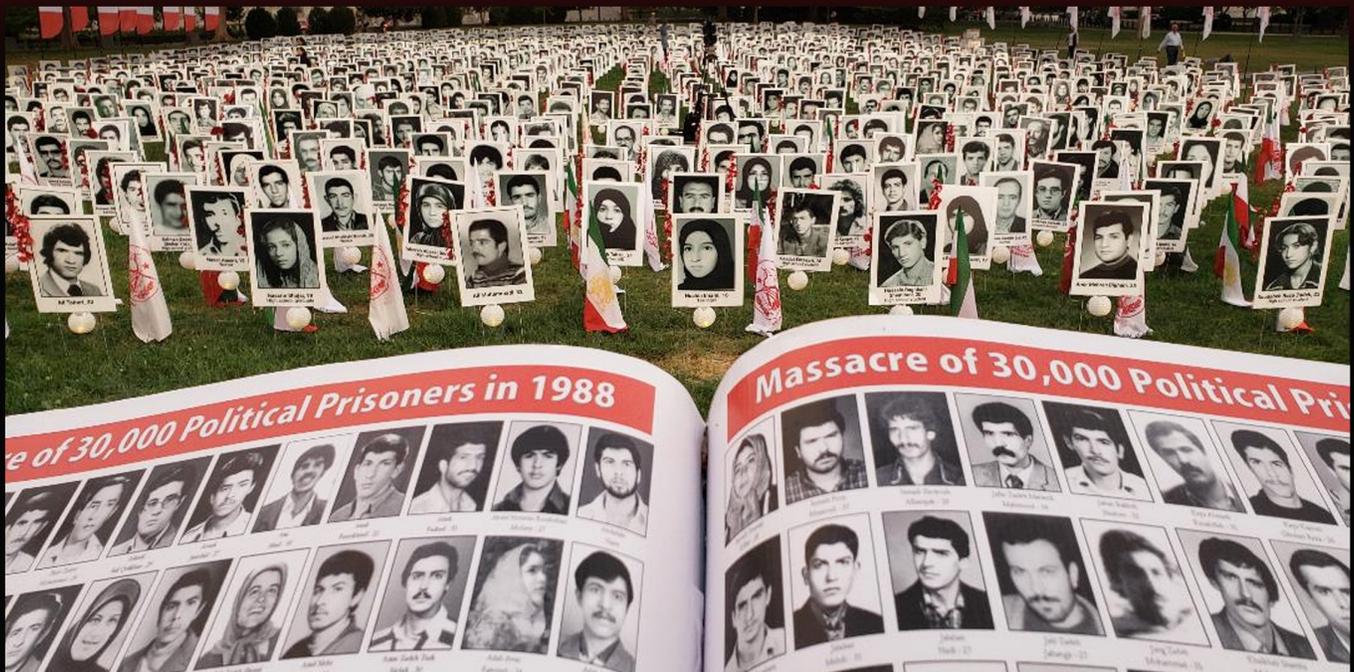




Honoring the Fallen in Iran's 1988 Massacre of Political Prisoners

Washington DC, Capitol Hill - September 12, 2019



The Honorable Eliot Engel

(D - NY) Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee

Good afternoon, everybody, it is a little warm today but it is good to be here. I remember the last time, about a year ago when I met many of you in front of the United Nations in New York when we had a rally over there as well. It is just really important when you stand here and you look as far as the eye can go and you realize that all these good looking young people who were murdered by the murderers and Iranian regime in Tehran, it really makes your heartache.

Because you look at these young people, good looking young people, who want the same thing for Iran that we in the United States take for granted. That is the opportunity to flourish, the opportunity to have freedom of thought, freedom of expression, and basic rights that we have. **These people were exercising their rights all to be brutally murdered by the Iranian regime. What is so disgraceful, if that was not enough, we find that many of the people who were responsible for the massacre of these beautiful young people here are the very people who have high positions in the Iranian regime today.**

And it is really important that the Congress, which I am proud to be a member of and Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, that we speak out. That young people, old people, all people speak out about this barbarity. And you know, we have a very big Iranian community all over the country, many in New York where I am from, many in California, and many even in the Washington area.

And if you know Iranian Americans as well as I do, you know that they are an intelligent, industrious, hard-working people who yearn for the same kinds of freedoms we have here in Washington and in the U.S. We take for granted and sometimes we do not appreciate it, and we should.

