



## *The British Committee for Iran Freedom*

Rt Hon. David Jones MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon. James Cleverly MP  
Secretary of State  
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office  
King Charles Street  
London  
SW1A 2AH

3<sup>rd</sup> August 2023

Dear Foreign Secretary,

### **Iran's Judiciary Indicts 104 Members of Pro-Democracy Opposition, PMOI/MEK**

We note with grave concern the announcement by Iran's judiciary on July 29, 2023, of indictments against 104 members of the pro-democracy opposition group, the People's Mojahedin Organisation of Iran (PMOI/MEK). The Tehran General and Revolutionary Prosecutor's Office has referred them to a Criminal Court in Tehran.

The Iranian regime, having failed to prevent the growing popular discontent, and fearful of a more widespread uprising, is pursuing a two-pronged strategy through this move against the principal democratic opposition.

On the one hand, it intends to intensify executions and suppression at home. On the other, state media and official documents issued by Iran's Foreign Ministry, revealed by activists in Iran, show that the goal is to produce bogus convictions in Iranian courts against PMOI/MEK members and use them to engage Interpol and intimidate and harass members of the Iranian opposition in Europe.

The regime has a history of providing false evidence to European Governments and threatening them with terrorism and hostage-taking with a view to intimidating them into restricting the activities of the Iranian pro-democracy opposition in Europe and abroad. One recent example is the false information provided to the Albanian Government, which led to an attack by 1,200 police officers on Iranian refugees near Tirana, resulting in the death of one of them. We trust you will agree that the fundamental rights of Iranian dissidents in all European countries, including Albania, should be scrupulously respected.

The regime spends billions of dollars on its "propaganda and influence" campaign to tarnish the Iranian opposition and resistance movement, complementing its efforts to eliminate the pro-democracy opposition with terrorism and domestic repression.

The judiciary's announcement coincides with the anniversary of the massacre of 30,000 political prisoners across Iran in 1988, the majority being PMOI/MEK members and supporters. That



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massacre began with a religious decree from the founder of the Islamic Republic, Ayatollah Khomeini, to eliminate PMOI/MEK members who do not denounce the pro-democracy opposition.

Ample evidence and UN reports show that the judiciary in Iran plays an integral part in the state repression of popular protests. It is also an established fact that the regime is using executions as a tool to suppress and stifle political dissent and legitimate opposition. UN Human Rights experts have expressed serious concerns publicly over the increasing number of executions in Iran in recent months as the regime loses control of popular protests.

You will undoubtedly be aware that an Iranian diplomat was sentenced to 20 years in prison in Belgium in 2021 for his role in the attempted bombing of the annual gathering of the broader Iranian opposition coalition, the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), in Paris in late June 2018. The plot targeted the Iranian opposition leader, Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, and her Iranian and international supporters, including many members of our committee and parliamentarians from Europe and around the world who had gathered in Paris.

Today, the NCRI and its democratic platform for the future of Iran are gaining international recognition and endorsement from a growing number of parliamentarians worldwide, especially following its successful annual gathering in support of a free Iran in July this year, amid continued popular protests in Iran.

Allowing the regime to succeed in its moves against the PMOI/MEK and the NCRI will very probably lead to more deaths in Iranian prisons.

We urge you to make clear to Tehran, both publicly and privately, that the UK condemns and rejects the effort by the Iranian authorities to abuse Interpol and international mechanisms and laws to export their persecution of dissidents to Europe.

We also encourage you to intensify your efforts at the international level and at the UN to hold the regime and its leaders accountable for decades of serious and systematic human rights abuses and terrorism. In truth, it is the Iranian regime that should appear before the international tribunal to answer for its many crimes against humanity and for the deaths of tens of thousands of protesters and dissidents since 1979, both within and outside Iran.

We look forward to your response and thank you for considering our concerns.

Yours sincerely,

**Rt Hon. David Jones MP**  
**President of the British Committee for Iran Freedom**

CC:  
*Interpol Secretary General, Mr Jürgen Stock*



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### **PROMINENT MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ARE AS FOLLO**

The Lord Carlile of Berriew CBE KC, *Co-President and HMG Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation (2001 - 2011)*

Prof the Lord Alton of Liverpool, *Co-President*

Dr Matthew Offord MP, *Co-President*

Steve McCabe MP, *Co-President and former Shadow Minister and Opposition Whip*

The Baroness Verma, *former Baroness in Waiting (HM Household) (Whip) and Parliamentary Under-Secretary (Department for International Development)*

The Baroness Harris of Richmond DL, *Deputy Speaker of the House of Lords*

The Rt Hon. the Lord Dholakia OBE DL, *Co-Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrat Peers and former Party Chair*

The Rt Rev. the Lord Harries of Pentregarth DD, *former Bishop of Oxford*

The Lord Singh of Wimbledon CBE, *member of Joint Committee on Human Rights*

The Lord McInnes of Kilwinning CBE, *Director of Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party*

The Lord Clarke of Hampstead CBE

The Baroness Redfern

The Lord Inglewood MRICS

The Lord Roberts of Llandudno

The Lord Turnberg

Rt Hon Sir Roger Gale MP, *former Vice-Chair of the Conservative Party*

Rt Hon John Spellar MP, *former Minister of State (Ministry of Defence) and former Deputy Chief Whip*

Bob Blackman MP

Martin Vickers MP

John Cryer MP

Ian Mearns MP

Jim Shannon MP