

# USADI Dispatch

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## USADI Commentary

### Freedom for Iran is the "Calling of our Time"

President Bush last week captivated many nations under the yoke of tyranny for his visionary articulation of a compelling case for expansion of liberty. "The best hope for peace in our world is the expansion of freedom in all the world," he said.

For those who have been tirelessly advancing the cause of democracy in the trenches of the struggle for freedom, President Bush's words had strong resonance more so in Iran than anywhere else. Iranians probably have their doubts if this were just another great inspiring inauguration speech followed by business-as usual.

And that would be understandable. For many years, while pledging support for freedom and human rights, America sided with oppressors of Iranians under the pretext of the Cold War geo-strategic realpolitik or appeased the turbaned tyrants under the mirage of cultivating change within the regime. This time, however, Iranians could be more optimistic.

President Bush stressed, "It is the policy of the United States to seek and support the growth of democratic movements and institutions in every nation and culture, with the ultimate goal of ending tyranny in our world."

Given the mullahs' subjugation of Iranians at home, and the long list of global and regional threats posed by this outlaw regime, Iran and Iranians must be the focus of this policy.

Acknowledging the past errors in U.S. foreign policy that viewed support for human rights in "distant lands" contrary to its interest, the President said, "America's vital interests and our deepest beliefs are now one... Advancing these ideals is the mission that created our Nation. It is the honorable achievement of our fathers. Now it is the urgent requirement of our nation's security, and the calling of our time."

A much ignored reality of the nature of tyrannies is that, driven by necessity of preserving their rule, they embark on expanding their lethal and destructive potential beyond their borders. More than just a choice, export of terror and fundamentalism for Tehran rulers is a survival imperative.

Appreciating this fact, President Bush said in his speech, "For as long as whole regions of the world simmer in resentment and tyranny - prone to ideologies that feed hatred and excuse murder - violence will gather, and multiply in destructive power, and cross the most defended borders, and raise a mortal threat."

By far, more efficient than any sanctions, naval blockades, or military strikes, the rulers of Iran are susceptible to the yearning of Iranians for freedom and their resistance to end this reign of terror. As Mr. Bush articulated, "There is only one force of history that can break the reign of hatred and resentment, and expose the pretensions of tyrants, and reward the hopes of the decent and tolerant, and that is the force of human freedom."

This is the true strategic leverage Washington has over the mullahs, not sanctions or commerce. The ludicrous idea that we can dissuade them by an economic and commerce incentive package is either a dangerous diction or utter ignorance of the nature of the clerical regime. It is tantamount to cowardice submission to Tehran's potential for terror and destruction and a sign of despicable gluttony for trade with a regime whose coffers are used to finance its machinery of terror and WMD.

Iran's ruling mullahs have failed to quell Iranians' yearning for liberty. Left to their own devices, however, the mullahs will never stop suppressing Iranians, closing down their torture chambers and dismantling the gallows. Therefore, Iranians' resistance movement for freedom must be empowered to tear down this wall of suppression.

Last week President Bush pledged that "America will not pretend that jailed dissidents prefer their chains, or that women welcome humiliation and servitude, or that any human being aspires to live at the mercy of bullies." Addressing those "who live in tyranny" he said: "The United States will not ignore your oppression, or excuse your oppressors. When you stand for your liberty, we will stand with you."

But beyond an inspiring and visionary oration, President Bush's speech must be the framework for a much-anticipated policy toward Tehran where specific practical measures for diplomatic and political support and empowering Iran's democratic opposition movement seeking regime change are articulated.

President Bush said, "Liberty will come to those who love it." We may humbly add, "Liberty will come to those who love it and struggle for it". "Freedom now" for Iran is the true "calling of our time."

The US Alliance for Democratic Iran (USADI), is an independent, non-profit organization, which aims to advance a US policy on Iran that will benefit America's interests, through supporting Iranian people's aspirations for a democratic, secular, and peaceful government, free of tyranny, fundamentalism, weapons of mass destruction, and terrorism. The USADI is not affiliated with any government agencies, political groups or parties.