But anyone of us can say whatever we want, I have, and many of you have, we know that we are not going to be stopped, arrested and be taken away because I was an opponent of the regime. But too many Iranians have been arrested, for no reason, have been taken away, and never been heard from again.

Well, we have an obligation in the United States to speak out against them. The Iranian people and the American people, under normal conditions, should be the best of friends and the best of allies. Should be because what the thing that people want in both communities are the same things all freedom-loving people want. And we know here in the United States, the Iranian American Community

whether in California or here in Washington or in New York have thrived because the Iranian people by-in-large are hard-working intelligent industrious and want freedom. And so I am happy to



be here to share this with all of you. To say that I support freedom for Iran, I support democracy for Iran. I want the Iranian people to do as well as Iranian people do in the United States of America.

And you look at the Iranian American Community, it is a highly educated community, it is a fairly affluent community, it is a community of ideas of intelligent people. That is what Iran would be like today if it was not being run by mullahs and people who kill people under the guise of religion or in the guise anything else. One only has to look at how Iranian community has thrived in the U.S. to know that the nation of Iran would thrive if people were allowed the basic freedoms that we have here in the United States.

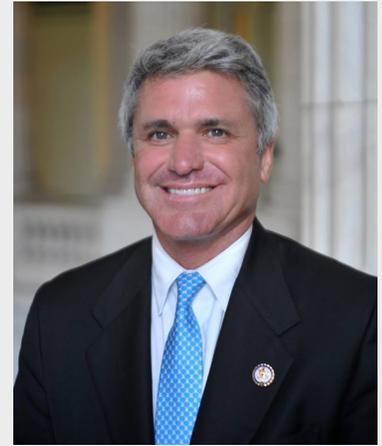
So I am here to show my support for a free Iran. I am here to say that I want the same type of things for the Iranian people in Tehran and surroundings of Iran that we have here in America.

I want to thank Mo, and my other, so many other friends who have been listening to me and we have been talking about freedom in Iran. And I am happy to be here, probably on the hottest day of the year, because it is well worth a little inconvenience, for the world to know, that we know what happened in 1988. I am going to keep telling the world because it is unacceptable behavior. So long live a free Iran, long live a good alliance between the United States and Iran, and long live the people of Iran. Both the people living in Iran and Iranians living in America, the Iranian American Community, which is such an important community as well.

As the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, I want to tell you that on both sides of the aisle, democrats, and republicans, we support Iranian freedom and I am here to tell you that in person.

McCaul statement on introduction of H.Con.Res.159, legislation regarding the 1988 Iran Massacre

Sep 22, 2016 | Press Release



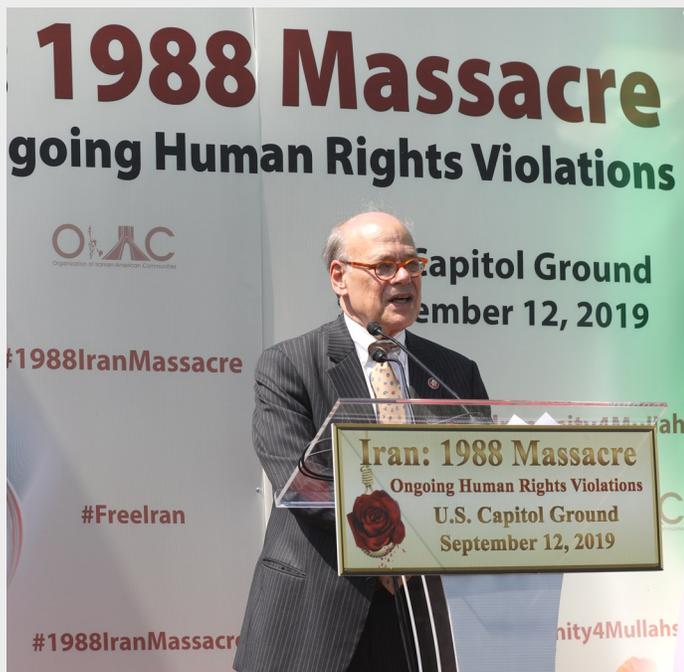
WASHINGTON, DC.— Yesterday, following the introduction of a bipartisan resolution highlighting the 1988 massacre of thousands of Iranians deemed political opponents of the brutal, oppressive regime in Iran, Congressman McCaul and Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee Elliott Engel (D-NY) released the following statements.

