear weapons, it is most unfortunate that the five permanent members of the Security Council and Germany are discussing an incentive package to offer to the religious dictatorship ruling Iran. The 2006 National Convention of Iranian Americans reiterates that no amount of concessions and incentives would dissuade the mullahs from obtaining nuclear weapons. Calls for "direct talk" or "grand bargain" represent nothings more than appeasing the ideologically driven totalitarian regime of the mullahs. They would push to the region and the world to the brink of a catastrophe; those policies would give the Tehran regime what it needs the most to get the bomb: Time.
6. The 2006 National Convention of Iranian Americans also believes a military option is neither practical, nor feasible. But opposition to a foreign war must not be manipulated to justify and legitimize rapprochement with and appeasement of the ruling theocracy. Those who oppose war must first and foremost oppose the medieval dictatorship ruling Iran.
7. Policy initiatives based on the premise that the multi-faceted threats posed by Tehran would only be eliminated through democratic change offer the only viable policy option. The 2006 National Convention of Iranian Americans lends its full support to the third option, as presented by the Iranian Resistance's President-elect Mrs. Maryam Rajavi at the European Parliament in December 2004 and at the Council of Europe in April 2006. The United States should embrace this option and reach out to democratic and anti-fundamentalist Iranian opposition groups who are capable of realizing this change.
8. The 2006 National Convention of Iranian Americans believes that the terrorist label against the main Iranian opposition group, the People's Mojahedin of Iran (PMOI), has acted as the biggest obstacle to the realization of democratic change in Iran because it has hamstrung more than ninety percent of its social, political, intelligence and financial potentials in and out of Iran. As acknowledged by senior officials of the previous administration, the designation was a "goodwill gesture" to the Iranian regime. With the complete failure of the policy of appeasement, there is no longer any legal, political and moral justification for maintaining the PMOI on the terrorist list. The terror tag must be removed without further delay.
9. Left to their own devices the mullahs will not stop suppressing Iran's democracy movement, close down their torture chambers or dismantle their gallows. We must have a sustained campaign of pressuring the Tehran regime for its grave human rights violations. Imposing comprehensive United Nations sanctions against the regime is an imperative because it would deny the Iranian regime the badly needed resources to advance its nuclear weapons drive and its intransigent policy in the region. Though a necessary step, sanctions alone are insufficient to meet and contain the challenge posed by the ruling theocracy to international security and peace. They should be complemented by diplomatic efforts to isolate Tehran and support democratic change in Iran.
10. In his inaugural address, President Bush said, "As Iranians stand for liberty, the American people stand with them." To translate those words into action, the United States must stand with the Iranian people and their democratic resistance as they endeavor to

