



Canadian Friends of a Democratic Iran
Amis Canadiens d'un Iran Démocratique

31 Dec 2017

**Supporting the Iranian people in their long quest for freedom,
democracy and human dignity can build regional peace**

The non-partisan Canadian NGO Canadian Friends of a Democratic Iran has been following the plight of Iranians for more than a decade. The current protests in more than 40 cities across Iran illustrates their longing for a democratic government that upholds the rights of its citizens, does not meddle in the affairs of other countries, ceases to support terrorist groups, and adheres to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and gender equality.

Canada's government has already stated that it is encouraged by the people's protest. The international community must do more. A repeat of the mistake in 2009 by democratic governments in not supporting the people of Iran only emboldens the regime to murder more citizens and to export more terror abroad.

The ten-point plan of Mrs. Maryam Rajavi offers a democratic alternative. Regime-organized rallies and speeches by Khamenei's representatives in Iran demonstrate that the regime is concerned about the role of the PMOI and Mrs. Rajavi in the protests. Now is the time to be inspired by the people of Iran, who risk their lives in coming to the streets and crying out for freedom, and to support the women and men of Iran denied fundamental freedoms for far too long.

The regime will deploy every tool available to it to suppress Iranian voices, including cutting off social media platforms – as it has already done – and the use of violence. We should not let the cries of the Iranian people be lost in the atmosphere of intimidation. We stand in solidarity with the people of Iran and will not rest until their demand for a free and democratic Iran is realized.

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