McCaul: “For decades, the regime in Iran has refused to acknowledge this massacre,” said Rep. McCaul. “Furthermore, many involved in this massacre in 1988 still hold high-level positions within the government of Iran, including the current justice minister. We must hold those responsible for these atrocities accountable and reinvigorate our opposition to the gross abuses of human rights in Iran that still go on today.”

Engel: “I’m proud to be part of the bipartisan effort to spotlight these atrocious killings in 1988,” said Rep. Engel. “This is not ancient history, and those responsible must be brought to justice. This resolution will put the Iranian leadership on notice that the world does not forget about such gross violations of human rights.”

According to Amnesty International, Iran was responsible for the execution of an estimated 4,500 to 5,000 men, women and children in the summer of 1988. However, the true number of dead remains unknown. To this day, the Iranian government refuses to be transparent with the families of the victims of this massacre. This resolution was introduced on September 21, 2016 by **Representative McCaul and includes Reps. Engel and Ed Royce, Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, as original cosponsors.**





Congressman Steve Cohen

(D - TN) Co-Chair of Iran Human Rights and Democracy Caucus

It is chilling to look at these people photograph of people who were victims of the massacre in 1988. The massacre of 1988 needs to be investigated, justice needs to be brought in some way, and justice brought in some by the United Nations and the United States way in terms of bringing it to light and condemning actions of Iran and crimes against humanity, and that is what this was.

I am a co-chair of the Iran Human Rights and Democracy Caucus. That is why I am here. I am a co-sponsor of H.Res.188 which condemns the government of Iran for the 1988 massacre of political prisoners and call for justice for victims, which we still need. I strongly support an Iran that is democratic, secular, and non-nuclear. Iranian people deserve a government that respects their fundamental rights and freedoms, including freedom of speech and assembly, gender, and religious equality.

And I continue to condemn the Iranian regime's abuses of human rights and its long time support of terrorism. And I call on the regime to support the separation of church and state, freedom of assembly and press, equality of men and women, ethnic and religious minority's rights, and peaceful coexistence with nations in the region and the world. And certainly not to interfere with strait of Hormuz, and try to interrupt the world's access to oil which is so important to society and too commerce.

To my Iranian American Community, thank you for being here, thank you for your unwavering support for the fight for democracy and human rights in Iran. Your courage is an inspiration to me and all members of congress. This exhibit makes a strong case and shows a compelling need for us to continue to monitor Iran and to call for justice.

Congressman Juan Vargas

(D - CA) Member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee

Thank you very much. It is an honor to be here. I am here to pay my respects for all those people who were massacred and murdered in 1988. And also for those that continue to lose their lives. Off course the young lady, young girl, who just wanted to see a soccer game who lost her life.

Of course, the human rights abuses that we continue to see in Iran must stop. The murder, mayhem and all violation of these very human principles that we, all of us as human being hold, have to stop. That is why I am here to support all the people are here likewise to say enough is enough and that this can not continue. And so again, I am here to pay my deepest respects to those who were massacred and to those who continue to struggle for the rights that they deserve. And I hope that things will change and change soon in Iran, where everyone's right is respected, where young girls and young women can in fact go to a soccer game and enjoy a soccer game like all of us can.

So again thank you for inviting me here today, and it is an honor to be with you here today. My name is Juan Vargas from San Diego. And I appreciate every one of you being here. We can not forget, and we can not stop. We have to continue to fight until everyone's rights is secure. And we can not forget, all the men, women who were massacred, even children. It is my understanding from 15 year old to 80 year old were murdered with no human rights. Their rights were completely violated. So again, thank you very much for inviting me. I appreciate it very much.

IRAN: 1988 MASSACRE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS

In the summer of 1988, the Iranian regime summarily and extra-judicially executed more than thirty thousands political prisoners held in jails across Iran. The massacre was carried out on the basis of a fatwa by the regime's then-Supreme Leader Ruhollah Khomeini.

