

Correspondence and Parliamentary Questions Unit

King Charles Street

London SW1A 2AH

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Dear Correspondence and Parliamentary Questions Unit,

20.10.2022

Your Reference: TO2022/26954

On behalf of the Association of Iranian Human Rights and Allies, we would like to thank you for your reply dated 19.10.2022.

The Association is glad that His Majesties government echoes our deep concerns regarding the current ongoing events in Iran. The actions of the Islamic Republic and the brutal crackdown afforded to unarmed civilians is reprehensible, criminal, and a crime against humanity.

Your letter correctly and accurately reflects the outrage felt by not only Iranians, but by the wider international community.

The free world has now taken a stance and stood in solidarity with the Iranian people, against the horrific murder of Miss Mahsa Amini, the violent suppression of unarmed civilians as well as the movement for freedom we have seen in the streets of Iran.

Many celebrities, artists, authors, sport teams have publicly supported the freedom movement in Iran.

We are glad to learn that your government has taken positive steps by introducing new sanctions. However, we strongly feel that sanctions could be expanded, sending a clear message to the theocratic dictatorship in Tehran and we sincerely hope that the U.K government and your allies will take further sanctions into consideration.

A continuous and constant concern outside the scope of current events in Iran, which many within Iran have now labelled a 'revolution', is the non-compliance of the Islamic Republic and its nuclear commitments with the new Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPoA).

Your letter states that the JCPoA is *'not perfect but provides a framework'*. We strongly believe that an agreement of any kind is a small positive step forward in any negotiations. However, the Islamic Republic has proven to be exceptionally untrustworthy and has failed to conform to international norms. The regime in Tehran has been unwavering in its desire to attain nuclear technology regardless of cost or detriment to the population.

A nuclear Iran governed by the current regime will bring instability to the world, may cause a proliferation in a nuclear arms race in the region as well as threatening world peace. A conventionally armed Iran has already provided military assistance to the Russian war effort in Ukraine, and they stand accused of supplying military drones to Moscow with devastating consequences for the Ukrainian civilians.

The JCPoA, if agreed, will delay a result that is inconceivable. Tehran's aim is nuclear technology now, or at the very worst case in the near future.

The hope of the free world is to have an agreement with a dictatorship that is untrustworthy, and the JCPOA will have the same worth as the white piece of paper waved in the air by Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain on 30th September 1938.

We sincerely hope, for the sake of world peace and Human Rights, that the U.K and her allies will reflect on the historical lessons of the 20th Century as well as reflecting upon the actions of the Islamic Republic for the last 43 years when considering further negotiations with a regime that does not spare its own sons and daughters from harm and destruction.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs Azadeh Jassemi.....