

**Sir David Amess tribute by Hon. David Kilgour,
co-chair, Canadian Friends of a Democratic Iran
18 October 2021
Ottawa Webinar**



Friends of Sir David Amess,

It was my privilege to know Sir David from his many years of work for a democratic Iran, mainly at annual meetings of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI) in Paris, where he was a key U.K. leader at the very large events.

In the UK Parliament during 38 years until his tragic death last Friday, he championed causes as varied as women's health, animal welfare, fuel poverty and fire safety, driving changes to laws that have benefited millions.

Sir David grew up in humble circumstances, explaining: "We used to throw open the window and shout loudly at each other." He decided he wanted to be an MP at the age of 11 and at the age of 31 was first elected.

Let me quote now from a statement made since the tragedy by Struan Stevenson from Scotland (who knew him much better) on behalf of the international committee 'In Search of Justice' (ISJ), which promotes human rights, freedom, democracy, peace, and stability in Iran. Stevenson is Coordinator of the Campaign for Iran Change (CiC). He was a member of the European Parliament representing Scotland (1999-2014), president of the Parliament's Delegation for Relations with Iraq (2009-14) and chairman of the Friends of a Free Iran Intergroup (2004-14):

“...David spent much of his time as a major supporter of the repressed Iranian people and their main democratic opposition movement, the People’s Mojahedin of Iran/Mojahedin e-Khalq (PMOI/MEK), who advocate justice, freedom, democracy, human rights and women’s rights in a secular Islam. David was co-chair of the British Committee for Iran Freedom (BCFIF), the Westminster sister organisation of the Friends of a Free Iran Intergroup in the European Parliament...

“David and I often worked closely together, particularly during the years when more than 3,500 supporters of the PMOI/MEK were trapped in Camps Ashraf and then Camp Liberty in Iraq, under constant deadly attacks at the instigation of the Iranian regime. We also cooperated in the hugely successful campaign against the politically motivated proscription of the PMOI/MEK, which led to them being de-proscribed in London, Europe and America (and Canada). I and my ISJ colleagues, Alejo Vidal Quadras – former senior vice-president of the European Parliament, Giulio Terzi – former Foreign Minister for Italy and Paulo Casaca former MEP, often shared a platform or panel with David at National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI) events in London and Paris, where he was a key attendee at the mass annual rally, leading a large delegation of British MPs and Peers. David was a strong supporter and loyal friend of Mrs Maryam Rajavi, the charismatic president-elect of the NCRI.

“The day before he died, an article written by David was published in Townhall... In the piece, David highlighted the role played in the 1988 massacre of 30,000 political prisoners in Iran by the regime’s new president, Ebrahim Raisi, known as the Butcher of Tehran. David called for the police to arrest Raisi if he dared to set foot in Scotland next month to attend the COP26 Climate Change summit in Glasgow. The article was a typically robust and forthright expression of views by this human rights goliath, whose legacy and example will be something we must all try to live up to.

“David died doing the job he loved, serving his constituents at a routine ‘surgery’ in Essex. He will be fondly remembered, not only for his lifetime’s service to his country but also for his passionate advocacy for regime change in Iran, to free the Iranian people from oppression and tyranny at the hands of the theocratic fascist regime.”

Thank you/Merci