

**A Comprehensive
Report**

Iran's Uprising and the Regime's Dilemma

A Nation
Aflame for
Revolution



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Executive Summary

1. One year after the commencement of the 2022 uprising, the Iranian regime finds itself trapped in a deepening crisis. The conflict between the people and the regime has significantly escalated, the social situation has grown increasingly volatile, and the organized resistance has strengthened.
2. Like a powder keg, Iran's society was ignited by various grievances encompassing political oppression, economic turmoil, and systemic corruption. Since the 2017 uprising, several significant incidents, such as the massacre of at least 1,500 protesters in the 2019 crackdown, mishandling of the pandemic response, and the appointment of a notorious executioner as president, only further contributed to the explosive mixture. The prevalent issues of widespread inflation, unemployment, and poverty further stoked the flames of societal unrest.¹
3. The uprising on September 16, 2022, was triggered by the murder of Mahsa Amini at the hands of the 'morality police.' It rapidly spread to over 280 cities across all 31 provinces, with protesters chanting slogans such as 'Death to Khomeini,' 'I will avenge my brother's killer,' and 'Death to the oppressor, whether it be the Shah or the leader (Khamenei).' The demonstrators were calling for the overthrow of the regime and the establishment of a democratic republic. People from the middle and lower urban classes took to the streets from large cities to small towns throughout Iran.
4. According to documents released by the MEK (Mujahedin-e Khalq), all repressive organizations, particularly the IRGC (Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps), were deployed full force to suppress the uprising. Despite these efforts, the uprising persisted for several months. The regime's actions resulted in the deaths of at least 750 demonstrators, including many children and women. Additionally, over 30,000 people were arrested, and several demonstrators were executed.²

1 Special Report: Iran's leader ordered crackdown on unrest - "Do whatever it takes to end it," Reuters, December 23, 2019; <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-iran-protests-specialreport-idUSKBN1YR0QR>

2 Iran: PMOI/MEK Publishes Names of Martyrs of the Iranian People's Nationwide Uprising, PMOI website, October 1, 2022; <https://english.mojahedin.org/news/iran-pmoi-mek-publishes-names-of-martyrs-of-the-iranian-peoples-nationwide-uprising/>

5. In this regime, women, who had long been marginalized in political, economic, and social spheres and faced double repression, assumed prominent roles, with many even taking on leadership and guidance positions.
6. Contrary to the regime's long-standing propaganda, various ethnicities and nationalities, including Kurds, Baloch, and Azeris, whom the regime had sought to divide for years, demonstrated societal unity against the regime with slogans like "From Kurdistan to Tehran, I sacrifice my life for Iran."
7. The regime's inability to swiftly suppress the uprising led to internal infighting, which had been expected to subside following the appointment of Ebrahim Raisi as the regime's President and the elimination of rival factions. After six months of people chanting slogans like 'Death to Khamenei' and 'Death to the dictator,' the prestige of the regime's leader waned, and defections and instability within the regime intensified.
8. The Organized Resistance, particularly the MEK Resistance Units, played a pivotal role in organizing, sustaining, and safeguarding the uprising.³ This was acknowledged in public statements by regime officials and in recently revealed internal documents, where the MEK was cited as having "the greatest role in implementing and organizing the 2022 uprising." On April 1, 2023, the Secretariat of the National Council of Resistance of Iran reported that from the beginning of the uprising until March 20, 2023, a total of 3,626 individuals associated with the Resistance Units had disappeared through arrests, killings, or involuntary disappearances.
9. Throughout the uprising, numerous efforts were made to establish fake alternatives, many covertly backed by the regime. These groups, lacking any genuine popular support or organized strength, were primarily the result of extensive propaganda efforts and foreign assistance. Consequently, most disintegrated within a few weeks, as their primary motivation was individual interests and ambitions. These entities diluted the momentum of the uprising, reducing its impact, and advocated against confronting the regime, often citing cost considerations. Another aspect of their role was undermining the significance of the MEK and the National Council of Resistance of Iran, the alternative the regime genuinely fears.
10. The regime is currently facing an overwhelming deadlock. Over the past year, the economic crisis, government corruption, and theft—critical triggers of the uprising—have not only persisted but have worsened. Any meaningful economic reform and anti-corruption efforts necessitate political reform,

3 Video-Iran 2022: Resistance Units take major strides, PMOI website, February 17, 2022; <https://english.mojahedin.org/iranian-resistance-units/>

which ultimately implies overthrowing the religious dictatorship.

11. Repression, imprisonment, and torture have escalated significantly, particularly against the families and supporters of the MEK. To date, thousands of students have faced expulsion or arrest, and hundreds of professors have been subjected to purges under a policy called 'purification.' Furthermore, there are plans to appoint 15,000 Basij and IRGC members as university professors. This 'purification' policy has also expanded its reach to other government institutions.
12. The regime has significantly intensified its macro-policies across multiple fronts, including efforts to acquire nuclear weapons, missile development, drone production, involvement in regional crises, warmongering, and hostage-taking. This includes its participation in the conflict in Ukraine and the export of drones to Russia.
13. To prevent the recurrence of the uprisings, the Iranian regime has significantly increased the budget and spending of various repressive institutions, including the IRGC, Ministry of Intelligence, and state security forces command (FARAJA), Intelligence and Security sections of the Interior Ministry, Municipality of Tehran, to name a few. The decision to further financially empower the IRGC and other repressive institutions
14. For example, internal regime documents reveal that on November 24, 2022, only five days after an SNSC session ratified the allocation of additional budgets, General Mohammad Bagheri, the Chief of Staff of the Iranian regime's Armed Forces, asked for 350 million dollars to improve the ability of suppressive forces to silence the population. Another document shows that on December 28, 2022, Intelligence Minister Esmail Khatib asked for 41 million dollars to confront the protests.
15. Sarallah, the main garrison of the IRGC, is tasked with security and control of the Capital, Tehran. In red alert situations, the IRGC commander takes over as the commander of this Garrison. A "Top Secret" document dated May 7, 2023, shows that Sarallah Garrison has asked for 78 million dollars of additional money. In addition, the deputy of Sarallah Garrison, IRGC Brig. Gen. Hossein Nejat asks for 8 million dollars to enhance the video monitoring of Metro stations of Tehran, as "Metro stations have been one of the surprise locations during the uprising." Therefore, they plan to quickly improve the monitoring of Tehran's Metros with face-identifying cameras.
16. Another document classified as "top secret," dated November 2, 2022, signed

was made at the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) as demanded by Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei.

by IRGC Brigadier General Hassan Hasanzadeh, commander of IRGC's Mohammad Corp, of the greater Tehran, shows detailed preparation and instructions to identify protest leaders and those engaged in writing slogans and arresting them and turning them over to the IRGC Intelligence Organization.

17. Such lavish spending on repressive forces to arrest and kill the people sharply contrasts with the reality of the Iranian people. The regime's officials have conceded that over 75 to 80 percent of the population of the rich country of Iran lives below the poverty line, and the government has spent as high as 50 billion dollars in Syria to keep Assad in power.
18. The regime's actions send a clear message: it is deeply apprehensive about the resurgence of the uprising. The wheels of regime change are now in motion and cannot be halted. As of August 1, 2023, Hossein Salami, the commander of the IRGC, made it explicit: 'The smallest gap can threaten the entire sovereignty.' The undeniable reality is that religious rule in Iran is in an inescapable final phase.
19. Desperate for survival, Tehran Has been resorting to what it knows best, hostage-taking and terrorism, as a tool of statecraft to gain concessions. While Iran's people are the biggest enemy of the regime, the West's appeasement policy has become the biggest ally

of the regime. Tehran has managed, through blackmail and terrorism, to gain significant concession when it is at its weakest point and most desperate.

20. While Western nations have been most accommodating to the regime, their elected representatives at various parliaments have chosen to side with the people of Iran. In 2023, over 3,600 cross-party lawmakers in 61 parliaments in 40 countries, including 29 majorities in the U.S. House of Representatives, parliaments in the U.K., France, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Scotland, the Republic of Ireland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Iceland, Slovenia, Moldova, Malta, North Macedonia, San Marino, Jordan, and Yemen endorsed Ten-Point Plan by Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, President-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), for a democratic, secular, non-nuclear republic in Iran.



*People united on over 280 cities chanting
"Death to Khamenei"*

Introduction

Iran is fast approaching the first anniversary of the latest round of popular uprisings that waged the entire country, continued for several months, and changed the country's socio-political landscape for good. As the people and the state prepare themselves in opposite ways, the circumstances and underlying dynamics have fueled the society with more reasons for revolt.

In addition to enduring grievances such as the severe repression of political dissent,

the erosion of civil liberties, and pervasive censorship, the regime has rendered life unbearable for the majority of Iranians who have been thrust below the poverty line in recent years. At the anniversary of the nationwide uprising, the core question is: Has the regime managed to quell the protests, and are we back to the status quo before the start of the protests, or do the protests live on? The Iranian society is getting ready for even more significant events?



Majority of the people in the oil-rich county of Iran live below the poverty line

The Roots of Iran's Uprisings

Iran, under the rule of the mullahs, is a hotbed of human rights abuses, torture, execution, and the killing field for innocent men, women, and children.

The uprising is not a sudden event that lacks any roots. Instead, it is the product of the Iranian people's struggle for freedom over the past four decades, for which 120,000 freedom fighters have sacrificed their lives.

