



The British Committee for Iran Freedom

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Release

Condemnation of character assassination campaign against the Iranian opposition and capitulation to Iran's outlaw regime hostage diplomacy

The British Committee for Iran Freedom (BCFIF), with strong cross-party support in both Houses of Parliament, strongly condemns the character assassination campaign against Mrs Maryam Rajavi, President-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, recently published in French media. These unfounded allegations, released just before the release of French hostage Olivier Grondeau.

While we welcome Olivier Grondeau's release, we strongly oppose the policy of appeasing Iran's regime, especially at the expense of the organised resistance of the Iranian people. This policy undermines Europe's political foundations and weakens its counter-terrorism stance.

On 18 March 2025, Canard Enchaîné published a misleading article with false accusations against Mrs Maryam Rajavi. These claims have long been propagated by Iran's Ministry of Intelligence to tarnish the opposition's credibility. Following the article's publication, Iran's state media widely disseminated these false claims.

The Iranian regime has repeatedly used hostage-taking as a political leverage tool. Notably, in the case of Assadollah Assadi, an Iranian diplomat sentenced to 20 years for planning a bombing at a major Iranian resistance rally in Paris in 2018. In a shameful deal Assadi was released from prison in Belgium and sent to Iran in exchange for two Western hostages.

This form of hostage diplomacy mocks justice and European legal systems, damaging both European and Iranian citizens and serves the interest of the Iranian regime.

The British Committee for Iran Freedom (BCFIF) strongly condemns capitulation to Iran's hostage diplomacy by any country. Europe must respond with stronger actions, including sanctions, the closure of Iranian regime embassies and centers, and the arrest of Iranian agents involved in espionage and money laundering.

We reiterate our strong support for Mrs Maryam Rajavi, NCRI President-elect. As the leader of Iran's largest organised opposition, she has been the prime target of Iranian regime terrorism and disinformation campaigns.



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We will continue their advocacy for a free Iran and Mrs Rajavi's Ten-Point Plan for the country's future, emphasising freedom, a democratic republic, gender equality, and the separation of religion and state, which will remain the benchmark of this movement's values and credibility.

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21 March 2025

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PROMINENT MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ARE AS FOLLOW

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*

The Baroness Verma, *Baroness in Waiting (HM Household) (Whip) (2010-2012) and Parliamentary Under-Secretary for International Development (2015-2016)*

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 Party Chair (2001-2004)*

The Rt Rev. the Lord Harries of Pentregarth DD, *Bishop of Oxford (1987-2006)*

The Lord Clarke of Hampstead CBE

The Baroness O'Loan DBE MRJA

The Lord Inglewood MRICS

The Lord Roberts of Llandudno

The Lord Singh of Wimbledon CBE

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

The Rt Hon. the Lord Spellar, *Shadow Minister for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (2010-2015), Minister of State for Defence (1999-2001) and Deputy Chief Whip (2008-2010)*

The Lord Triesman, *former UK Foreign Minister and Lords in Waiting (Whips)(2003-2005)*

The Rt Hon. the Lord Whitty, *Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2001-2005)*

The Lord Turnberg

The Lord Roberts of Belgravia

The Lord Cryer

The Baroness Cox

The Baroness Redfern

The Lord McCabe, *Labour MP (1997-2024), Shadow Minister (Defence, 2023-204) and Whip (2007-2010)*

Rt Hon. Sir Roger Gale MP, *Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons (2022-2024) and Vice-Chair of the Conservative Party (2001-2003)*

Bob Blackman CBE MP



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Martin Vickers MP

Jim Shannon MP

David Jones, *Conservative MP (2005-2024), Secretary of State for Wales (2012-2014)*

Sir Alan Meale, *Labour MP (1987-2017)*

Mark Williams, *Liberal Democrat MP (2005-2017)*