



## Iranian Americans Rally For Regime Change in Iran

Washington, DC  
June 21, 2019



### Thousands of Iranian Americans Rally for Regime Change in Iran



#### Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA)

We stand in solidarity with brave Iranians who are fighting for a new chapter in this great nation's history. This new chapter will be written by Iranians.

---This regime may be on its last legs. It is acting with desperation, desperate to distract people from its own corruption. I want to also take this opportunity to commend Madam Rajavi for her advocacy for democracy, women's rights, and minority rights in Iran.



#### Rep. Tom McClintock (R-CA)

As the tyranny of the mullahs has become more extreme, the international resistance to them has become more resolute...We see it with the 75 of my colleagues here in the House who co-sponsored H.Res.374 to reaffirm our committed support for the Iranian people's desire for a democratic, secular, and non-nuclear Republic of Iran.

We are fast approaching one of those rare moments of history when the world can change overnight. Those who love and cherish freedom in our country and throughout the world stand with you.

## Congressman Brad Sherman (D-CA)

### House Foreign Affairs Committee

Hello, I'm Brad Sherman from California's best named city, Sherman Oaks. And with me here is my daughter, Molly Sherman, who is beginning to learn how we need to fight for human rights around the world.

It is a travesty that a nation as great as Iran, a nation that gave us our first, the world's first human rights document, instead must live under an oppressive undemocratic regime, a regime that commits murders of its own people, a regime that now uses international aggression in an effort to distract people from their own venal corruption. This must end.

This is a regime known for its mass executions, its jailing of journalists, its fueling of extremism around the region. And Iranians have stood up. At great risk to themselves, they have shouted, "No Gaza, No Lebanon, No Syria, My Life For Iran." We stand in solidarity with brave Iranians who are fighting for a new chapter in this great nation's history.

This new chapter will be written by Iranians, not by Americans. Democracy will come to Iran from Iran, not from U.S. military intervention.

But this regime may be on its last legs. It is acting with desperation. Desperate to distract people from its own corruption.

I want to also take this opportunity to commend Madame Rajavi for her advocacy for democracy, women's rights, and minority rights in Iran. Democracy and equality are not just principles we hold dear, they are rights that belong to people and we uphold these ideals, we uphold them around the world and across Iran.

I am the chief Democratic sponsor of House Resolution 374, a resolution supporting the people of Iran, free expression, and condemning the Iranian regime for its deprivation for human rights.

I was proud to speak via video in October of 2018 at the rally in Paris. Our U.S. Justice Department



has charged two agents of the Iranian regime for its collecting of intelligence on Iranian opposition members here in Washington. I am sure that there is a small office of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps watching the tapes right here. Soleimani, this is the future of Iran, watch it on your video screen.

I have been dedicated to helping those who are trying to achieve democracy in Iran, whether it be in meeting with the Prime minister of Albania to make sure that Iranian exiles there are protected, whether it be to fight against hostage taking by the Iranian regime. I look forward to joining all with you as an observer in the next (step) when we will see a free election in Iran meeting international standards of freedom and fairness. See you in Tehran, I'm Brad Sherman.



## Rep. Tom McClintock (R-CA)

Thank you all. Thank you each and every one of you for being here today. You know, the Iranian freedom movement has not just endured, it has grown dramatically as the injustices and atrocities of the illegitimate Iranian regime have become so widespread and so despised. As the tyranny of the mullahs has become more extreme, the international resistance to them has become more resolute. The more the story of Iran is told, of this proud ancient heritage of freedom and civilization, and of its current curse of despotism and terror, the more the world has rallied to your cause.

We've seen this in the liberation of the MEK freedom fighters trapped in Iraq. We've seen it in the growing opposition with the Iranian mullahs from other Islamic countries like Saudi Arabia and Egypt. We see it with the 75 of my colleagues here in the House who co-sponsored H.Res.374 to reaffirm our committed support for the Iranian people's desire for a democratic, secular, and non-nuclear Republic of Iran.

Iran is one of the oldest and greatest civilizations in the history of mankind. Yet it has been oppressed and plundered by a gang of thugs who have appointed themselves the rulers of Iran. Their claim on power is illegitimate and the time to topple them is approaching. And their desperation is showing both at home and abroad. At home, their reign of terror against their own people is damning proof that their only claim to power is by murder, brute force, and oppression.