Since the 2017 uprising, several significant incidents have built up substantial and explosive anti-regime rage in Iranian society.⁴ The first was the massacre of at least 1,500 protesters in 2019, followed by the IRGC's deliberate downing of a Ukrainian passenger airliner.⁵ Then came 550,000 deaths caused by the spread of the coronavirus, exacerbated by Khamenei's decisions.

Another was the appointment of Ebrahim Raisi, the executioner of the 1988 massacre

4 Special Report: Iran's leader ordered crackdown on unrest - "Do whatever it takes to end it," Reuters, December 23, 2019; <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-iran-protests-specialreport-idUSKBN1YR0QR>

5 Iran faces legal action over downing of Ukrainian plane, Politico, July 5, 2023; <https://www.politico.eu/article/iran-taken-to-international-world-justice-court-over-plane-crash-killing-176-people/>



The placard reads, "We want to move from the death line to the poverty line."

of 30,000 political prisoners, as the regime's president.⁶

High inflation, which sometimes reaches 100% for some commodities, rampant and horrible unemployment, state corruption that affects all aspects of life, and discrimination against women and religious and ethnic minorities have created an explosive society.⁷

The placard reads, "We want to move from the death line to the poverty line."

In the past five years, the country's low-income population has tripled. The brutal suppression of women and youth and the worsening poverty and unemployment have dismayed everyone.

There has been zero economic growth over the past decade, the investment rate is negative, and the national currency's value has plunged 34 times.

Therefore, this uprising has its roots in the explosive state of society, poverty, unemployment, and, above all, the catastrophic situation of women.

The 2022 uprising erupted anger and pain caused by these factors.

6 BLOOD-SOAKED SECRETS, Amnesty International, December 10, 2028; <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2018/10/blood-soaked-secrets/>

7 Iran protests in 2021: Growing tensions hint at what is to come, NCRI YouTube channel, February 14, 2022; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2FH6Lvvy9DI>

Key Takeaways from the 2022 Uprising in Iran

In the annals of Iran's history, the 2022 uprising will forever be remembered as a period of profound transformation and unrest. It marked the commencement of an uprising that sent shockwaves through the Iranian regime, leaving it entangled in a spiraling crisis. As we reflect on the past year's events, it becomes abundantly clear that the landscape of Iranian politics and society has undergone seismic shifts. The following are the key takeaways from the 2022 uprising in Iran.

Like a powder keg, Iran's society was ignited by an array of grievances encompassing political oppression, economic turmoil, and systemic corruption. Since the 2017 uprising, several significant incidents, such as the massacre of at least 1,500 protesters in the 2019 crackdown, mishandling of the pandemic response, and the appointment of a notorious executioner as president, only further contributed to the explosive mixture. The prevalent issues of widespread inflation, unemployment, and poverty further stoked the flames of societal unrest.⁸

The uprising on September 16, 2022, was triggered by the murder of Mahsa Amini at the hands of the 'morality police.' It rapidly spread to over 280 cities across all 31 provinces, with protesters chanting slogans such as 'Death to Khamenei,' 'I will avenge my brother's killer,' and 'Death to the oppressor, whether it be the Shah or the leader (Khamenei).' The demonstrators were calling for the overthrow of the regime and the establishment of a democratic republic. People from the middle and lower urban classes took to the streets from large cities to small towns throughout Iran.

According to documents released by the MEK (Mujahedin-e Khalq), all repressive organizations, particularly the IRGC (Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps), were deployed with full force to suppress the uprising. Despite these efforts, the uprising persisted for several months. The regime's actions resulted in the deaths of at least 750 demonstrators, including many children and women. Additionally, over 30,000 people were arrested, and several demonstrators were executed.⁹

8 Special Report: Iran's leader ordered crackdown on unrest - "Do whatever it takes to end it," Reuters, December 23, 2019; <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-iran-protests-specialreport-idUSKBN1YR0QR>

9 Iran: PMOI/MEK Publishes Names of Martyrs of the Iranian People's Nationwide Uprising, PMOI website, October 1, 2022; <https://english.mojahedin.org/news/iran-pmoi-mek-publishes-names-of-martyrs-of-the-iranian-peoples-nationwide-uprising/>



In this regime, women, who had long been marginalized in political, economic, and social spheres and faced double repression, assumed prominent roles, with many even taking on leadership and guidance positions.

Contrary to the regime's long-standing propaganda, various ethnicities and nationalities, including Kurds, Baloch, and Azeris, whom the regime had sought to divide for years, demonstrated societal unity against the regime with slogans like "From Kurdistan to Tehran, I sacrifice my life for Iran."

The regime's inability to swiftly suppress the uprising led to internal infighting, which had been expected to subside following the appointment of Ebrahim Raisi as the regime's President and the elimination of rival factions. After six months of people

chanting slogans like 'Death to Khamenei' and 'Death to the dictator,' the prestige of the regime's leader waned, and defections and instability within the regime intensified.

The Organized Resistance, particularly the MEK Resistance Units, played a pivotal role in organizing, sustaining, and safeguarding the uprising.¹⁰ This was acknowledged not only in public statements by regime officials but also in recently revealed internal documents, where the MEK was cited as having "the greatest role in implementing and organizing the 2022 uprising." On April 1, 2023, the Secretariat of the National Council of Resistance of Iran reported that from the beginning of the uprising until March 20, 2023, a total of 3,626 individuals associated with the Resistance Units had disappeared

¹⁰ Video-Iran 2022: Resistance Units take major strides, PMOI website, February 17, 2022; <https://english.mojahedin.org/iranian-resistance-units/>

through arrests, killings, or involuntary disappearances.

Throughout the uprising, numerous efforts were made to establish fake alternatives, many covertly backed by the regime. These groups, lacking any genuine popular support or organized strength, were primarily the result of extensive propaganda efforts and foreign assistance. Consequently, most disintegrated within a few weeks, as their

primary motivation was individual interests and ambitions. These entities reduced the momentum of the uprising, reducing its impact, and advocated against confronting the regime, often citing cost considerations. Another aspect of their role was to undermine the significance of the MEK and the National Council of Resistance of Iran, the alternative the regime genuinely fears.

The Role of Women

The historical trajectory of women's involvement in the battle against the mullahs is rich and enduring. Iranian women have been steadfast participants in the quest for freedom for over four decades, actively engaging in the struggle. Furthermore, within the ranks of the Iranian Resistance, women have consistently held positions of authority and responsibility.¹¹

In the context of the uprising, Iranian women's defiance extended beyond merely discarding the mandatory veil; it encompassed a resolute rejection of all forms of coercive

and autocratic governance, whether perpetrated by the Shah or the mullahs.

The uprising's emergence was not a sudden occurrence, and the pivotal role assumed by women was not a happenstance. On one hand, the uprising was the culmination of more than 40 years of relentless struggle by the Iranian populace and the resistance, a struggle marked by significant sacrifices. On the other hand, the influence of women in the leadership echelons of the resistance over the preceding decades significantly contributed to the movement's development.



Women have played a leading role in the Iranian Resistance for over three decades

11 Women of Iranian Resistance, NCRI Women's Committee website; <https://women.ncr-iran.org/category/women-of-iranian-resistance/>



The prominent involvement of women in propelling the uprising stems from a reaction to 44 years of suppression. This catalytic role is deeply intertwined with the efforts of countless freedom fighters and female members of the main opposition group the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI/MEK), who, over the course of these years, endured imprisonment, torture, and execution in their pursuit of emancipation.¹²

The engagement of women at all tiers of the Iranian Resistance has yielded a substantial reservoir of capability among Iranian women. Across nearly four decades, women from diverse strata within this movement have demonstrated adept lead-

ership and managerial skills, drawing wisdom from invaluable, often blood-soaked experiences.

In essence, the saga of women's involvement in this narrative of resistance underscores the depth of their commitment, the caliber of their leadership, and the unwavering solidarity that they have exhibited throughout.

12 Iran: The 1988 Massacre of 30,000 Political Prisoners, A Comprehensive Report About 1988 Massacre in Iran's Prisons, NCRI, December 27, 2020; <https://www.ncr-iran.org/en/1988-massacre-of-political-prisoners-in-iran/>

Sustaining the Uprising: Factors at Play

The ongoing persistence of the protests can be attributed to two primary driving forces. Firstly, the explosive state of Iranian society, leaving a vast majority of its populace deeply disenchanted. Pervasive issues such as soaring inflation, rampant and dire unemployment, widespread state-level corruption, and a backdrop of discrimination targeting women, religious minorities, and ethnic groups have collectively engendered an atmosphere of explosive tension within the society.

Secondly, a well-organized resistance movement operates across diverse domains. On one front, this resistance lends tangible support to the grassroots revolution while also serving as a guiding influence for the ongoing uprising, exercising a significant impact. The network of Resistance Units established by the MEK has emerged as a potent impetus behind the wave of protests, a reality even acknowledged by the regime itself.¹³



Protests are spreading across Iran and the PMOI/MEK Resistance Units are playing a vital role.

13 Video-Iran 2022: Resistance Units take major strides, PMOI website, February 17, 2022; <https://english.mojahedin.org/iranian-resistance-units/>

On August 2, 2023, IRNA, the Iranian regime's official news agency, organized a roundtable with five of the regime's so-called "experts" on the occasion of releasing a new book, the latest chapter in the regime's endless demonization campaign against the MEK.¹⁴ The participants confessed to important points about the MEK. It is worth noting that these individuals are security and propaganda officials and sometimes interrogators and torturers of the regime's suppression apparatus. But the regime's news agency, as usual, presented them with titles such as university professor, history researcher, and author.

