

## Open letter by former world leaders to the leaders of Canada, the EU, UK, and US

To: Joe Biden, President of the United States  
Charles Michel, President of the European Council  
Rishi Sunak, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom  
Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada

Copy: Leaders of the 27 Member States of the European Union

23 May 2023

Excellencies,

Since September 2022, the world has witnessed a sweeping popular uprising in Iran, demanding freedom and democracy. Reports suggest that some 750 protesters have been killed and 30,000 arrested. While any change should come from the people of Iran, the international community has a responsibility to support their human rights.

Decades of apparent silence and inaction by the international community have helped fuel a culture of impunity in Iran. Since the 1980s, the authorities in Iran have executed tens of thousands of protesters and political prisoners. Tragically, in the summer of 1988 alone, over 30,000 political prisoners - the vast majority of whom were members of the opposition MEK - were brutally massacred.

We believe it is time to hold the leadership of the Islamic Republic of Iran to account for its crimes.

We encourage you to stand in solidarity with the people of Iran in their desire for a secular and democratic republic where no individual, regardless of religion or birthright, has any privilege over others. Through their slogans, the Iranian people have made it clear that they reject all forms of dictatorship, be it that of the deposed Shah or the current theocratic regime, and thus reject any association with either.

We believe it is for the Iranian people to decide their future. However, we recognise that for four decades, the democratic coalition National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI) has constantly and tirelessly pursued democratic change. In this respect, we believe the Ten-Point Plan articulated by the NCRI President, Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, deserves support. Its commitment to free elections, freedom of assembly and expression, abolition of the death penalty, gender equality, separation of religion and state, autonomy for Iran's ethnicities, and a non-nuclear Iran is in line with our own democratic values.

We condemn the Iranian regime's meddling in the Middle East and Europe, including its provision of drones to assist Russia's war against Ukraine and its terrorist attempts and cyber-attacks in Albania.

We urge your nations to stand with the Iranian people in their quest for change and to take decisive steps against the current regime. This includes blacklisting the Revolutionary Guards (IRGC) and holding regime officials accountable for their crimes against humanity.

Sincerely

**SIGNED:**

**Mike Pence** – Former Vice President, United States

**Jean Claude Juncker** – Former Prime Minister, Luxembourg; former President of the European Commission

**Romano Prodi** – Former Prime Minister, Italy; former President of the European Commission

**Lech Wałęsa** – Former President, Poland; Nobel Peace Prize laureate

**Juan Manuel Santos** – Former President, Colombia; Nobel Peace Prize laureate

**Oscar Arias Sánchez** – Former President, Costa Rica; Nobel Peace Prize laureate

**Liz Truss** – Former Prime Minister, United Kingdom

**Bernard Cazeneuve** – Former Prime Minister, France

**Yulia Tymoshenko** – Former Prime Minister, Ukraine

**Stephen Harper** – Former Prime Minister, Canada

**Miguel Ángel Rodríguez Echeverría** – Former President, Costa Rica; former Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS)