T H E F A C T S

- More than 30,000 political prisoners were massacred in Iran in the summer of 1988.
- The massacre was carried out on the basis of a fatwa by Khomeini.
- The vast majority of the victims were activists of the opposition PMOI (MEK).
- A "Death Committee" approved all the death sentences.
- Alireza Avaei , a member of the Death Committee, is today Rouhani's Justice Minister. His predecessor, Mostafa Pour-Mohammadi is also another "Death Committee" member.
- The perpetrators of the 1988 massacre have never been brought to justice.
- On August 9, 2016, an audio tape was published for the first time of Khomeini's former heir acknowledging that massacre took place and had been ordered at the highest levels.





H.Res.188 quoting Amnesty International:

"There should be no impunity for human rights violations, no matter where or when they took place. The 1988 executions should be subject to an independent impartial investigation, and all those responsible should be brought to justice, and receive appropriate penalties"

House Resolution 188 - March 9, 2017



A site of a mass grave for some of the victims of the 1988 massacre of political prisoners in Iran

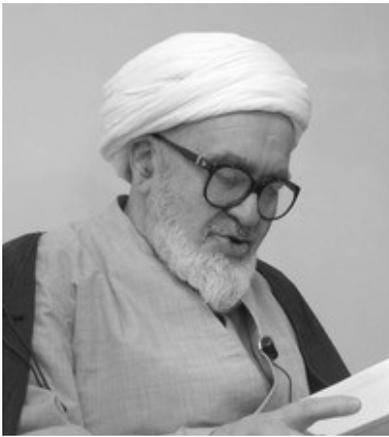


Amnesty International:

"Given their widespread and systematic nature, Amnesty International considers that the enforced disappearances resulting from the extrajudicial executions amount to ongoing crimes against humanity and is calling on the UN to set up an independent investigation to help bring those responsible for these abhorrent crimes to justice." **BLOOD-SOAKED SECRETS, Page 201**



A site of a mass grave for some of the victims of the 1988 massacre of political prisoners in Iran



New Revelation:

The Montazeri's Tape

On August 9, 2016, relatives of Hossein-Ali Montazeri, Khomeini's former heir, published a shocking audio tape in which Montazeri [can be heard telling](#) a meeting of members of the "Death Committee" 28 years ago (August 15, 1988) that they are carrying out a crime against humanity. The Montazeri tape revealed new information about the scope and breadth of the massacre of political prisoners at the time. It has sent shockwaves in Iran and in particular among the regime's

officials who had for more than two decades attempted to impose an absolute silence on the massacre.

The clip also showed that the Iranian regime's leaders who held positions of power since the beginning of the regime's establishment must face justice for committing one of the most horrific crimes against humanity.

In the audio tape, Hossein-Ali Montazeri, who was subsequently dismissed as the heir by Khomeini, for these very remarks, tells members of the "death commission", Hossein-Ali Nayyeri, the regime's sharia judge, Morteza Eshraqi, the regime's prosecutor, Ebrahim Raeesi, deputy prosecutor, and Mostafa Pourmohammadi, representative of the Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS),

"The greatest crime committed during the reign of the Islamic Republic, for which history will condemn us, has been committed by you. Your names will in the future be etched in the annals of history as criminals." He adds, "Executing these people while there have been no new activities (by the prisoners) means that ... the entire judicial system has been at fault."

Khomeini's heir protests rash of executions in 1988 massacre

The haste to execute was so abhorrent that some of Khomeini's closest confidantes, most notably, Hossein Ali Montazeri, Khomeini's heir had doubts and protested it. In letters to Khomeini, Montazeri urged for some leniency and slowing down. But Khomeini ordered there should be mercy for no one, including teenagers. He said pregnant women should not be spared or have the chance to give birth to their child and should be executed immediately.

In December 2000, Montazeri published his memoirs. The book revealed shocking documents on the atrocities committed by the clerical regime, none as horrendous as the massacre of 30,000 political prisoners in 1988 on the orders of Khomeini.

Montazeri's book was not the first document informing the world of this massacre. News of the carnage had already begun to trickle through the iron curtain of censorship imposed by the mullahs to ensure a complete blackout on their crime.

