



**Congressional  
Solidarity with a Free Iran**  
*On the Occasion of New Year*

**House of Representatives  
December 11, 2015**



# Iran Uprising: One Year After Nation Yearns for Freedom & Democracy

U.S. House of Representatives  
December 11, 2018



## Rep. Eliot Engel (D - NY)

Ranking Member of Foreign Affairs Committee

Excerpts:

Well, thank you very much and welcome to Washington. I see a lot of friends here, and it's always a pleasure to see you. I want for Iran what the people of Iran want for themselves. And that is freedom, and that is the ability to live in a free country, not a dictatorship, and I want them to be able to have the same kinds of future that American children have. [applause] And that's why I've always been for free and fair elections for the people of Iran. People of Iran are living under a terrible dictatorship. We got a sense of that dictatorship way back in 1979 when the revolution happened in Iran and the United States Embassy was under siege and overrun. And unfortunately, there has not been much change in the policies of the government of Iran.

Now, I know that the people of Iran, particularly the young people, are good people and want the same freedoms that we have in the United States. That's why there have been lots of demonstrations going on in Iran, particularly the young people who are growing. They're protesting the lack of opportunity and the lack of ability to say what they want to say and do what they want to do and be what they want to be, like the same age group in the United States has the ability to do those kinds of things.

So, I'm just here to stand in solidarity with the people of Iran and to say to the government of Iran, "What are you afraid of? Both fair and free elections? Let the people of Iran determine their destiny." I wish for the Iranian people and for all people in the world - freedom.



## Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R - CA) Senior Member of Foreign Affairs Committee

Excerpt:

We love freedom. That's what unites us. And that's why tonight when I come here to speak to you, I know that I'm not just speaking to a group of people who want freedom in Iran, but a group of people who have good hearts and believe that freedom is the birthright of all people everywhere and the battle to begin to throw off the oppressors can start in Iran, and that's what we're doing. We're telling the world, "We will start cleansing the world from these...murderous dictators, even if they are holding power, holding power because they say that God gives them that right." We must stand in unity together, and I am proud to have stood with the people of Iran, and the MEK, in particular, in this wonderful and this magnificent effort to free the people of Iran from the tyranny of the mullah regime.

## Rep. Brad Sherman (D - CA) Senior Member of Foreign Affairs Committee

Excerpts:

I've served for 22 years on the Foreign Affairs Committee, and I've worked hard with people in this room. I especially want to thank the MEK for its role in 2002 in revealing the Natanz facility, because it was important then and is important now that we prevent this murderous regime from having the most terrible weapons at its disposal.

I want to recognize the teamsters for joining in support of the Iranian truck drivers protesting for democracy in Iran. A lot of people come here in solidarity with working men and women, but when you work with the organized unions, you're really working for the interests of working people not only here in the United States but around the world. I want to commend Madame Rajavi for continuing advocacy for women's rights and minority rights in Iran. Democracy and equality are not just principles we hold dear. They are rights that belong to the people of every country, including, of course, Iran.

This January I was proud to manage on the floor H.Res.676, a Congressional resolution that I co-sponsored that provides support for democracy in Iran. Of course I joined with my colleague, Representative Poe, in introducing the IRGC, Iran Revolutionary Guard Corps Terrorist Sanctions Act.



## Rep. Steve Cohen (D - TN)

Member of Ethic and Judiciary Committees

Excerpt:

Thank you very much, and I appreciate your appearance and what you do to continue your efforts to see to it that the American Congress, the American people, understand that we need to have a free Iran, a democratic Iran, a secular Iran, and a nonnuclear Iran. I've long been a supporter of the Iranian people for a Free Iran. The Iranian people are important people, valuable people in our world, and unfortunately have been cut off from participation with so much of the rest of the world because of the current regime. I'm a co-chair of the Congressional Iran Human Rights and Democracy Caucus, and I'm proud of that. I will continue to condemn the Iranian regime's abuses of human rights and its support for terrorism. To my Iranian-American friends, thank you for being here and your unwavering support for the fight for democracy and human rights in Iran. Your courage is an inspiration for all.