And abroad, their wanton attacks against peaceful commerce; their sponsorship and direction of international terrorists, their increasingly hysterical threats against their neighbors, and most recently their unprovoked attack on an American drone in international airspace are all unmistakable signs of desperation and panic.

People of Iran, take courage and take confidence. Your cause is just, you're not fighting alone, and in the full measure of time



just causes always prevail. The entire free world is witness to your struggle and history foretells your impending triumph with these words, sic semper tyrannies thus always with tyrants. What Churchill once said of Poland can today be said of Persia, that her soul is indestructible and that she will rise again like a rock which may for a while be submerged by a tidal wave but which remains a rock.

Your fortitude and courage is inspiring the admiration and support of people around the world. And even through the difficulty and danger of the present, you are already writing the next chapter of human civilization. Just when events seem darkest, the people of Iran push these dictators off of their pedestals and restored their nation as a beacon of freedom and justice, enlightenment and learning, tolerance and prosperity, as it was in the days of old and as it will be again in the bright days ahead. The Iranian people know it and the world know it.

We are fast approaching one of those rare moments of history when the world can change overnight. Those who love and cherish freedom in our country and throughout the world stand with you. And so do the many generations of Iranians yet to come who will celebrate and honor everything that each of you has done in this generation to restore to them the prosperity, happiness, and dignity that freedom makes possible and that is their right. God bless you all.

## Former Gov. Bill Richardson

I have a question for you. Are you for democracy in Iran? Are you for the MEK and the NCRI? What is the democratic alternative in Iran? Say it louder. I want to tell you how proud I am. I've been with you for ten years. But I'm still very young. And I want to tell you the strength of the movement is an American, and I know there are a lot of Iranian Americans, it's bipartisan.

It's Democrats and Republicans. And you've heard today from Republican and Democratic leaders. But as a Democrat, I want to take pride in mentioning to you that there was one Democratic that contributed enormously to the 3,000 going to Tirana where they're protected today. And that was in a Democratic administration but led by Senator Robert Torricelli. Give him a big hand.

You heard Mrs. Rajavi's statement. I'm going to talk positive. You know, we've had the general, we've had so many talk about the issues relating to the regime. We need a new regime. And that regime is you, the MEK, NCRI, the alternative. And I'm going to tell you why. I'm going to tell you why.

First, it's a strong organization with a lot of competence, with a lot of commitment, with a lot of leadership abilities. Number two, the top leader, bipartisan, and Mrs. Rajavi is a great leader. And I'll go through the ten points that she talked about. Number three, the platform. In other words, as young people, as those of you here, what do you stand for? You stand for a free Iran. But you stand for democracy. You stand for human rights.

You have a platform, you have a plan. Beware of politicians that don't have a plan, that just talk without what they stand for. What else? Take risks. This community, the MEK, takes risks. Being targeted in Europe and America. Taking risk on behalf of people, of freedom, of democracy. Taking on the regime. Talking about the issues in Iran. We know the regime. Economic problems, corruption, huge inflation, violations of human rights, executions, no democracy, attacking America.

But what you represent, those of you that have come from around the country and around the world, is the future. And you have international support. I've been to events in Paris, all around the world, that show the international support of legislators, of countries, of movements. You're on the right side of history, right?

So, I'm going to conclude with a ten point plan because I want you to listen to it, because it sounds very much, most of it, like America. It sounds like democracy. And I want you to absorb what this ten point plan means because if there's a free Iran and a free election, this is what will happen.



First, universal suffrage. The future decided by the ballot, not by dictatorships. That's number one. Number two, democracy, human rights. Standing for freedom of assembly, freedom of speech. Standing for human rights of people. Number three, abolition of the death penalty. No executions. A judicial system that works.

Number four, separation of church and state. Making sure that religious minorities, all kinds of human rights minorities, are protected. No matter who you are, no matter where you came from. Number five, gender equality with women being in leadership positions. More leadership positions than exist today. All right, let's not get carried away—no, I'm kidding. I think this is the strength of this movement, the women that for years have done the political work, the suffering, dealing with their families, and this is a community that supports gender equality and human rights and especially women in leadership positions. Respect for the rule of law and justice. Respect for a constitution. The rights of human beings. Protecting gender equality no matter who you are. Also, international statutes. A respect for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the United Nations charter.