Mohammad Atrianfar asked the question: "Why is the MEK so important? What kept it alive?"

Other participants in the roundtable each tried to answer this question.

Ebrahim Fayyaz said, "History repeats itself, and I think the MEK will probably return." He admitted that the youth have turned away from the regime and are gravitating to the MEK and added, "Unfortunately, the Islamic Republic is not transparent to the new generation and has not been able to explain this to the youth. The fact that the MEK is structurally still alive and a group [of people] want to join them shows that it is not just because of the support of the United States and Britain. We haven't yet destroyed the MEK." Of course, regime authorities always have to

rehash debunked claims of associating the MEK with foreign powers, because not doing so would further drive the point that the ME is a movement rooted in the Iranian society.

"The fact that the MEK are alive today should be important for the government and should be examined to better understand it," Fayyaz said.

Mohammad Quchani made the point that "the MEK has split the country." His later explanation and the phrase "dual government and opposition" made clear that he meant that the MEK has polarized the society between the people and resistance on the one hand, and the ruling regime on the other.

Quchani said, "We have to know that the Mojahedin-e Khalgh issue is the issue of our day and it is not just a historical issue." He implicitly admitted that the MEK is a key player in leading protests against the regime, saying that "wherever the people's rightful protests were diverted, the organization was involved." Of course, by "diverted," he refers to slogans that call for the overthrow of the entire regime, which is being chanted by millions of people in Iran. He also said, "The separation of clergy and state from the people is the work of this organization." He stressed the urgency of dealing with the Iranian Resistance: "So the issue of the MEK is today's issue."

¹⁴ Dimensions of MEK thinking viewed in the new publication, the Island of Confusion, a state-run IRNA News Agency, August 2, 2023; <https://www.irna.ir/news/85187713/>

Abbas Salimi Namin summarized the roundtable discussions as such: “Our main issue in the country is the MEK, and we must address it.”

The events of the 2022 uprising served as an unmistakable testament to the influence of the MEK on Iranian youth.

The methods and tactics employed by MEK resistance units in their struggle against the regime have resonated with the younger generation. Strategies such as the symbolic incineration of regime symbols, massive propaganda billboards, and daubing walls with protest slogans have gained traction.

The MEK’s sustained involvement has galvanized nationwide protests, fostering an increasingly radicalized societal stance against the regime. Over five years, the MEK Resistance Units have fearlessly challenged the regime’s sprawling security apparatuses, and their approach has progressively gained popularity among the nation’s youth.



MEK Resistance Units have fearlessly challenged the regime’s sprawling security apparatuses

Extracting Lessons from the Uprising

The nationwide upheaval erupted across Iran in September 2022 has reverberated through the country's political landscape, jolting its foundations. The historical significance of such uprisings in Iran underscores a seismic shift away from an untenable status quo. The prevailing balance of power has undergone a marked transformation, leading policymakers to acknowledge that the present regime confronts an existential crisis bereft of viable remedies for its escalating predicaments.

Lesson 1: The Iranian regime is in a strategic deadlock

The recent uprising has laid bare a glaring reality: the Iranian regime is ensnared in a strategic impasse. Its failure to address the people's grievances has left it grappling to sustain its authority. Presently, the regime grapples with an array of setbacks, from a faltering economy and internal schisms within its ranks to the attrition of personnel within the IRGC and Basij, as well as the looming specter of the nuclear issue. These multifaceted challenges have converged, rendering the regime incapable of instigating any reforms lest they undermine the power structure upheld by Khamenei

and precipitate the regime's total collapse. The regime's actions, ostensibly designed to preserve its control, inadvertently deepened public discontent, stoking the uprising. The prospect of returning to the pre-uprising status quo has grown untenable, ultimately paving the way for the regime's overthrow at the hands of a resolute populace and their organized resistance movement.

Lesson 2: Iranian society is primed for fundamental change

The protests have provided evidence that Iranian society is primed for sweeping transformation. The populace's collective rejection of the entire regime underscores a palpable yearning for a new system that permits genuine representation. This reflects a profound desire for a democratic revolution, firmly rejecting any form of dictatorship, including relics of the former Shah's regime.¹⁵ The unwavering determination for a more inclusive and participatory political structure propels the ongoing protests.¹⁶

15 Protesters in Iran's cities chant: Down with the Oppressor, Be it the Shah or the Supreme Leader, NCRIUS YouTube channel, November 27, 2022; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GsnwRF-Obio>

16 State media official admits Iran protests are led by people against Khamenei, NCRI YouTube channel, September 23, 2022; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GqYaF8g3Yml>

Lesson 3: The Iranian society is like a powder keg, ready to explode at any moment

Iranian society simmers like a powder keg, poised to ignite at any moment. The volatile atmosphere implies that the next uprising phase may be imminent, sealing the regime's fate. The persistent outpouring of protests across Iran underscores the entrenched grievances and frustrations of the people, which the government remains unable to mollify.

Lesson 4: Networks of resistance within the social fabric have undergone substantial advancement

Networks of MEK resistance units woven within the social fabric have undergone significant advancement.¹⁷ The heart of the uprising predominantly comprises the youth,

especially women, forming the nucleus of this rebellion. These networks have orchestrated approximately three thousand counter-suppression operations within the past year alone. As of April 2023, the Iranian resistance has reported that over 3,600 members of the Resistance Units have either been imprisoned or gone missing since the onset of the uprising. A noteworthy development is the stark disparity between those joining this network in Iran and those who have been apprehended, reflecting a marked achievement.

The "Iran newspaper", linked to the regime's President Ebrahim Raisi, expressed a desire for the regime to neutralize the MEK's network within Iran. This underscores the collaborative nature of the uprising's leadership, both in physical and digital realms, between the Iranian populace and the MEK.



MEK Resistance Units send video messages to Free Iran 2023 World Summit

17 MEK Resistance Units march in Iran's cities on the anniversary of the 1979 revolution, PMOI YouTube channel, February 18, 2023; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-m_kJP6rS2Y

Internal documents from the regime's Ministry of Foreign Affairs attest to the MEK's unity, organized structure, and significant intelligence capabilities. The MEK's ambition to topple the regime through the establishment of Resistance Units positions it as the solitary entity capable of presenting an alternative.

Indeed, this organized movement, driven by the Resistance Units, garners an increasing number of oppressed individuals daily. Its dual goal is the regime's overthrow and the inception of a revolution rooted in freedom, democracy, and equality.

Lesson 5: The uprising needs an organized resistance force ready to sacrifice

The explosive situation of society does not lead to the regime's overthrow by itself. It needs an organized resistance force that is ready to make sacrifices. The uprising has shown that the Iranian people are willing to make sacrifices for their freedom, and the existing organized resistance, namely the MEK and the NCRI, is the only force that can effectively channel this energy.

Lesson 6: Tehran's fear of the MEK and its focus on the elimination of the MEK

The events of the past year and undeniable role of the MEK's Resistance Units in organizing or further fomenting the protests, once again demonstrated regime's growing fear of MEK as the force for change.

Consequently, the regime has undertaken a comprehensive campaign to eliminate the MEK, resorting to suppression, demonization campaigns, and collaboration with so-called opponents to quell its primary adversary.

In this vein, the regime unsuccessfully attempted, through its undeclared agents, to overshadow the democratic alternative by promoting remnants of the previous regime, which essentially amounts to a "transition" from the current to the former dictatorship.

Lesson 7: People of Iran Reject Fake Alternatives

Extensive efforts by the regime or others who do not want to see a democratic republic in Iran, in an unwritten agreement, worked hand in hand to create confusion and promote the narrative that a united opposition and viable alternative does not exist. Some Farsi language broadcasting, financed by other countries, were also used to promote the false narrative as if there might a desire to return to the previous dictatorship.

Ultimately, these efforts proved ineffectual in influencing the uprising, backfiring and inadvertently aiding the regime. As a result, Iranian society categorically rejected these initiatives.

The Iranian populace recognizes that monarchy in Iran has historically embodied fascism. The Shah's era saw the imprisonment or execution of all freedom fighters, facil-

itating the mullahs' rise to leadership. The people categorically reject all forms of dictatorship, including a return to monarchy, with chants resonating, "death to the oppressor, be it the Shah or the mullahs."¹⁸

The New York Times reported on Sept 22, "In the northern city of Rasht, protesters took over a street, chanting ...'Death to the oppressor, be it the shah or the supreme leader!'"¹⁹ Also, As the Washington Post reported on October 21, "One new iteration—'Death to the Shah, Death to the religious leader,' captures the consistent repudiation of autocratic rule among Iranians."²⁰

18 Protesters in Iran's cities chant: Down with the Oppressor, Be it the Shah or the Supreme Leader, NCRIUS YouTube channel, November 27, 2022; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GaNwRF-Obio>

19 What's Driving the Protests in Iran?, The New York Times, Sept 22, 2022; <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/09/22/world/middleeast/iran-protests.html>; and

20 What Iran's protest slogans tell us about the uprising, The Washington Post, October 21, 2022; [https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/10/21/iran-protests-slogans-demands/#](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/10/21/iran-protests-slogans-demands/)

Tehran's Strategy to Prevent the Recurrence of the Uprising

Since the start of the 2017 protests, but most notably since September 2022, the top agenda of the Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and his hand-picked president, Ebrahim Raisi have been to prevent the recurrence of the uprisings in Iran.