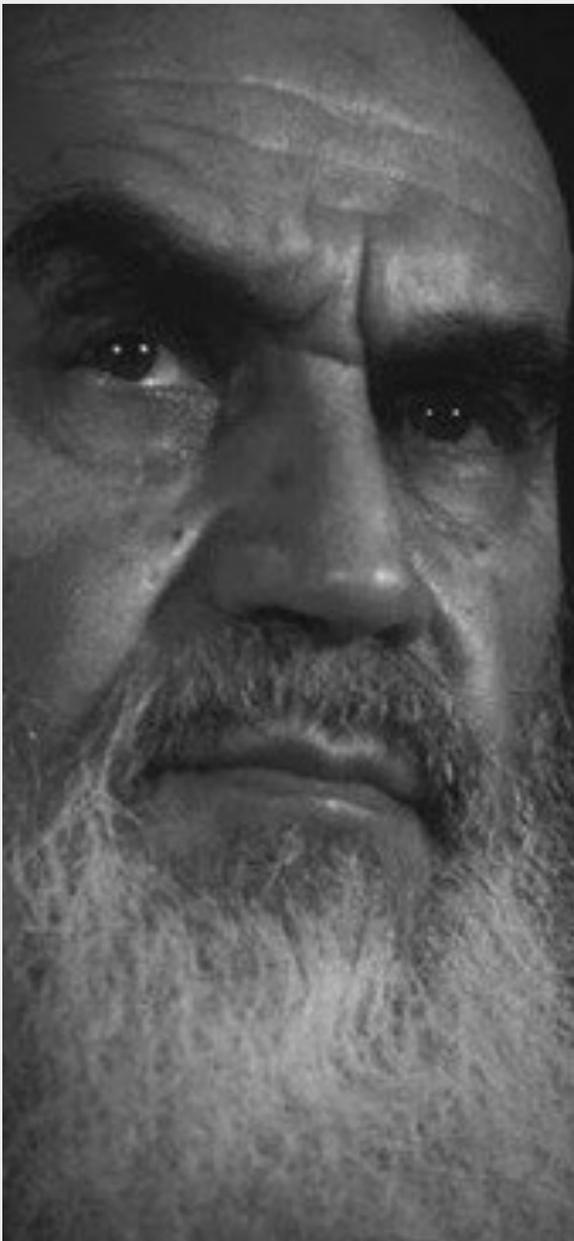
Executions Began with Khomeini's "Death Decree"

In the final phases of the Iran-Iraq war, Khomeini who felt that defeat was imminent, decided to take his revenge on the political prisoners. He issued fatwas (religious decrees) ordering the execution of anyone who had not "repented" and who was not willing to collaborate entirely with the regime.

The massacres began, and everyday hundreds of political prisoners were hanged and their corpses were buried hurriedly in unmarked, mass graves all over major cities, in particular Tehran.

Khomeini's "Death Decree" for mass executions of Iranian political prisoners in 1988

The following is the full translation of Khomeini's fatwa ordering the 1988 massacre in Iran:



In the Name of God,
the Compassionate, the Merciful,

As the treacherous *Monafeqin* [Mojahedin] do not believe in Islam and what they say is out of deception and hypocrisy, and as their leaders have confessed that they have become renegades, and as they are waging war on God, and as they are engaging in classical warfare in the western, the northern and the southern fronts, and as they are collaborating with the Baathist Party of Iraq and spying for Saddam against our Muslim nation, and as they are tied to the World Arrogance, and in light of their cowardly blows to the Islamic Republic since its inception, it is decreed that those who are in prisons throughout the country and remain steadfast in their support for the *Monafeqin* [Mojahedin], are waging war on God and are condemned to execution.

The task of implementing the decree in Tehran is entrusted to Hojjatol-Islam Nayyeri, the religious judge, Mr. Eshraqi, the Tehran prosecutor, and a representative of the Intelligence Ministry. Even though a unanimous decision is better, the view of a majority of the three must prevail. In prisons in the provinces, the views of a majority of a trio consisting of the religious judge, the revolutionary prosecutor, and the Intelligence Ministry representative must be obeyed. It is naive to show mercy to those who wage war on God. The decisive way in which Islam treats the enemies of God is among the unquestionable tenets of the Islamic regime. I hope that with your revolutionary rage and vengeance toward the enemies of Islam, you would achieve the satisfaction of the Almighty God. Those who are making the decisions must not hesitate, nor show any doubt or be concerned with details. They must try to be "most ferocious against infidels." To have doubts about the judicial matters of revolutionary Islam is to ignore the pure blood of martyrs.

