



## Commemorating the Sixty Fifth Anniversary of the Human Rights Declaration

December 10<sup>th</sup> 2013

Sixty five years ago, on December 10, 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly consisting of member states including Iran.

The first article of this declaration states: “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.” This concept has deep roots in the culture and history of Iran and is consistent with the spirit of Cyrus the Great’s Charter. Cyrus the Great, King of Persia who lived over 2500 years ago, offered to the world the first human rights declaration, which was based on secularism and anti-slavery principles. As we commemorate the anniversary of this great day, let us hope that all nations who struggle under dictatorial regimes will achieve their freedom and human rights.

During the past 35 years, the Islamic Republic has systematically deprived Iranian people of their human rights. The economy has been devastated due to the ignorance, fanaticism, and corruption of the Islamic republic. The National Gas Company, in a country that has the largest natural gas reserves, is bankrupt. The rate of inflation has reached triple digits, unemployment is more 30%, and millions of Iranians live in poverty. Despite such conditions, the regime spends billions of dollars to support terrorist groups in every corner of the world, and billions of dollars in public funds and national wealth are plundered by the regime or the astounding personal wealth amassed by Ali Khamenei that amounts to 95 billion dollars.

To remain in power, the Islamic republic tries to disrupt satellite TV broadcasting by jamming signals, which causes health problems. In addition, the regime violates all international laws and regulations concerning freedom of speech by shutting down sites and imprisoning, torturing, and murdering young blogger activists.

As Iranian women continue to courageously and intensively oppose the regime, they have increasingly and brutally come under severe pressure, such that their legitimate rights have been grossly violated. Female students have recently been deprived from many branches of study at the universities. Gender discrimination is also directed toward single women under the age of 40, who are forbidden from traveling without the express consent of their legal guardian or a religious judge. The regime has gone so far as to recently legalize the marriage of a man to his step daughter.

Nevertheless, brave freedom seekers in Iran are determined to tirelessly strive to topple the Islamic republic and replace it with a secular and democratic government. The regime is doing its utmost to retain its power by murdering, imprisoning, torturing, sexually harassing, and stoning to death of Iranians. Reports published by international human rights organizations indicate that more than 600 persons were executed in 2013, 97 of them in the month of October alone, and untold number of unaccounted people killed in secret. It should be kept in mind that the courts of the Islamic republic do not meet international standard of justice. It is also notable that as a result of the ignorance, corruption, and lack of responsibility of the regime, every year hundreds of thousands of Iranians become ill or die due to pollution, unsafe roads, inefficiencies in the public health system, and a lack of safe medications and medical products.

According to the 2013 Report of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Iran, there is no sign of improvement in human rights and the regime’s policies continue to violate freedom of speech and expression, while prohibiting access to information. Recently the Third Committee of UN General Assembly approved Canada’s proposal and condemned the human rights violations by the Islamic republic. The officials of the regime extremely criticized this declaration and shamefully defended Islamic republic’s crimes against Iranian people. Under these conditions, it is quite unfortunate that world powers ignore the egregious human rights violations by the Islamic republic in their dialogue with the regime and in doing so provide the grounds, intentionally or otherwise, for prolonging this criminal regime.

The Iranian Democracy Front urges all members of the United Nations and other international organizations, as well as the free world at large, to condemn the barbaric and systematic violations of human rights in Iran as a crime against humanity. The resilient Iranian people need the real and genuine support of free nations to oust this corrupt, illegitimate, and terrorist regime. Eliminating the Islamic republic will make it possible to achieve enduring peace, security, and healthy relations not only for the people of Iran, but also for those of the entire region and the world at large.

***Iranian Democracy Front (IDF) is an association composed of Iranian pro-democracy political groups and organizations with diverse political beliefs, with a common goal of removing the despotic Islamic republic and establishing a secular democratic government in Iran based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Member organizations of IDF in alphabetical order:***

Action for Iran's Freedom, Alliance for Democracy in Iran, Alliance of Iranian Women, Association of Wisdom and Tradition of Iran, Democrat Party of People of Iran, European Centre for Zoroastrian Studies, Guardians of Iranian Territorial Integrity, Iranian Cultural Society, Iranian Secular-Democrat Organization, Iranian Society for Freedom Peace and Justice, Iran Society in Dallas, Iranian Solidarity Congress, Iranian Unity and Solidarity Council, IRANPAD Organization - Arizona, IRANPAD Organization – Dallas, IRANPAD Organization - Houston, IRANPAD Organization - Los Angeles, IRANPAD Organization - North Texas, Kanoon Kherad, Movement to Support Freedom in Iran, Organization of Balouch Constitutional Monarchists, Organization of Iranian Solidarity, Organization of Young Iranian Constitutional Monarchists, National Front-Abroad, Pan Iranist Party - Abroad, Payam Organization, Radio Azadegan, Sarbaz Organization, Society of Persian Women, Supporters of Democracy Movement in Iran, Tribe Alliance of Iran, Tribe Solidarity of Iran.