The regime is currently facing an overwhelming deadlock. Over the past year, the economic crisis, government corruption, and theft—key triggers of the uprising—have not only persisted but have worsened. It is evident that any meaningful economic reform and anti-corruption efforts necessitate political reform, which ultimately implies the overthrow of the religious dictatorship.

Because the regime is unwilling and unable to improve the living conditions, eliminate systematic corruption, fight inflation, and offer genuine economic reforms, and because it is unwilling and unable to initiate any political reforms or abandon, even slightly, its extremist restrictions on the society including women, Tehran has been left with only one path.

The remaining path is the strategy of contraction, i.e., increased repression at home, stepped-up hostage-taking, terrorism, and blackmail abroad. The strat-

egy to defy the IAEA and dash towards highly enriched uranium, enhancing its missile program, and expanding its drone program are all part and parcel of this strategy.

To prevent the recurrence of the uprisings, the Iranian regime has significantly increased the budget and spending of various repressive institutions, including the IRGC, Ministry of Intelligence, and state security forces command (FARAJA), Intelligence and Security sections of the Interior Ministry, Municipality of Tehran, to name a few. The decision to further financially empower the IRGC and other repressive institutions was made at the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) as demanded by Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei.

For example, internal regime documents reveal that on November 24, 2022, only five days after an SNSC session ratified the allocation of additional budgets, General Mohammad Bagheri, the Chief of Staff of the Iranian regime's Armed Forces, asked for 350 million dollars to improve the ability of suppressive forces to silence the population. Another document shows that on December 28, 2022, Intelligence Minister Esmail Khatib asked for 41 million dollars to confront the protests.

Sarallah, which is the main garrison of the IRGC, is tasked with security and control of the Capital, Tehran. In red alert situations, the IRGC commander takes over as the commander of this Garrison. A “Top Secret” document dated May 7, 2023, shows that Sarallah Garrison has asked for 78 million dollars of additional money. In addition, the deputy of Sarallah Garrison, IRGC Brig. Gen. Hossein Nejat asks for 8 million dollars to enhance the video monitoring of Metro stations of Tehran, as “Metro stations have been one of the surprise locations during the uprising.” Therefore, they plan to quickly improve the monitoring of Tehran’s Metros with face-identifying cameras.

Another document classified as “top secret,” dated November 2, 2022, signed by IRGC Brigadier General Hassan Hassanzadeh, commander of IRGC’s Mohammad Corp, of the greater Tehran, shows detailed preparation and instructions to identify protest leaders and those engaged in writing slogans and arresting them and turning them over to the IRGC Intelligence Organization.

Such lavish spending on repressive forces to arrest and kill the people is in sharp contrast with the reality of the Iranian people. The regime’s own officials have conceded that over 75 to 80 percent of the population of the rich country of Iran lives below the poverty line, and the regime has spent as high as 50 billion dollars in Syria to keep Assad in power.

Repression, imprisonment, and torture have escalated significantly, particularly

against the families and supporters of the MEK. To date, thousands of students have faced expulsion or arrest, and hundreds of professors have been subjected to purges under a policy referred to as ‘purification.’ Furthermore, there are plans to appoint 15,000 Basij and IRGC members as professors in universities. This ‘purification’ policy has also expanded its reach to other government institutions.

The regime has significantly intensified its macro-policies across multiple fronts, including efforts to acquire nuclear weapons, missile development, drone production, involvement in regional crises, warmongering and hostage-taking. This includes its participation in the conflict in Ukraine and the export of drones to Russia.

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Ordered by Khamenei, IRGC and other repressive institutions received large money to prevent the resurgence of the uprising.

15,000 Basij and IRGC members as professors in universities. This 'purification' policy has also expanded its reach to other government institutions.

To summarize, the regime has significantly intensified its macro-policies to suppress

dissent in Iran and across multiple fronts, including efforts to acquire nuclear weapons, missile development, drone production, involvement in regional crises, warmongering, and hostage-taking. This includes its participation in the conflict in Ukraine and the export of drones to Russia.

Iran's Regime Intensifies Repression ahead of 2022 Uprising Anniversary

Weeks before approaching the first anniversary of the nationwide protests, the Iranian regime intensified its efforts to clamp down on dissent and prevent the recurrence of such protests. This repression has included a wave of executions, imprisonment, and torture, targeting political detainees, activists, and supporters of the

MEK. The regime has also cracked down on universities and professors who do not align with its political views. These repressive measures, however, have not eliminated the regime's fear of other rounds of protests due to widespread public discontent with corruption, economic mismanagement, and repression.



Wave of Executions and Torture

One of the most alarming aspects of the regime’s repression is the surge in executions. As of August 21, 2023, the tally of state-sanctioned executions in 2023 reached 500, reflecting a disturbing escalation in the regime’s use of the death penalty. This includes the recent reported death of imprisoned activist Javad Rouhi.²¹

On August 31, 2023, the Iranian regime’s judiciary announced the passing of imprisoned activist Javad Rouhi in Noshahr Prison. This distressing news is part of a grim pattern where prisoners associated with

the 2022 uprising have met their untimely demise under harrowing conditions, including torture, poisoning, and executions sanctioned by the regime.

Javad Rouhi, a 35-year-old resident of Amol, endured a harrowing ordeal after his arrest in November 2022. He was subjected to brutal torture while detained in the IRGC Prison, resulting in him losing his ability to speak. Shockingly, he faced execution not once but three times, all on baseless charges of “spreading corruption on earth” and “waging war against God.”



Political prisoner Javad Rouhi was killed in the custody of Iranian regime authorities in very suspicious circumstances

21 Iran: Suspicious Death of Javad Rouhi, an Imprisoned Activist in Noshahr Prison, a statement by the NCRI, August 31, 2023: <https://www.ncr-iran.org/en/ncr-statements/statement-human-rights/iran-suspicious-death-of-javad-rouhi-an-imprisoned-activist-in-noshahr-prison/>

Targeting Political Prisoners and Activists

Concurrently, the regime has been intensifying its efforts to suppress political prisoners and activists to thwart the organization of protest movements. Key elements of this campaign involve targeting known sympathizers of the MEK and the relatives of MEK members.

On Monday, August 21, regime authorities arrested Marzieh Farsi and Forough Taghipour, both former political prisoners and relatives of MEK.²² They were promptly transferred to Evin Prison and unjustly denied the right to contact their families.

Forough Taghipour, aged 29, was arrested in February 2020 along with her mother, who was charged with “propaganda against the state” and “assembly and collusion” for supporting the MEK. She was released in February 2023, only to be arrested again mere months later.

Marzieh Farsi, 58, had endured a previous arrest in 2020, during which she was interrogated and subjected to torture in Evin Prison. After her release in February 2023, she suffered the same fate as Forough Taghipour when rearrested in August.



*Iranian political
prisoner Maryam
Akbari Monfared*

²² Iran’s regime continues to arrest PMOI supporters to cause fear, August 23, 2023; <https://english.mojahedin.org/article/irans-regime-continues-to-arrest-pmoi-supporters-to-cause-fear/>

These recent arrests coincide with a broader wave of repressive measures against MEK supporters. Many political prisoners associated with the MEK have received extended prison sentences and have been cruelly denied access to necessities and medical services.

The regime's campaign of repression extends to other political prisoners as well, including Maryam Akbari Monfared, aged 48. She has languished behind bars without leave for nearly 14 years.²³ On July 1, 2023, the regime transferred her from Semnan prison, where she had been exiled, to the Evin Prison Court, where she was accused of five new charges before being sent back to Semnan. Akbari Monfared, a mother of three, had been sentenced to 15 years in prison on charges of supporting the MEK.

On July 17, the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI) warned about the deteriorating medical condition of 70-year-old political prisoner Ali Moezzi. He was arrested in his residence on October 1, 2022, without specific charges. Before his arrest, he had undergone surgery and was in the recovery phase. However, the regime has heartlessly denied him essential medical care as a means of further torture.

On July 11, the regime's judiciary in Mashhad sentenced 71-year-old political prisoner Hashem Khastar to another two and a half years in prison. His charges included sending his memoirs outside the prison, insulting Khamenei, and propaganda against the regime. Khastar's ordeal began in August 2019 when the Intelligence Ministry arrested him in Mashhad. He was sentenced to 16 years in prison, a three-year travel ban, and three years of exile to Nikshahr in Sistan and Baluchistan province.

Amnesty International warned, "Iranian authorities have been subjecting victims' families to arbitrary arrest and detention, imposing cruel restrictions on peaceful gatherings at grave sites, and destroying victims' gravestones."²⁴

23 Political prisoners protest "fabricated charges" against Maryam Akbari Monfared, Iran Focus, July 20, 2023; <https://iranfocus.com/intelligence-reports/exclusive-reports/49794-political-prisoners-protest-fabricated-charges-against-maryam-akbari-monfared/>

24 Iran: Harassment of families of victims unlawfully killed during protests must end, Amnesty International, August 21, 2023; <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/7084/2023/en/>

Repression in Universities

The Iranian regime has implemented various strategies to suppress student activism, mainly targeting universities and students who were pivotal in the 2022 uprisings. The regime's focus on controlling educational institutions underscores its fear of the intellectual compass of society, which has the potential to steer the nation away from historical tactics of manipulation and misinformation.