Ruhollah Moussavi Khomeini

“Death Committee”

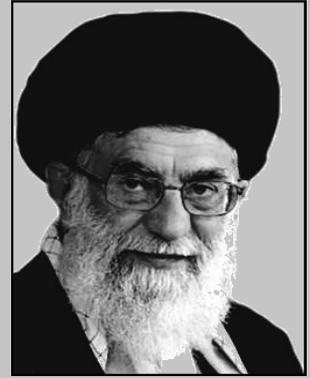
Khomeini assigned an "Amnesty Commission" for prisons. In reality it was a "Death Committee" comprised of the three individuals: A representative of the Ministry of Intelligence, a religious judge and a prosecutor. The final decision rested with the Intelligence Ministry official. They held a trial for a few minutes that resembled more of an integration session. The questions were focused on whether the inmate continued to have any allegiances to the PMOI (MEK). The PMOI prisoners made up more than 90 percent of those taken before the "Death Commission."

If the prisoners were not willing to collaborate totally with the regime against the PMOI, it was viewed as a sign of sympathy to the organization and the sentence was immediate execution. The task of the Death Commission was to determine whether a prisoner was a so-called "Enemy of God" or not. In the case of Mojahedin prisoners, that determination was often made after only a single question about their party affiliation. Those who said "Mojahedin" rather than the derogatory "Monafeqin" were sent to be hanged.



Ali Khamenei in 1988 Massacre

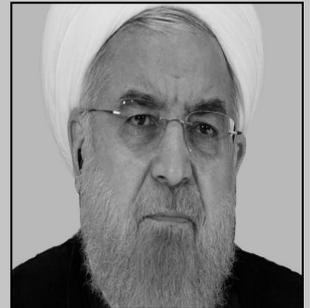
The Current Supreme leader Khamenei, was the president at the time of the 1988 massacre of 30,000 political prisoners in Iran.



Hassan Rouhani's Role in 1988 Massacre

Hassan Rouhani was Deputy Commander-in-chief of the regime's armed forces at the time. Furthermore, since 1982 he was a member of the regime's Supreme Defense Council and a member of the Central Council of the War Logistics Headquarters. In those positions, he was fully cognizant of this hideous crime and obviously was in full conformity.

This shows that the notion that Rouhani is a "moderate" and "reform minded" is absolutely preposterous and baseless. Actually he, like all other senior officials of the regime, is a culprit of this hideous crime. Under President Rouhani, Iran's executions are currently the highest since 1988.



Infamous members of the "1988 Death Commission"

Ebrahim Raesi

Former Attorney General. Appointed by Khamenei as Chief Justice in March 2019



Alireza Avaei

Current Justice Minister in Rouhani's Cabinet
Death Commission member in South-Western Iran



Former Justice Minister in Rouhani's Cabinet,

Mostafa Pour-Mohammadi:

"I am proud of the 1988 executions..."



H. Res. 188

115 Congress (2017-2018)

Condemns the government of Iran for the 1988 massacre of political prisoners and for denying the evidence of crimes against humanity

Urges: (1) the Administration and U.S. allies to condemn the massacre and pressure the Iranian government to provide detailed information to the victims' families about their loved ones and their final resting places; and (2) the United Nations (U.N.) Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Iran and the U.N. Human Rights Council to create a Commission of Inquiry to investigate the massacre, gather evidence, identify the perpetrators, and bring them to justice.

Original Cosponsors: Rep. Michael McCaul (R-TX), Rep. Royce, Edward R. (R-CA), Rep. Engel, Eliot L. (D-NY), Rep. Comstock, Barbara (R-VA), Rep. McClintock, Tom (R-CA), Rep. Sessions, Pete (R-TX), Rep. Keating, William R. (D-MA), Rep. Sherman, Brad (D-CA), Rep. Young, Don (R-AK), Rep. Chu, Judy (D-CA)

H. R. 4744

115 Congress (2017-2018)

Iran Human Rights and Hostage -Taking Accountability Act

This bill directs the President to identify and impose sanctions against senior members of the government of Iran and other persons who are responsible for or complicit in committing serious human rights violations, or engaging in censorship, the diversion of goods intended for the people of Iran, or public corruption.

The bill was passed by 410 votes.



**Compiled by: Organization of Iranian American Communities (OIAC)
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