How about that? That is strength. That is human rights. That is the State Department. That is America's foreign policy. That is a foreign policy that every nation that signs the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Recognizing private property. Market economies. Entrepreneurship. Women businesses. Businesses that flourish. Agriculture. Those neglected economic cycles that have taken place in Iran. And then finally, a non-nuclear Iran. Free of nuclear weapons.

So, I've been with you for a long time and I'll always be with you. But I want to tell you again, as I see the crowds, I see the younger people, I see the future, I see an America, I see states. And by the way, the best-looking Iranian American here is a family from the state, my state of New Mexico, and they're back here... But you had extraordinary speakers and leaders here that shows the strength of your movement. Now, I'm going to get to the best part of my speech, the end. Thank you



## Ret. General Jack Keane

Hello, Iran. Hello, the Iranian people. And my fellow Americans. 2018, 2018 was a major turning point for Iran.

Why? The United States pulled out of the nuclear deal and for the first time in 39 years, put Iran on notice. Iran, you're malign and aggressive behavior in the Middle East region is now going to be held accountable. Using your proxies to drive the wars in Syria, and Yemen, must stop. Providing Hamas and Hezbollah with rockets and missiles to attack Israel must stop. Undermining the government of Iraq must stop. Undermining other governments in the region must stop. Number two, Iran building ballistic missiles must stop. And number three, Iran, you must stop sponsoring terrorism. And Iran, you cannot, you cannot enrich uranium and develop a path to a nuclear weapon.

And Iran, you must, must stop repressing your people.

As such, the United States, from this building behind us, has imposed the toughest sanctions in 39 years, denying Iran access to the dollar dominated financial market in the world today, cutting off Iran's export of oil and other commodities, and stopping all waivers. And something we have said for years from similar podiums and microphones, the United States designated the IRGC as a terrorist organization. What has happened? Iran's economy is in recession. It is contracted 6%. The currency has significantly devalued. Unemployment is skyrocketing. As you know, there are food shortages and power outages and there's growing civil unrest. And, and the Iranian people are correctly blaming Iran, not the United States.

The maximum pressure campaign is working. Iran is choking on the sanctions. Iran's recent provocations tell the story, disrupting the oil flow in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, attacking Saudi Arabia pipeline and its airport, and attacking a U.S. drone just recently. These provocations have two purposes. One, to leverage the international community to pressure the United States to remove the sanctions. Two, to convince the countries in the region that the United States cannot protect them. Both of those will fail. The United States will not back down.

To those who say the United States is provoking this crisis, you don't know the facts. It is Iran who blew up two U.S. embassies in Lebanon and Kuwait, killing hundreds. It is Iran who blew up two U.S. military barracks in Lebanon and Saudi Arabia, killing hundreds. It is Iran who trained Iraqi Shia militia to kill Americans in Iraq with advance penetration weapons, killing hundreds.

It is Iran who continues to hold hostages. It is Iran who runs and funds the Syrian and Yemen civil wars, causing hundreds of thousands of deaths and the human catastrophe. And it is Iran who provides rockets and missiles for Hamas and Hezbollah. And it is Iran who is now disrupting the shipping lanes and the flow of oil. And it is of course Iran who wants to dominate and control the Middle East. And



yes, it is Iran who continues to repress their own people.

The United States will do what?

The United States will lead a coalition of nations to keep the shipping lanes open in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman. That will unfold in the days ahead. United States will not, I say again not tolerate Iran enriching uranium to a threshold capability and certainly to a nuclear capability.

This will be a redline for the United States. The United States will not ease off on sanctions until Iran changes.

There has never been a time when an American president has been so committed to fundamental change in Iran.

Despite the current crisis, the very best path Iran has been on in the 39 years is right before us. So, keep up your fight. Keep up your resistance. Keep up your hope. Keep up your courage. Your voices for freedom are heard. T

he American people and America stands behind you and the Iranian people, stronger than ever before. We will be there with you until you get your homeland and your freedom back. God bless you. God bless the Iranian people. And God bless America. Thank you very much.