One disturbing strategy employed by Ebrahim Raisi is the recruitment of 15,000 Basij members and regime supporters as academic faculty members. This move not only threatens the independence and credibility of educational institutions but also reinforces the regime's control over academia. Simultaneously, numerous professors and faculty staff who may hold independent or dissenting views are being dismissed or sent into premature retirement.

The regime's Ministry of Interior has defended the expulsion of independent professors from universities, justifying the action as a response to professors who have allegedly experienced academic stagnation but have played a significant role in media presentations. This reasoning reflects the regime's attempt to suppress voices that might challenge its narrative and control over information dissemination.

Student activists, who were instrumental in the 2022 uprisings, are facing increasing repression. A document published and circulated in Iran's universities reveals nearly 200 "disciplinary cases" involving student activists. However, students believe the actual number may exceed 400 cases. These actions aim to deter student engagement in political and social issues, further restricting academic freedom.



Students of Tabriz Medical Sciences University protest repressive measures by Iranian security forces

Propaganda and False Narratives

In stark contrast to its domestic repression, the Iranian clerical dictatorship has launched an extensive and multi-pronged campaign against the Iranian Resistance. This campaign involves escalating propaganda efforts both within and beyond Iran's borders, coercing Western nations to exert pressure on the MEK and NCRI, and crafting false narratives to undermine the Resistance's credibility. The regime's objectives in this endeavor are two-fold: to influence two distinct audiences, abroad and inside Iran.

In recent developments, the Iranian regime has intensified its efforts to suppress the MEK on multiple fronts. On August 14, Naser Kanaani, the spokesperson for Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, officially called on the international community to take action against the MEK, branding them as a terrorist group. Kanaani warned that failing to comply with this demand would be seen as a threat to Iran's national security.

Simultaneously, false claims circulated that the MEK was planning to relocate to

Canada, disseminated by the regime's media outlets and affiliated sources in Western nations.²⁵ Furthermore, Kazem Gharibabadi, the Iranian regime's deputy for international affairs and human rights, announced the Judiciary's intention to file a significant case against the MEK and 107 of its senior members.²⁶

The regime capitalizes on Western appeasement policies, portraying them as a sign of its strength. Recent events, such as the release of Asadollah Assadi, a convicted terrorist-diplomat arrested for plotting to bomb a 2018 rally of the Iranian Resistance in Paris, perceived restrictions on the Free Iran World Summit in July 2023, and an operation in Albania, were swiftly framed as victories by the regime.²⁷

Regime-controlled media outlets, including the Kayhan newspaper and the Mizan News Agency, framed these events as indicators of Iran's diplomatic strength. Officials, such as Minister of Intelligence Esmail Khatib and MP Mohammad Esmail Kosari, lauded

25 MKO Terrorists Planning Relocation to Canada, state-run Tasnim News Agency, August 12, 2023; <https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2023/08/12/2939428/mko-terrorists-planning-relocation-to-canada>

26 Iranian Judiciary Asks the MEK to Introduce their Counsel, VOA Farsi language, July 29, 2023; <https://ir.voanews.com/a/the-judiciary-asked-the-members-of-mek-to-introduce-their-lawyers/7203113.html>

27 Belgian aid worker jailed in Iran is freed after prisoner swap deal, CNN, May 26, 2023; <https://edition.cnn.com/2023/05/26/world/belgium-iran-prisoner-swap-intl/index.html>



Asadollah Assadi convicted to 20 years imprisonment for planning a deadly terrorist attack aimed at this NCRI rally near Paris in 2018, was released by the Belgian Government and returned to Iran, where he was praised by the president Ebrahim Raisi.

the regime’s efforts to expand ties beyond traditional allies to combat the MEK.

These statements and actions by regime officials reflect the growing challenge the regime faces due to the MEK’s increasing significance and popularity, which was once a taboo topic in Iran. As uprisings and changing perceptions continue to highlight the organization’s role, the regime is compelled to address it, both for domestic and international audiences. This shift is evident in public discussions and media coverage dedicated to the MEK, emphasizing its evolving status within Iranian society.

This was emphatically articulated during an interview with the state-run Etemadonline, which was solely centered on the MEK and its current role in Iranian society.²⁸ In response to a query about the organization’s present status, Javad Mugee, a documentary director closely associated with the regime’s intelligence community and self-identified as an expert on the MEK, stated, “The MEK underwent a complete restructuring in Iran’s public perception during the 2000s. They assumed a prominent role in the 2010s, and the 1988 executions became the central topic of the 2017 presidential election.”

²⁸ Not giving the bodies of those executed in 1988 to their family members was not right, state-run Etemadonline YouTube channel, July 18, 2023; <https://www.aparat.com/v/A9wyu>

The Regime's Fear Unmasked by Suppressive Measures

As the anniversary of the 2022 uprising approaches, the Iranian regime is resorting to increasingly repressive measures to prevent the recurrence of protests. Executions, torture, arrests, and crackdowns in universities are among its tactics. However, the regime's fear of both the Iranian Resistance and an outraged society reflects its deep-rooted vulnerabilities. The Iranian people have compelling reasons to continue their struggle for freedom and justice, making it a matter of when, not if, another nationwide uprising occurs.

Despite the Iranian regime's rhetoric of "defeating riots" and constant claims of "stopping revolts," its officials and state media cannot conceal the true sentiment against a restive society and the role of the organized opposition, particularly the MEK.

Supreme leader Ali Khamenei, in his homage to the regime's founder Ruhollah Khomeini, proclaimed that the "enemy's plan has been disrupted." President Ebrahim Raisi also asserted that "the country is progressing" while ignoring the soaring prices of consumer goods, inflation above 50%, and the regime's economic bankruptcy, which is burdening the people with financial hardships.

These statements sharply contrast the harsh reality on the ground, acknowledged at times even by the regime's own officials and state media. Some have warned of potential unrest, acknowledging that no ruling system can endure without people's support. The looming pension funds crisis is viewed as a "time bomb" that could threaten the regime's stability.

The presence of an organized opposition, notably the MEK and their Resistance Units network, further accelerates the process of societal mobilization and international pressure against the regime.

The reality on the ground, however, reveals the regime's weaknesses and vulnerabilities. Despite state executions and mock trials, Iranian youth refuse to be intimidated. They seize every opportunity to voice their dissent, sending a powerful message that the uprising will persist until the regime is overthrown.

In essence, the regime's propaganda and attempts to suppress the opposition only highlight its desperation and the growing momentum of the Iranian people's desire for change.

Regime's Officials and Media Acknowledge Iran's Eruption Risk

The clerical regime claims to quell the uprising through a harsh and unrelenting campaign of suppression. However, as both state-controlled media outlets and key regime figures acknowledge, this apparent control masks a deeper truth – the Iranian society simmers as an ember-laden fire beneath the surface, primed to erupt into an even more vehement conflagration at the slightest provocation.

The root of this combustible state which has gotten worse since last year lies in a complex interplay of economic, social, and political factors.

Scrutinizing the discourse within state-affiliated media across diverse domains provides a clear indication of the society's powder keg state. The narratives disseminated, whether implicitly or explicitly, paint a vivid portrait of a society on the brink of eruption. These expressions, often guarded and framed within the regime's perspective, inadvertently serve as a testament to the mounting pressure beneath the surface.

State-run daily Jomhuri Eslami- July 16, 2023: "Do not think that the people's patience is endless. Fear the day when the army of the hungry will rise against you. At least think about your survival and your rule."

State-run website Bahar News – May 22, 2023: "We should be prepared for the unpredictable return of protests in the streets," and "Today, any incident can lead to protests."

State-run Didar website – May 31, 2023: "Ashraf Boroujerdi, Former Deputy Minister: "...The society now has an inflamed atmosphere. It's not as you think that you see calm now, and there's nothing beyond this calm. No! The fire is under the ashes, and rest assured that with a spark, these things can take a different form again."

Former Kayhan Newspaper Official Mehdi Nassiri – July 25, 2023: "In my view, this could be a combination of cracks at the top of the government, competitions. Then the issue of the street [i.e., protests] may be added to the equation in that moment, given the preparedness of public opinion. An event, an incident, a wrong decision can ignite such a spark."

Mohammad Bagheri-Bannai, a member of the Economic Commission of the Parliament: "Even with \$100 billion of foreign exchange resources that, according to the Central Bank, we have in other countries, we cannot accomplish significant tasks for the country. The government's expenses have

escalated to a staggering level that these amounts might be sufficient for only a few months, but they are not enough for long-term projects.”

Ensaf News website — July 12, 2023: “Jafarzadeh Imanabadi, former member of the Parliament’s Planning and Budget Commission: ‘Corruption in the country has become systematic. No matter how much we try to hide this issue, it has become an undeniable reality. Systematic corruption arises when there is no will to tackle corruption.’”

On August 3, 2023 the state-run Arman newspaper wrote: “A minimum wage worker must work for more than 170 years and save part of his income every month in order to be able to buy an 80-meter apartment, while in reality is impossible because workers who don’t have homes and are tenants cannot afford to save monthly. In fact, he is lucky if he can even pay for rent.”

The official ILNA news agency reported on August 2, 2023, that the average price per square meter of residential property in Tehran has increased from 47 million rials in the winter of last year to 65 million rials in the spring and early summer of this year. The forecasts of economic experts indicate that “the growth of housing prices in 2023 will be around 40-50%,” according to ILNA.