## Rep. Mike Coffman (R - CO)

Member of Armed Services Committee

Excerpt:

It's such an honor to be with you here tonight in solidarity with the people of Iran for a democratic, secular, non-nuclear republic of Iran. Separating the government of Iran from the people of Iran. And I also want to thank the teamsters in the MUnited States for standing in solidarity as well with the truck drivers of Iran who are now on strike. But it's so important for the United States to not lose its focus on the government of Iran in changing that government. And so I stand with you today in support of the people of Iran and for their future.



## Rep. Judy Chu (D - CA)

Member of Ways and Means Committee

Excerpt:

I am especially proud to stand with the people of Iran who are courageously striving for freedom in the face of their government's cruel tyranny. And I am so inspired, especially by Iran's women who over the past year risked everything to stand up and to speak out. Their struggles were seen across the globe. Unfortunately, there are far too many men and women that are suffering in this way and we cannot forget the families torn apart by the Ayatollah's violence. We will continue to fight for those in prison so that no other family has to feel this pain.

But Iran's crimes aren't just at home. The government of Iran is also responsible for supporting violence and terror around the world, like plots to kill critics of the regime in Europe. That's why I'm proud to co-sponsor House Resolution 1034 which condemns Iran's state sponsored terrorism and expresses support for the Iranian people fighting for a free, democratic, and secular Iran.



## Rep. Tom McClintock (R - CA)

Member of Budget Committee

Excerpt:

Iranian freedom movement has not just endured. It has grown, as the injustices and atrocities of the illegitimate Iranian regime have become known and despised throughout the world. As the journey of the mullahs has become more extreme, the international resistance to them has become more resolute. We've seen this in the liberation of the MEK freedom fighters trapped in Iraq. We've seen it in the growing opposition to the Iranian mullahs from other Islamic countries, and we've seen it with the 105 of my colleagues here in the House of Representatives which co-sponsored my bill, House Resolution 1034 that we affirmed our committed support of the Iranian people's desire for a democratic, secular, and non-nuclear republic of Iran. Iran has been suppressed and plundered by a clan of thugs who've appointed themselves as the lords of Iran.



## Sheila Jackson Lee (D - TX)

Member of Judiciary & Homeland Security Committees

Let me affirm the fact that there will be an opportunity for a new Congress to work with both sides of the aisle in passing and assuring, or making sure that the freedom and democracy of Iran does not end, does not cease, the fight continues, and we look to be victorious. The change of Congress will not stop us from fighting for victory. Thank you for being the champion for freedom, justice, democracy.



## Ted Poe (R - TX)

Senior Member of Foreign Affairs Committee

Do not grow weary. Do not give up, because the one thing in life that every people and every generation have always wanted was freedom. It's worth fighting for. And in some cases it's worth dying for. And some of your friends and family members, they have died for that freedom. And it is not seen yet in Iran but it will be seen. And there will be a day, a day of reckoning where those who have committed such crimes against their own people are going to be held accountable, and Iran will be a free society. And I also want to compliment the women of Iran, the daughters of democracy, who have taken to the streets and are leading the protests throughout the country. Thank you and God bless you. And that's just the way it is.





## US Congressman Backs ‘Material Support’ to Help Iranians ‘Overcome’ Islamist Rulers

VOA | Michael Lipin | December 12, 2018

Excerpts:

U.S. Representative Tom McClintock spoke to VOA Persian late Tuesday at a Christmas celebration held by the Organization of Iranian American Communities (OIAC) at Washington’s Rayburn House Office Building.

“I believe it is increasingly important that we provide (Iranians) with material support that they need to overcome the tyranny in Tehran,” McClintock said, without specifying what form that support should take. “In previous years, we provided cash on cargo pallets to the mullahs, cash used to oppress the Iranian people. Now we owe it to the Iranian people to provide the resistance with the kind of material support that we once gave the mullahs.”

In a separate interview with VOA Persian at the event, Engel, the presumptive chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee in the next congressional session that begins in January, said he supports freedom for the people of Iran, but he stopped short of calling for U.S. material support as favored by McClintock.

“I want the people of Iran to know that the people of the U.S. are aware of what is happening in their country and that we stand with the people of Iran, not with the oppressive regime, not with the mullahs in Tehran,” Engel said. “We don’t attempt to tell the people of Iran what kind of government they should elect. They should just have the freedom to be able to do that ... the same kind of freedom that American people have.”



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