

Honorable Members of the Estonian Parliament, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Iranian Supportive Organization, I stand before you today to address a matter of great importance to us all, the Woman, Life, Freedom revolution in Iran. We have all witnessed the incredible bravery and determination of the women of Iran as they stand up for their rights and demand equality, freedom of speech and assembly, and fighting shoulder to shoulder with Iranian men against the Islamic Republic Regime.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to all 1065 residents of Estonia who supported us by signing our petition, and the esteemed members of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Parliament of Estonia who has taken an immediate action by giving us the voice to advocate our brothers and sisters in Iran. Iranians who have suffered under strict and restrictive laws that limit their ability to live their lives as they choose. Iranian women who have been denied basic human rights such as the right to education, the right to work, and even the right to travel to other countries freely and independently. Iranian ethnics who are under devastating suppressions but still rally in the streets every week. 81 Baloches who were brutally killed in a mosque with war bullets when they were praying. Over 600 girls and boys who were shot directly in the eye from a close distance. Over 100 innocent young protesters whose death sentences are approved and some of them are in solitary confinement waiting for their execution this very moment that we are here, and thousands who are initially sentenced to death and are in serious danger of approval of their verdicts. Tens of thousands of detainees and imprisoned protesters that the Iranian regime refuses to give their exact number, and some of their families do not even know where they are. And how can I summarize 44 years of tyranny in 10 minutes? How can I forget over 60 children who were killed in 5 months? How can I shrink a huge pain in a couple of words? And at the same time, how can I not talk about the bravery of my people? Those who are tortured and in some cases raped in prison but refused to obey the suppressors. Those who were bitten by batons and pellets but participated in the next rallies. Those who planted the seeds of hope in our hearts to believe that the darkness will not remain.

We believe that the current revolution in Iran is a powerful testament to the strength of the human spirit. Despite facing brutal repression and intimidation from the regime, Iranians have continued to speak out and fight for their rights for 152 days so far.

It is important to note that despite the decline in street protests, the fight for freedom and justice in Iran is far from over. The oppressive measures taken by the regime have made it increasingly difficult for protesters to gather and make their voices heard. However, this does not diminish the strength and resolve of the people.

The support of other countries, both through advocacy and action, can have a significant impact on the ability of the people of Iran to achieve their goals.

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Parliament, I call on you to take action. We ask you to do everything in your power to support Iranian revolution and to stand with Iranians in their fight for freedom and equality. This can be done through diplomatic efforts, and by taking serious actions. We

support the EU parliament's resolution approved on January 18, and we ask your esteemed authority to stand with us by putting the IRGC in the list of terrorists, where they really belong to. If all these violations of the human rights in Iran, and supporting Russia, Hezbollah, and Syrian regime is not considered as terrorist activities, what is?

This is a change that transcends borders and cultures, and needs a collective international support regardless of background and nationality.

At the end, I would like to say that:

In my homeland, mountains are kind; Deserts are kind; And rivers, and wild goats; And crystals of minerals; And flakes of snow...

I know that your homeland has experienced the nights that were darker than the bread, and breads that were darker than nights. I know that your homeland has struggled with starvation; With the Red Army; And the chains of exploitation and abuse.

I know that your homeland set itself free of tyranny, by its people singing and holding hands in a human chain. I know your homeland crossed the border of darkness. And I want you to know that we, Iranians, do not want any privilege but peace and democracy.

And a bright picture in which when my Estonian neighbor tells me that he had been in Iran many years ago, and he still remembers Iran's spring, I can tell him be my guest this spring, I will show you the beauty and dignity in my country!

Thank you.

Maliheh Keshmiri

Communication Manager and Spokesperson

Iranian Supportive Organization MTÜ