On July 23, many members of the Majlis (parliament) who were strong defenders of the Khamenei-Raisi project questioned the government in fear of the explosive conditions of the society.

Referring to the fact that time is not in favor of the regime, MP Jalal Rashidi said to the government, “Are you aware that a kilo of chicken costs 120,000 tomans? Mr. President, I told you two years ago... be careful, time passes much faster than you think.”

On the same day, MP Javad Hosseini Kia also said: “Mr. President! High prices are rampant, save the disastrous market, the people are raising their voices.”

On August 3, 2023, Mehdi Nassiri, the former managing editor of Kayhan newspaper, described the failure of Khamenei and Raisi’s policies as such: “In my opinion, this could be a combination of division at the top of the state, then the element of the street may add to it. Given the state of public opinion, one incident, one hazardous event, a wrong decision can create such a spark.”

Parliament Research Center July 2023: In 1929, one gram of pure gold was valued at three Iranian rials. Ninety-two years later, the value of the rial had declined by 6 million times and reached 18 million rials to one gram of gold in February 2022. In comparison to the U.S. dollar, it has declined as much as 16,000 times.

In a recent report, Forbes magazine classified the Iranian rial as “the weakest currency in the world” despite being “a leading global exporter of oil and natural gas.” Forbes reported that 1 rial is buying “just 0.000024 US dollars (or, put another way, \$1 equals 42,273 Iranian rials).” The reality is much worse, with the US dollar trading at around 500,000 rials.

According to data from the Bonbast, a website that tracks the value of the rial, Iran's currency rial lost 51.6 percent of its value against the dollar in the open market in just one year.

In July 2023, Eghtesad Pouya news website quoted Ehsan Soltani, an economic researcher, as saying, "The downfall of the national currency, from 2018 to 2022, equaled to twice as much as the 53 years of the Pahlavi reign, nearly twice of a century of the Qajar dynasty, or nearly three times as much as the eight-year war. Currency price shocks have become the main pillar of Iran's corrupt and ineffective economic governance."

Regime's Radio – May 23, 2023: "According to statistics published by the Central Bank, housing prices in Tehran have increased by over a thousand times in the past 30 years."

State-run newspaper Shargh – May 18, 2023: "Some impoverished families are renting out their children for labor."

Daily Mail Online: Desperate Iranians are selling **ORGANS** due to the country's economic crisis. Illegal sales 'reach alarming levels' with body parts exchanging for £5,500 to £12,000

Donya-e Eghtesad website – May 13, 2023: "The number of doctors and nurses who left the country last year has exceeded 10,000 individuals."

State-run website Faraz – July 29, 2023: "Thousands of families have stored their

household belongings and become homeless. The population of people living in underserved areas in the country has reached 20 million. Two years ago, the average price per square meter of housing was 330 million rials, and now it has reached 780 million rials."

State-run newspaper Arman Emrouz – July 26, 2023: "A minimum-wage worker must work for more than 170 years and save a portion of their monthly income to afford an 80 square meter apartment. This is while, in reality, such an equation has no answer because a homeless worker who is a tenant usually cannot afford monthly savings; paying the rent itself is a great feat."

The economic and social situation is so dire that the regime cannot provide drinking water during this hot summer. Water is cut off in more than 13 provinces for extended periods: On the evening of July 31, 2023, the people of Divandareh protested against several days of water cuts by gathering and demonstrating outside the regime's governorate and the Water and Sewage Organization of the city. Young people clashed with oppressive State Security Force agents, lighting fires, blocking streets, and chanting slogans. SSF agents fired tear gas at protesters demanding drinking water.

Member of Parliament Reza Aryanpour – July 22, 2023: "The province of Golestan is currently in the worst state of drinking water, and every day, we hear reports and protests from dear people in various urban and rural areas of the province, especially

in the eastern counties, about days-long drinking water cuts.”

State-run website Eghtesad 24- March 27, 2023: “300 cities are facing water stress, and water supply is being carried out through tankers in over 8,000 villages. Even experts in water resources and hydrology have reported water bankruptcy.”

State-run website Entekhab – June 28, 2023: “The negative water balance in Isfahan is 13 billion cubic meters, approximately equal to 20 rivers the size of Zayandeh Rud. There are other provinces with higher negative balances than Isfahan. Fars province, with a negative balance of 15 billion cubic meters, holds the record for the world’s largest sinkhole at 54 centimeters per year. Fars province has a big potential to collapse suddenly.”

On July 22, 2023, Reza Aryanpour, a member of the Majlis (parliament), referred to the explosive conditions of the society in the waterless summer and said, “Golestan province is currently in the worst drinking water situation, and every day we witness the reports and protests of people from different urban and rural areas of the province, especially the eastern cities of the province. We have been cut off from drinking water for several days”.

Gholamreza Montazeri, another member of the parliament, had warned against “turning water tension into social tension.”

On March 27, Eghtesad 24, a state-run website, warned, “300 cities are under

water stress, and more than 8,000 villages are supplied with water by tankers. Even experts in watershed management and hydrogeology have warned about water bankruptcy.”

On July 28, the state-run Entekhab newspaper wrote, “The amount of negative water balance in Isfahan is 13 billion cubic meters, which is equivalent to 20 times the size of Zayandeh Rud river. There are other provinces whose negative balance is more than Isfahan. In Fars province, which has a negative balance of 15 billion cubic meters, we have recorded the world’s largest sinkhole with 54 centimeters per year. Fars province has the potential to collapse all at once.”

State-run media Shargh – July 15, 2023: “Following the extensive government advertising about launching the Ghadir Water Project last year and the promise that the water problem in the cities and villages of Khuzestan Province has been permanently solved, the residents of Malashiya in Ahvaz have been without water for over 30 days. The water tankers bring is only for drinking, not other needs.”

Member of Parliament Moin al-Din Saeedi – July 23, 2023: “For three months, the people of Kalani village have not received a single drop of water, and distributing water with a tanker priced at 12 million rials there has caused numerous problems for the people. The people’s cry of thirst has become a routine to the ears of officials.”

The Regime's Futile Suppression Amidst Escalating Tensions

In the face of mounting discontent and escalating calls for change, the Iranian regime's desperation has once again manifested through repressive measures aimed at curbing any potential protests during the anniversary of the 2022 uprising. However, the regime's attempts seem to be in vain, as the root cause of the uprising—the volatile state of Iranian society—continues to simmer, ready to ignite at any spark.

As the anniversary of the 2022 uprising looms, the regime is intensifying its suppressive tactics to prevent the resurgence of the widespread protests that once shook its foundations. Universities and students, who were pivotal in the previous uprisings, are now being singled out. These students, acting as the intellectual compass of society, have thwarted the regime's historical tactics of manipulation and deceit.

A recent document circulating within Iran's universities sheds light on the regime's concerning strategy. Ebrahim Raisi's government has initiated the recruitment of 15,000 Basij members and regime loyalists as academic faculty members, a move outside the existing academic framework and on an urgent basis. The response from Raisi's Ministry of Science was belated and centered on denying "covert and unauthorized appointments." This reveals the

regime's apprehension about the backlash its recruitment strategy has sparked.

To quell the explosive anger of a populace demanding the overthrow of the clerical regime, Khamenei is accelerating executions, aiming to create an atmosphere of fear to deter potential uprisings, particularly within the Baluch community. The execution of 10 prisoners, including 6 Baluch compatriots, in various prisons across Iran on August 21 is a stark testament to this grim strategy.

As the regime approaches the anniversary of the nationwide uprising, its persistence in carrying out a relentless spree of executions speaks volumes about its apprehension. Since July 25, 2023, over 56 prisoners have been executed by the regime.

However, these suppressive tactics appear futile in an explosive society. The regime's efforts to prevent protests on the anniversary of the uprising are overshadowed by the underlying truth: the societal conditions that led to the initial uprising remain largely unaddressed. With Iranian society a powder keg awaiting a spark, the anniversary serves as but a backdrop. The truth remains that at any given moment, a spark has the potential to set off a seismic explosion of protest and usher in a new wave of uprising.

Tehran's Desperate Attempts to Quash Resistance on the Global Stage

The regime's fear of both the MEK and the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI) goes beyond Iran's borders. In reality, the regime has taken extensive international measures aimed at suppressing the Resistance's activities outside Iran, all while operating within the framework of the West's policy of appeasement.

On June 19, days after the NCRI had announced plans to hold the Free Iran Summit 2023, Paris police issued a statement to Reuters confirming that they had informed the organizing committee of the decision to ban the rally as it could "generate disturbances to public order due to the geopolitical context."

Political analysts linked the decision to a 90-minute call²⁹ between French President Emmanuel Macron and the clerical regime's President Ebrahim Raisi on June 10, 2023. Some French outlets speculated about European hostages being involved.

Abdol-Reza Farajirad, the regime's former ambassador to Norway and Hungary, confirmed that during the negotiations to release French, Danish, and Iranian-Austrian pris-

oners in Iran, agreements were made about controlling the MEK's activities in Europe.

The NCRI issued a statement and declared it would challenge the French government's decision in court.

"The clerical regime's pressures on France to impose this ban reveals the mullahs' paranoia over the popular sentiment towards the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI/MEK) and the organization's pivotal role in the nationwide uprising," the statement partially read.