1201 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20004  
Tel: 202-661-4675, Fax: 202-318-0402, E-mail: [dispatch@usadيران.org](mailto:dispatch@usadيران.org)

**International Herald Tribune**  
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**Empower Iran's opposition forces**

*By Maryam Rajavi*

PARIS - How should the world deal with the challenges posed by the Iranian regime, with its continuing support for terrorism, increasing meddling in Iraq and relentless pursuit of nuclear weapons? Approaches under debate range from engagement, with the hope of empowering the "moderates," to military invasion. But the best option is to initiate change through the Iranian people and the organized resistance movement.

There is no need for war; no one would want to see an Iraq II played out in Iran. But engagement, which has shaped policy toward Iran on both sides of the Atlantic for two decades, has been a disaster, strengthening the most radical factions of the ruling theocracy... But there is another answer: democracy...

As a first step in that direction, Western governments must not assist the ruling theocracy. And that means removing the terrorist tag that has been put on the People's Mujahedeen Organization. The group is the pivotal force in the largest Iranian opposition coalition, the National Council of Resistance, which has revealed Tehran's nuclear, missile and terrorist plans.

In 1997, the U.S. State Department placed the People's Mujahedeen on the list of foreign terrorist organizations as a goodwill gesture to Khatami, who was Iran's new president. But after a 16-month investigation in Iraq, where the group has had a presence on the Iranian frontier for 18 years, the United States determined that its members were "protected persons under the Fourth Geneva Convention" and that there was no basis to charge any of them.

Over the years, many U.S. Congressmen and their counterparts in Europe, citing the group's widespread popular and religious roots in Iran, have described the People's Mujahedeen as a legitimate resistance movement and the antithesis to Islamic fundamentalism, stressing that it should be removed from the terror list. In November, the International Conference of Jurists, a convention of 500 human-rights lawyers in Paris, declared that blacklisting the organization was a violation of the European Convention on Human Rights, the fundamental right to defense and the presumption of innocence.

The Iranian resistance is committed to holding free and fair elections within six months of regime change, to electing a constituent assembly and handing over affairs to the people's elected representatives. It seeks a peaceful Iran without weapons of mass destruction, on good terms with its neighbors and dedicated to friendship with the world community.

More than fifty years after the coup that toppled the elected government of Mohammed Mossadegh, fate has again put America at a historic crossroads. This time, unlike in 1953, the United States must identify itself with the Iranian people and their aspirations for freedom, democracy and a secular state. Only such an approach can guarantee lasting peace and stability in the Middle East.

*Excerpts from an article by Maryam Rajavi, president of the National Council of Resistance of Iran*

**Daily Telegraph (UK) - Editorial**  
**January 22, 2005**

**It wouldn't take a war to overthrow Iran's mullahs**

We can be sloppy in our approach to foreign affairs. Because of their geographical and alphabetical proximity, we tend to bracket Iran and Iraq together. You will hear even politicians and television presenters committing the solecism of describing Iranians as Arabs. It is imprecision of this kind that is clouding the debate over the proper response to the mullahs.

There is a superficial resemblance between the Axis of Evil duo. Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's Iran, like Saddam's Iraq, is a tyranny, silencing dissent and imprisoning its opponents. It has been linked to numerous terrorist attacks, as far afield as London and Buenos Aires. It has ordered monstrous human rights violations at home, including the execution of teenage girls and the show-trials of Jews. Whereas our knowledge of Iraq's weapons programme depended on guesswork, we have concrete evidence that Iran is equipping itself with a nuclear capability...

Whereas there was no chance of creating a functioning democracy in Iraq without direct intervention, there is reason to hope that, given the opportunity, Iranians would shake off their theocracy and join the modern world. How might we catalyze such a revolution? In three ways.

First, we should cease our dealings with the mullahs. EU countries, in contrast to the Americans, have pursued a policy of "constructive engagement" with Teheran, exchanging state visits and sending Jack Straw on repeated visits... That policy is now in shreds, as Iran's nuclear program nears completion.

Second, we should give financial and political assistance to dissidents inside the country.

Third, we should back the main resistance group, the People's Mujahidin, which, until recently, we treated as a terrorist organization in order to appease Khamenei....