## Iranian Americans call for regime change, sanctions in D.C. protest

Published: June 21, 2019 at 6:41 PM

Danielle Haynes

June 21 (UPI) -- Thousands of Iranian Americans rallied outside the U.S. State Department and White House in Washington, D.C., on Friday to push for a regime change and increased sanctions on Tehran.

The event, organized by the Organization of Iranian American Communities, included appearances by former New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, former Vice Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army Gen. Jack Keane, former Sen. Robert Torricelli, D-N.J., and Adam Ereli, former deputy spokesman for the State Department ambassador.

Richardson called for democratic elections, gender equality, a market economy and a non-nuclear Iran.

[Maryam Rajavi](#), president-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, spoke from Europe by video feed. She presented a 10-point plan to push democracy in Iran.

"Yes, the disgraceful demonization campaign against the Iranian Resistance in the pro-appeasement media seeks to perpetuate the narrative that the people of Iran are better off with the theocratic rule of the mullahs; There is no alternative, and don't even think or talk about it," she said.

"Their conclusion is: The religious fascism must be appeased and there are no other options."

In addition for increased sanctions on the Iranian regime, demonstrators called for the United States to designate the Ministry of Intelligence and Security as a foreign terrorist organization.

[https://www.upi.com/Top\\_News/US/2019/06/21/Iranian-Americans-call-for-regime-change-sanctions-in-DC-protest/5941561153440/print/](https://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2019/06/21/Iranian-Americans-call-for-regime-change-sanctions-in-DC-protest/5941561153440/print/)

1/2







**Listen: 'Modern Love' Podcast**  
John Cameron Mitchell reads 'Platonic, Until Death Do Us Part.'



**Got a confidential news tip?**  
Do you have the next big story? Share it with our journalists.

S&P 500 -0.13% 4  
Dow -0.13% 4

82°F 81° 57°  
Springfield, VA

U.S.-IRAN TENSIONS

## With Limited Options, Trump Seeks Strategy as Iran Standoff Escalates

- President Trump's last-minute decision to pull back from a retaliatory strike on Iran underscored a lack of appealing options to counter Tehran's nuclear program.
- The administration is relying on economic sanctions, but has begun to experiment with more aggressive options, including cyberattacks.

1h ago 444 comments



A rally outside the White House on Friday supporting leadership change in Iran.  
Tom Swensen for The New York Times

## Mr. Trump allowed online attacks on Iran to go forward on the same day he called off a military strike.

25m ago

## Iranian Force Exults in Downing of Drone

Some leaders of the Revolutionary Guards force are said to have hailed the shooting of a U.S. drone as vindication.

43m ago

IMMIGRATION

## Trump Says He'll Delay Raids on Undocumented Families

- President Trump said he would delay plans for nationwide raids to deport undocumented families scheduled for Sunday.
- But he threatened to have Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents resume the raids in two weeks if Democrats do not submit to changes in asylum law.

15m ago 219 comments

## Plan to Hold Migrant Children at Former Internment Camp Draws Protests

Demonstrators called the government's plan to house 1,400 unaccompanied migrant children in a camp in Oklahoma a return to a shameful past.

4h ago

Opinion >

BJ Miller and Shoshana Berger

## Don't Tell Me When I'm Going to Die

Prognoses are more of an art than a science. Maybe it's better not to know.

51m ago



Elisabeth Egan

## Pour Your Rage Into a Postcard to the President

I have written almost 450 postcards to politicians. As Margaret Atwood said, "A word after a word after a word is power."

51m ago

Jamelle Bouie

## Will America Make Trump Great Again?

Maureen Dowd

## Blowhard on the Brink

Karen Rinaldi

## Work Is Like Water

Kwame Anthony Appiah

## Stonewall and the Myth of Self-Deliverance

Frank Bruni

## The Gay Truth About Trump

Nicholas Kristof

## Trump Plays Chicken With the Ayatollah

Ross Douthat

## How to Beat Joe Biden

Paul Krugman

## Notes on Excessive Wealth Disorder

Errol Morris

## The Pianist and the Lobster