The wave of incidents undertaken against the Iranian Resistance was met with joyful enthusiasm in Tehran and all public stages that Iranian state officials could use to address the regime's tight-knit follower base. From the regime's Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Judiciary, down to Friday prayer leaders and IRGC field commanders, the regime claimed it had successfully persuaded the West to "turn their backs on the hypocrites" [regime's pejorative term to defame the MEK in Iran's society] and instead to capture, dismantle, expel and deliver members of the MEK back to Iran.

²⁹ Macron Calls Raisi, Says France Seeks to Work with Iran, state-run Tasnim News Agency, June 10, 2023; <https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2023/06/10/2908775/macron-calls-raisi-says-france-seeks-to-work-with-iran>



Tehran had built pressure on the French Government to ban the annual rally of the Iranian Resistance but the court ruled in favor of lifting the ban, and the rally was held.

Perhaps the regime's greatest fear was to prevent a restive society from witnessing a Free Iran Summit that showed how an Iranian organization has managed to merge domestic resistance cells with international backing. But eventually, as the fight between the clerical regime and its major opposition movement turned out, the people of Iran witnessed the forbidden scene combined with excessively more defiance, steadfastness, and daring resilience.

The day before the scheduled demonstration, the Paris court reversed the decision to ban the event. In under a day, the MEK

successfully mobilized tens of thousands of Iranians for the Paris demonstration. The annual Free Iran Summit occurred, attended by over 500 prominent international figures³⁰.

During this summit, notable international figures delivered speeches discussing the National Council of Resistance of Iran's alternative and Mrs. Rajavi's 10-point plan³¹ for Iran's future. These discussions highlighted the significant international backing for Iran's resistance movement and the potential for an uprising and revolution within Iran.

30 Free Iran World Summit 2023- Excerpts of speeches on Iran's nuclear program, NCRI YouTube channel, July 27, 2023; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iV-vjKg59jI>

31 Free Iran World Summit 2023- Support for Maryam Rajavi's 10-Point Plan for Iran- Part 1, NCRI YouTube channel, July 29, 2023; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P_eATdadL6c

The Quest for a Viable Alternative to the Theocratic Regime

One of the prominent features of the NCRI's plan is that more than 20 years ago, Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, the President-elect of NCRI, introduced a program for a free and democratic republic of Iran based on the basic principle of rejecting all kinds of dictatorships and establishing a democratic republic. . This progressive program, known as the Ten-Point Plan, has been supported by many parliaments, elected representatives of the people in different countries, former heads of state, and prestigious political figures. Many recognize the Ten-Point Plan as a guarantee to overthrow the ruling regime and build a free and democratic Iran. In the Free Iran 2023 World Summit, the support of Maryam Rajavi's ten-point plan reached a new peak.

The majority of 29 parliaments of the world, more than 3,600 people's representatives from 40 countries from Europe, North America, Australia and Arab countries in 61 legislative assemblies declared their support for

the Ten-Point Plan.³² In addition, 124 former world leaders,³³ and 75 Nobel laureates joined the call in support of Mrs. Rajavi's plan.³⁴

In their joint letter, the former heads of state wrote: "We believe it is for the Iranian people to decide their future. However, we recognize that for four decades, the democratic coalition National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI) has constantly and tirelessly pursued democratic change. In this respect, we believe the Ten-Point Plan articulated by the NCRI President, Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, deserves support. Its commitment to free elections, freedom of assembly and expression, abolition of the death penalty, gender equality, separation of religion and state, autonomy for Iran's ethnicities, and a non-nuclear Iran is in line with our own democratic values."

In his speech at the Free Iran World Summit, former US Vice President Mike Pence³⁵ said,

32 Global Lawmakers' Support for Iran's Uprising and Resistance, NCRI website, August 18, 2023; <https://www.ncr-iran.org/en/news/iran-resistance/global-lawmaker-support-for-irans-uprising-and-resistance/>

33 124 Former World Leaders Seek Accountability in Iran, updated July 28, 2023; <https://iran1988.org/in-joint-letter-107-former-world-leaders-seek-accountability-in-iran/>

34 Seventy-five Nobel Laureates Support Iran's Resistance and Uprising, NCRI website, June 28, 2023; <https://www.ncr-iran.org/en/news/iran-resistance/seventy-five-nobel-laureates-support-irans-resistance-and-uprising/>

35 Former American VP Mike Pence: American People Stand for Free Iran, NCRI website, July 10, 2023; <https://www.ncr-iran.org/en/news/iran-resistance/former-american-vp-mike-pence-american-people-stand-for-free-iran/>

“The 10-point plan for the future of Iran guarantees freedom of speech, freedom of assembly and the freedom of every Iranian to choose their elected leaders. Just last month, I was honored to join a group of 100 former world leaders who called on President Joe Biden and European Union leaders to support Iran’s resistance and especially Maryam Rajavi’s 10-point plan.”

Stephen Harper³⁶, the former Prime Minister of Canada, said: “It is time to stand in solidarity with the people of Iran in their desire for a free, secular, and democratic state. Friends, that is the future that you, the National Council of Resistance of Iran, have consistently and tirelessly advocated. A commitment to free elections, freedom of assembly and expression, pluralism and the rule of law, human rights and gender equality, the separation of religion and state, and the autonomy of Iran’s ethnic minorities and of course, a non-nuclear state at peace with the world. ”

Mr. Peter Altmaier³⁷, the head of the German Chancellery, Federal Minister for Special Affairs, and Federal Minister for

Economic Affairs and Energy, described the Ten-Point Plan of the National Council of Resistance of Iran as “a universal declaration of the basic value of individual freedom and democracy.” Mr. Altmaier expressed hope that Iran will be liberated soon and called upon the Iranian Resistance to be prepared for better days ahead.

General James Jones³⁸, former US National Security Advisor and former NATO commander, described the Ten-Point Plan as a “beacon of hope” and said, “Mrs. Rajavi’s Ten-Point Plan which mirrors the democratic values cherished by the international community, which Americans recognize as being truly Jeffersonian, stands as the beacon of hope, illuminating the path towards a democratic Iran where freedom, justice, and human rights will prevail.”

Senator Joseph Lieberman³⁹, the candidate for the vice presidency of the United States (2000), said, “[The Ten-Point Plan] is a great plan, a plan for freedom, equality, opportunity for the people of Iran. It’s one that every civilized democratic nation in the world should enthusiastically support.

36 Former Canadian PM Stephen Harper: Iran’s Regime Must Face Determination and Strength, NCRI website, July 10, 2023; <https://www.ncr-iran.org/en/news/iran-resistance/former-canadian-pm-stephen-harper-irans-regime-must-face-determination-and-strength/>

37 Former German Minister Peter Altmaier: Be Prepared for Democracy and Freedom in Iran, NCRI website, July 13, 2023; <https://www.ncr-iran.org/en/news/iran-resistance/former-german-minister-peter-altmaier-be-prepared-for-democracy-and-freedom-in-iran/>

38 Former US National Security Advisor Gen Jones: Iran’s Regime Recognizes NCRI Is a Threat to Their Tyrannical Rule, NCRI website, July 14, 2023; <https://www.ncr-iran.org/en/news/iran-resistance/former-us-national-security-advisor-gen-jones-irans-regime-recognizes-ncri-is-a-threat-to-their-tyrannical-rule-2/>

39 Senator Joseph Lieberman: Resistance Fighters in Tehran Are Most Immediate Threat to Regime’s Survival, NCRI website, July 15, 2023; <https://www.ncr-iran.org/en/news/iran-resistance/senator-joseph-lieberman-resistance-fighters-in-tehran-are-most-immediate-threat-to-regimes-survival/>



Prominent members of parliaments from around the world, including members of U.S. Congress, senior former officials attended the Free Iran World Summit in Paris on July 1, 2023 despite pressure by Tehran.

“But the NCRI and Mrs. Rajavi have something else. They have a transition plan. It is out there for everybody to see. And it is a selfless plan that shows that this organization is not about seizing power. It is about making sure that the people of Iran seize power when this regime falls.

“It’s a plan that begins with a transition to early elections, to have a constituent assembly from the people in Iran that will then adopt the constitution, hopefully very much like the Ten-Point Plan, and will elect leaders of the country.

“In my opinion, in the history of uprisings, and rebellions, for freedom in the world against dictatorships, there has never been a group of revolutionaries that are prepared to avoid chaos and provide a smooth and peaceful transition to freedom than this group, NCRI, MEK, and the people of Iran.”

This is just a glimpse of the opinions and descriptions of prominent and well-known figures and officials about the Ten-Point Plan of the Iranian Resistance, which itself shows the validity and gravity of this plan as a road map for overthrowing the mullahs’ regime and realizing freedom and democracy in Iran.

Conclusion

Over the course of four decades, the authoritarian rule of the mullahs has stifled freedoms, resulted in mass imprisonments and executions, triggered severe inflation and economic turmoil, exacerbated poverty, and eroded the societal fabric of Iran. This has brought the nation to a critical juncture.

The uprising on September 16, 2022, triggered by the murder of Mahsa Amini, rapidly spread to over 280 cities across all 31 provinces. The subsequent six-month uprising led to over 750 deaths and nearly 30,000 arrests, propelling Iran into an irreversible status. The demonstrators were calling for the overthrow of the regime and the establishment of a democratic republic. People from the middle and lower urban classes took to the streets from large cities to small towns throughout Iran.