**César Gaviria** – Former President, Colombia; former Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS)

**Matteo Renzi** – Former Prime Minister, Italy

**Mariano Rajoy** – Former Prime Minister, Spain

**Janez Janša** – Former Prime Minister, Slovenia

**Aníbal Cavaco Silva** – Former President and former Prime Minister, Portugal

**Mary McAleese** – Former President, Ireland

**Micheline Calmy-Rey** – Former President, Switzerland

**Heinz Fischer** – Former President, Austria

**Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca** – Former President, Malta

**Ricardo Lagos Escobar** – Former President, Chile

**Mauricio Macri** – Former President, Argentina

**Guy Verhofstadt** – Former Prime Minister, Belgium

**Danilo Türk** – Former President, Slovenia

**Sebastián Piñera E.** – Former President, Chile

**Vicente Fox** – Former President, Mexico

**Haidar Abu Bakr al-Attas** – Former Prime Minister, Yemen

**Carlos Alvarado Quesada** – Former President, Costa Rica

**Giuliano Amato** – Former Prime Minister, Italy

**Pedro Angulo Arana** – Former Prime Minister, Peru

**Andrus Ansip** – Former Prime Minister, Estonia

**Mercedes Aráoz** – Former Prime Minister, Peru

**Rosalía Arteaga Serrano** – Former President, Ecuador

**Alexandru Athanasiu** – Former Prime Minister, Romania

**José María Aznar** – Former Prime Minister, Spain  
**Gordon Bajnai** – Former Prime Minister, Hungary  
**Nicolás Ardito Barletta** – Former President, Panama  
**Jaume Bartumeu-Cassany** – Former Prime Minister, Andorra  
**Gian Nicola Berti** – Former Captain Regent, San Marino  
**Georgi Bliznashki** – Former Prime Minister, Bulgaria  
**Emil Boc** – Former Prime Minister, Romania  
**Luca Boschi** – Former Captain Regent, San Marino  
**Felipe Calderón** – Former President, Mexico  
**Rafael Ángel Calderón Fournier** – Former President, Costa Rica  
**Kim Campbell** – Former Prime Minister, Canada  
**Miro Cerar** – Former Prime Minister, Slovenia  
**Laura Chinchilla Miranda** – Former President, Costa Rica  
**Matteo Ciacci** – Former Captain Regent, San Marino  
**Emil Constantinescu** – Former President, Romania  
**Carlo Cottarelli** – Former Prime Minister, Italy  
**Édith Cresson** – Former Prime Minister, France  
**Iván Duque** – Former President, Colombia  
**José María Figueres** – Former President, Costa Rica  
**Ántero Flores-Aráoz E.** – Former Prime Minister, Peru  
**Federico Franco** – Former President, Paraguay  
**Mario Frick** – Former Prime Minister, Liechtenstein  
**Carlos D. Mesa Gisbert** – Former President, Bolivia  
**Lawrence Gonzi** – Former Prime Minister, Malta  
**Dalia Grybauskaitė** – Former President, Lithuania  
**Alfred Gusenbauer** – Former Chancellor, Austria  
**Geir H. Haarde** – Former Prime Minister, Iceland  
**Avdullah Hoti** – Former Prime Minister, Kosovo  
**Osvaldo Hurtado** – Former President, Ecuador  
**Toomas Hendrik Ilves** – Former President, Estonia  
**Enda Kenny** – Former Prime Minister, Ireland  
**Andrej Kiska** – Former President, Slovakia  
**Bronisław Komorowski** – Former President, Poland  
**Andrius Kubilius** – Former Prime Minister, Lithuania  
**Milan Kučan** – Former President, Slovenia  
**Aleksander Kwaśniewski** – Former President, Poland  
**Zlatko Lagumdžija** – Former Prime Minister, Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Vytautas Landsbergis** – Former Head of State, Lithuania  
**Yves Leterme** – Former Prime Minister, Belgium  
**Moritz Leuenberger** – Former President, Switzerland  
**Igor Lukšić** – Former Prime Minister, Montenegro  
**Jamil Mahuad** – Former President, Ecuador  
**Pandeli Majko** – Former Prime Minister, Albania  
**Kazimierz Marcinkiewicz** – Former Prime Minister, Poland  
**Moncef Marzouki** – Former President, Tunisia  
**Giuseppe Maria Morganti** – Former Captain Regent, San Marino  
**Mireya Moscoso** – Former President, Panama  
**Michele Muratori** – Former Captain Regent, San Marino  
**Joseph Muscat** – Former Prime Minister, Malta  
**Jiří Paroubek** – Former Prime Minister, Czech Republic  
**Pedro Passos Coelho** – Former Prime Minister, Portugal  
**Andrés Pastrana** – Former President, Colombia  
**Ernesto Pérez Balladares** – Former President, Panama  
**Jorge Fernando Quiroga Ramírez** – Former President, Bolivia  
**Iveta Radicova** – Former Prime Minister, Slovakia  
**Eduardo Rodríguez Veltzé** – Former President, Bolivia  
**Taavi Rõivas** – Former Prime Minister, Estonia  
**Petre Roman** – Former Prime Minister, Romania  
**Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle** – Former President, Chile  
**Francisco Sagasti** – Former President, Peru  
**Luis Guillermo Solís Rivera** – Former President, Costa Rica  
**Vladimír Špidla** – Former Prime Minister, Czech Republic  
**Hanna Suchocka** – Former Prime Minister, Poland  
**Aníbal Torres Vásquez** – Former Prime Minister, Peru  
**Aminata Touré** – Former Prime Minister, Senegal  
**Elbegdorj Tsakhia** – Former President and former Prime Minister, Mongolia  
**Guntis Ulmanis** – Former President, Latvia  
**Raimonds Vējonis** – Former President, Latvia  
**Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga** – Former President, Latvia  
**Juan Carlos Wasmosy** – Former President, Paraguay  
**Andrea Zafferani** – Former Captain Regent, San Marino  
**Rosa Zafferani** – Former Captain Regent, San Marino  
**Guerrino Zanotti** – Former Captain Regent, San Marino  
**Valdis Zatlers** – Former President, Latvia