

Statement by Mansourh Behkish

Ebrahim Ra'isi is not a representative of the people of Iran; he is a representative of criminals and responsible for the Iranian inquisition.

Ebrahim Ra'isi has been one of the main judicial officials involved in the crimes committed by the Islamic Republic of Iran from the beginning of its rule to the present day. He was a member of "The Death Commission" responsible for the massacre of political prisoners in the summer of 1988. He has been accused of committing crimes against humanity; he should be tried and punished for these crimes that have devastated this country instead of occupying the office of president.

Ebrahim Ra'isi himself knows better what crimes he has committed, and this was the reason that he did not appear in person at the United Nations, because he is terrified that he would face the same consequences that Hamid Nouri, whose court hearing about crimes committed by him is being prosecuted in Stockholm Sweden as we speak, and other criminals from other countries.

Freedom, justice and security for the Islamic Republic of Iran means absolute support for the fascist system of the Islamic Republic of Iran. This is a government that has no respect for the people, nor does it respect their belief in freedom and justice

This regime shoots people down for the simplest and elementary demands. Even if we do not want to go far back in time, just two years ago in November 2020, hundreds of men and women were shot in the streets of Tehran and other cities while protesting gasoline price hikes, inflation and unemployment. Thousands more were also imprisoned and tortured. On January 8, 2020, 172 passengers of Flight 752 were shot down and torn to pieces in the skies of Iran, and instead of responding to the cries of relatives seeking justice, they were assaulted, threatened and detained.

Two months ago, the people of Khuzestan, a province in the south of Iran, were attacked while protesting the water shortage and drought. At least nine protesters were killed and injured and many people were detained. The internet service has been cut off in many of these cities.

To bear witness, one must only visit the prisons of Iran, especially the prisons of the small cities. Countless political prisoners are imprisoned with heavy fines. Women in these prisons face double torture, because women are considered the second class in the Islamic government, and gender-based torture is officially legal and Halal, what Sharia considers, just. This is the freedom and justice of Ebrahim Ra'isi and his other criminal accomplices that has crushed the Iranian people under its rubble.

Undoubtedly, the United States and other dominating countries have only their own interests at stake, and I strongly oppose sanctions against Iran and other countries, but I urge the United Nations and UN member states to NOT turn a blind eye to systematic human rights and abuses and other crimes of this OPPRESSIVE regime, that is tantamount to crimes against humanity.

It is unfortunate that we are not only harmed by the tyrannical and domineering government of

Iran, but also by the domination of other governments OVER US THAT HAS DARKENED our lives, and the United Nations should be held accountable for this.

Just as recent events in Afghanistan reveal, for years the hegemonic governments have plundered the lives of Afghanistan's people, and now the Taliban has seized power in line with the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Taliban's first action was an immediate targeting of and attacking women. This is exactly what the Islamic Republic of Iran did immediately after seizing political power, in 1979.

Ruhollah Khomeini, the then leader, said on March 7, 1979: "Women should go out only with hijab and attacks on women are allowed, if they did not abide." Thousands of brave Iranian women took to the streets on March 8 of that year to protest against this discrimination and injustice, these demonstrations lasted for 6 days.

In Afghanistan, too, brave women bravely took to the streets to protest the Taliban's discrimination and injustice, right away. I am one of the relatives and Mothers of the Khavaran plaintiffs. I have lost six of MY loved ones to this regime, my sister Zahra Behkish and my 4 brothers Mohammad Reza, Mohsen, Mahmoud and Mohammad Ali Behkish, and Siamak Asadian, my sister's husband, in the 1980's in various ways, either in prisons and under torture or outside of prison. But the government, instead of responding to our cry for justice, has constantly harassed us. We have been demanding justice ever since. We are also protesting and demanding that the United Nations and UN human rights organization members, not close their eyes to the previous and current crimes of the IRI that are still being committed in and outside the prison walls of Iran. I call on the free-minded people of the world to raise their voices of protest around the world and to question their own governments, as well.

The trial of Hamid Nouri is currently underway in Stockholm for participating in crimes committed by the Islamic Republic, in part for participating in the execution of thousands of political prisoners, belonging to many organizations, including Mujahideen and members of many communist organizations.

These executions took place based on a behind the door decision made by these medieval inquisition courts, that took only a few minutes, to send thousands to the gallows based on the fatwa (decree) of Ruhollah Khomeini. My two dear brothers, Mahmoud and Mohammad Ali Behkish, were also amongst the executed, even though they were sentenced to 10 and 8 years in prison in the unjust courts of the Islamic Republic of Iran. They spent 5 years of their sentences in prison, for the crime of defending the people and their beliefs in courts that have not a shred of respect for justice. The bodies of these loved ones were thrown into mass graves in Khavaran and other unmarked and unnamed graves all over Iran... and how they killed our loved ones, and WHERE ARE THEY BURIED. And since then, they have bulldozed Khavaran and other unnamed mass graves several times, in order to whitewash any evidence of their crimes.

Every day in Iran, there are protests, strikes and large gatherings in protest of poverty, unemployment, disease, high prices and the lack of living standards for livelihood, education, health, as well as the lack of freedom of expression and democracy; rather discrimination, injustice and severe inequality and economic, political and social injustices are in place.

For example, there was a gathering of retirees and pensioners that took place on April 6, 2021 in different cities - Tehran, Karaj, Tabriz, Ahvaz, Mashhad, Isfahan, Arak, Rasht, Neishabour, Ardabil, Ilam, etc. Currently several retirees are in prison with heavy sentences while many more have been summoned to prison for protesting economic and social inequalities. And because of these hardships it is difficult to live a humane and just life.

They chanted: "Our salary is in Rials; our expenses are in dollars," "imprisoned workers, imprisoned teachers, must be freed," "Yesterday's toilers, today's protesters," "Gerammy! must be released," "No threats, nor prison, they no longer deter us," "The retirees ship, why has it sunk in the mud?" "No Nation has faced this much injustice," "We have heard enough lies, no more voting from us," "Only in the streets can we get our rights," "We are not going to stop, till we get our rights!"

I am sure that it will not be long before the social movement of activists who are fed up, and currently protesting and striking in different cities of Iran, with unity and solidarity, will free all political prisoners and send these criminals where they deserve. Of course, I hope that the experience of 1979 will not be repeated and that all the perpetrators of the 43-year-crimes of the Islamic Republic of Iran will be tried and punished in the public, in fair trials and in people's courts, inside Iran for their countless crimes, (and be punished other than execution), and by discovering the truth and building a humane and just world, we can prevent the recurrence of crime and breathe in freedom and happiness.

Mansourh Behkish

1st of Mordad 1400 / 22 of the September of 2021

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