One year after the commencement of the 2022 uprising, the conflict between the people and the regime has significantly escalated, the social situation has grown increasingly volatile, and the organized resistance has strengthened.

The Organized Resistance, particularly the MEK Resistance Units, played a pivotal role in organizing, sustaining, and safeguarding the uprising, as acknowledged by regime officials.

The regime is currently facing an overwhelming deadlock. Over the past year, the economic crisis, government corruption, and theft—key triggers of the uprising—have not only persisted but have worsened. It is evident that any meaningful economic reform and anti-corruption efforts necessitate political reform, which ultimately implies the overthrow of the religious dictatorship.

To prevent the recurrence of the uprisings, the Iranian regime has significantly increased the budget and spending of various repressive institutions, including the IRGC, Ministry of Intelligence, and state security forces command (FARAJA), Intelligence and Security sections of the Interior Ministry, Municipality of Tehran, to name a few. The decision to further financially empower the IRGC and other repressive institutions was made at the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) as demanded by Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei.

At least hundreds of millions of dollars, top secret documents show, have been allocated to empower repressive institutions aimed at preventing the recurrence of the uprisings. Major IRGC Garrisons, as well as its forces, are well-prepared to confront their own citizens. They are instructed to

arrest anyone suspicious of even writing their slogans or shouting them and turn them over to the IRGC Intelligence Organization.

The regime's actions send a clear message: it is deeply apprehensive about the resurgence of the uprising. The wheels of regime change are now in motion and cannot be halted.

Desperate for survival, Tehran Has been resorting to what it knows best, hostage-taking and terrorism, as a tool of statecraft to gain concessions. While Iran's people are the biggest enemy of the regime, the West's appeasement policy has become the biggest ally of the regime. Tehran has managed, through blackmail and terrorism, to gain significant concession when it is at its weakest point and most desperate.

Policy Recommendation

The objective of this policy recommendation is to support the Iranian people in their quest for democratic revolution and to hold the Iranian regime accountable for its egregious human rights violations and destabilizing actions in the region. This policy aims to promote stability, democracy, and respect for human rights in Iran and the broader Middle East.

1. Accountability for Human Rights Abuses of Iranian regime leaders:

- ▶ Western nations have to send to the United Nations Security Council the dossier of four decades of genocide and crimes against humanity, including the 1988 massacre of 30,000 political prisoners and those in November 2019 and killings during the uprisings, including the 2022 murders at Evin Prison.
- ▶ The world must hold the regime's leaders accountable for 40 years of genocide and crimes against humanity.

2. Reinstating UN Security Council Resolutions, Isolation of the Iranian Regime:

- ▶ Snap back and reinstate the six UN Security Council resolutions on Iran.

- ▶ Expel Tehran from all international bodies and sever all diplomatic and economic ties with the regime.
- ▶ Shut down the Iranian regime's embassies and expel its diplomats, agents, and those who, directly or indirectly, lobby for the Iranian regime.

3. Support for the Iranian People's Democratic Aspirations:

- ▶ The United States and the European Union should openly support the Iranian people's bid for democratic revolution against their tyrannical rulers.
- ▶ Recognize the Iranian people's right to self-defense against the regime's brutal attacks in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which recognizes the right "to have recourse as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression."
- ▶ By following these policy recommendations, the international community can play a vital role in supporting the aspirations of the Iranian people for democracy and accountability while addressing the regional and global security challenges posed by the Iranian regime.

Appendix I

Iranian Regime’s Strategy to Discredit MEK Revealed in Leaked Documents

On May 7, 2023, an Iranian group called “Ghiam ta Sarnegouni” (uprising until the regime overthrow) announced that it was able to gain control of 210 websites, software applications, servers, data banks, and other elements of the regime’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA).

As a result, tens of thousands of documents were obtained and confiscated by the group, some of which have already been published on the internet. Associated Press reported on the same day that “Cached versions of the websites of Iranian diplomatic posts in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Munich, Germany, and Seoul, South Korea, appeared to have been defaced with a message in Farsi reading: “Death to Khamenei, Hail Rajavi.” And, “There is a great revolution in Iran; the uprising will go on until the demolition of the palace of oppression,” the message read.

Demonizing opposition

The new documents, among others, reveal high-level strategic meetings between officials of Foreign Ministry and the Ministry of Intelligence and Security, discussing

means of discrediting the People’s Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI/MEK). The document states, among others, that the Supreme National Security Council has assigned the Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS) as the prime institution responsible for countering the MEK. The official internal document further sheds light on the extent of the regime’s demonization campaign against the organization.

Background

For the past four decades, the Iranian regime has been running a propaganda campaign to vilify the MEK and the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI).

Following the 1979 revolution, the MEK received extensive support from Iranian youth. However, the clerical regime resorted to ruthless measures such as imprisonment, torture, execution, and mass killings to eliminate it. Shockingly, more than 100,000 MEK members and supporters have been executed, and in 1988 alone, over 30,000 political prisoners were brutally massacred.

Despite repression by the regime, the MEK remains deeply rooted among the Iranian people, and the government has failed to destroy it. As a result, the regime has

resorted to demonizing the MEK through various mediums, including books, articles, exhibitions, movies, and documentaries, to discredit the organization.

Confidential report

One of the documents that the group has acquired includes reports by the political committee of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs detailing their efforts to discredit the MEK. The document in question delves into strategies to deny the MEK and thwart their activities and movements beyond Iran's borders.

This document, though just a glimpse, highlights the active and ongoing demonization campaign the Iranian regime and its ministries have launched against the MEK. It underscores the lengths to which the regime will go to undermine the MEK, including disseminating propaganda and using various tactics to vilify the organization.

"The Political Committee on Hypocrites (MEK) held six meetings between December 22, 2018, and January 20, 2021, with representatives from relevant institutions such as the Ministry of Intelligence, the Quds Force, the Intelligence Organization of the Revolutionary Guards, the

NAJA (Law Enforcement Force), Interpol, the Attorney General's Office, the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, and related departments at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs," The report reads in part.⁴⁰

It adds, "The Honorable Political Deputy chaired the meetings. During the first four sessions, the committee focused on understanding the nature of hypocrites and monitoring their movements and activities. Its primary mission was to discredit hypocrites and undermine their advantages and values. The committee found that this discrediting should occur in all spheres, not just politics, with other committees handling other responsibilities."

Furthermore, the report indicates that in the fifth and sixth sessions, necessary solutions for discrediting were identified, and decisions were made.

"In the fifth and sixth sessions, the committee identified solutions for discrediting hypocrites and made corresponding decisions. This report highlights key issues related to the movements and strategies of hypocrites, as well as necessary solutions for discrediting them, which fall under the committee's jurisdiction."

According to the report, the Secretariat of the Supreme National Security Council has assigned the Ministry of Intelligence, the task of countering the MEK.

"It is worth noting that the Secretariat of the Supreme National Security Council tasked the Ministry of Intelligence with dealing with hypocrites by forming a high committee and other committees under it to use the capacity of all institutions. However, the Ministry of Intelligence remains the primary

⁴⁰ Hypocrites is a derogatory term used by the regime to refer to the MEK.

body responsible for confronting hypocrites and implementing countermeasures.”

The report also addresses the following issues:

Firstly, “Utilizing the resources of non-governmental organizations, human rights associations, and supportive foreign media outlets, as well as leveraging social media platforms and utilizing Individuals dismissed from the organization are all critical diplomatic and promotional strategies for effectively engaging with this group on a cultural level. Additionally, employing artistic mediums such as cinema can also be an effective tool in this effort.”

Secondly, “The available capacities abroad, such as the United Nations, the Office of Interest Various NGOs and friends of the Islamic Republic of Iran in international organizations can be utilized, and the available space can be effectively managed.”

Thirdly, “Getting Maryam Rajavi’s deportation order and transferring them from the suburbs of Paris to Albania is another important step on the agenda.”

Fourthly, “The organization operates covertly within the vicinity of Iran and neighboring countries such as Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE. The intelligence agencies of these nations are certainly aware of this presence. To address this issue, establishing regional security organizations could prove to be effective.”

Fifth, other effective measures include “psychological operations, raising awareness of the high costs of hosting the MEK within European countries or where they reside and forming legal proceedings against the organization in European countries.”

The report further states:

“Unlike the monarchists, the hypocrites have unity and coherent organizations. Also, the hypocrites have announced that they are looking for regime change by forming Resistance Units. The hypocrites are not an alternative, but they are the only organization that has a plan to be the alternative. Therefore, hypocrites are both seeking to overthrow the system and are the alternative and insidious (shrewd).

“The hypocrites possess a network of influence and espionage within the country. If the conditions are favorable, they can enter an armed phase and thus should not be overlooked. In general, the hypocrites possess a range of capabilities, including:

1. Collect information
2. Central leadership
3. Economic power
4. Social power

Through cyberspace, the hypocrites are looking for:

1. Internal and psychological crisis
2. Dispute
3. Despair and anxiety about the future

And it is necessary to deal with these measures.”

Finally, the report identified four significant characteristics of the MEK:

The first is that “this group can carry out armed operations.” Secondly, “the affiliates of the hypocrites have a strong motivation to fight, indicating their willingness to engage in struggles.” Thirdly, “they have a history of fighting and resisting against the system.”

Fourthly, “they possess significant information capabilities that allow them to conceal their intelligence systems effectively. Overall, this group is highly dangerous, to the extent that they can be considered as a group aiming to overthrow the system.”

