



THE CASE AGAINST THE IRANIAN REGIME

Why Toppling the Mullahs in Tehran is Imperative



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DEFEND JERUSALEM WEBSITE
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Former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill once stated, “An appeaser is one who feeds a crocodile, hoping it will eat him last.”¹ Former Israeli Communication Minister Ayoob Kara concurred with this sentiment: “I learned from my military career that appeasement to terror groups never works.” For this reason, the only way to fight against terrorism is to stand strong, not cower down. This means that it is imperative to take a strong stance against the terror groups and never appease them by giving into the goals of the terror groups or their state sponsor, the Islamic Republic of Iran, even in part.

As prominent anti-Semitism scholar Dr. Manfred Gerstenfeld, may his memory be a blessing, once stated: “The first strategic principle is that there should be no more free anti-Israeli lunches for its enemies. Many countries, organizations and individuals do not hesitate to attack Israel because they know that its reaction will be weak or even non-existent. This leads to a situation where the hate-monger against Israel believes that he has nothing to lose.”² Gerstenfeld believed that whenever Israel fights against its enemies, the best defense is a good offense.³ The same principal that Gerstenfeld applied to Israel’s struggle against its delegitimization can be equally applied to the Jewish state’s main existential threat, the Islamic Republic of Iran.

For this reason, it is imperative that Israel work to topple the number one state sponsor of terrorism in the Middle East, the Islamic Republic of Iran. While Israel during the 12-Day-War against Iran did manage to cause significant damage to the country’s nuclear program, this is not sufficient in order to permanently destroy the existential threat that the Islamic Republic of Iran poses to the State of Israel.

According to a recent report published by MEMRI, “Following the 12-day June 2025 war between Israel and Iran, there have been calls in Iran to carry out preemptive strikes against Israel using ballistic missiles or nuclear bombs. In a July 12, 2025 article in the ideological daily Vatan Emrouz, analyst Amir Abbas Nouri discussed the possibility that the attacks against Iran by Israel and the United States will resume, asserting that an Iranian “preemptive strike [against Israel] is being considered more seriously than ever by the military commanders and the political elements in Iran, as a preemptive step to an Israeli attack against Iran.”⁴

MEMRI continued, “Others in the Iranian regime have called for Iran to attack Israel with a nuclear bomb. On July 9, 2025, Majlis National Security Council member Abolfazl Zohrevand said: “We must be able to build as many nuclear bombs as we want in less than 24 hours, and to equip our missiles with tactical nuclear warheads.” On July 12, 2025, Mahdi Mohammadi, an advisor to the Majlis speaker, shared an Instagram story showing a map of Israel with two nuclear bombs detonating in it. Iranian international security expert Abolfazl Bazargan has said that Iran must build and test a large nuclear weapon that will deter its enemies and warn Tel Aviv, since Iran’s survival is dependent on this.”⁵

Therefore, the 12-day-war was merely a temporary setback for a regime that routinely chants “death to Israel” and built a clock in the center of Tehran that literally counted down till the

¹ “Forbes Quotes,” <https://www.forbes.com/quotes/10336/>.

² Gerstenfeld, Manfred, “A War of a Million Cuts: The struggle against the delegitimization of Israel and the Jews and the growth of the new anti-Semitism,” (Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, 2015), Pg. 373.

³ Ibid., Pg. 374.

⁴ “Iranian calls for nuclear strike or preemptive missile strike against Israel,” MEMRI, 30 July 2025, <https://www.memri.org/reports/iranian-calls-nuclear-strike-or-preemptive-missiles-strike-against-israel>.

⁵ Ibid.

destruction of Israel. For as long as this present regime remains in power, they will merely try to regroup and rebuild their terror infrastructure and their nuclear program, so that they can threaten Israel at a later date.

It is critical to recall that Ayatollah Khomeini declared the last Friday of Ramadan to be Quds Day, which the Iranian regime annually celebrates as a day of protests against Israel. For Iran, seeking the destruction of Israel is not just a slogan. The Islamic Republic of Iran has been working to destroy the country that it refers to as “the little Satan” and the “cancerous tumor” since 1979.

This is why they built up terror proxies such as the Houthis, Hezbollah, the Shia militias in Iraq, Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad in Gaza, and the Assad regime in Syria when it existed, so that Israel would literally be encircled by enemies that are dedicated to the destruction of the Jewish state. By building up a Shia Crescent from Tehran to the Mediterranean and Red Sea, the Iranian regime sought to become a super power backed by nuclear weapons, which would wipe Israel off the map. At this critical hour, it is imperative for the State of Israel to transform this temporary setback into the beginning of the downfall of the Iranian regime.

This paper will lay out the cases for toppling the mullahs regime in Tehran by documenting their history of terrorism against Israel and the Middle East region, as well as outlying the repression faced by the Iranian people by the mullahs in Tehran. Afterwards, the report will display statements that were submitted by Iranian dissidents, which call for regime change and explain the best way of bringing about regime change from their perspective. In conclusion, the paper will present a strategy for toppling the mullahs within Iran.

A History of Iranian Orchestrated Terror against Israel and the Middle East

Iran has a history of sponsoring terror attacks across the globe since the Islamic Republic rose to power in 1979. As former EU Parliamentarian Paulo Casaca noted, “Following the revolution, the mullah’s regime immediately commenced a wave of global assassinations, starting with the killing of the 34-year-old nephew of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, Shahriar Shafiq in December 1979 in Paris. As he was visiting his mother, Princess Ahsraf Pahlavi, a masked gunman shot him point-blank in the head.”⁶

Ayatollah Khomeini, who had sentenced every member of the Pahlavi family to death in absentia, claimed that the attack was carried out by a death squad belonging to Fadaiyan e-Islam, the Islamist Iranian group that he headed then, and said: “If we cannot arrest them, we will assassinate them.”⁷ Indeed, from that moment onwards, Iran systematically worked to assassinate its political opponents overseas.

On July 22, 1980, Ali Akbar Tabataba'i, the former press attaché in the Iranian Embassy under the Shah, was assassinated after he founded the Freedom Foundation to campaign for secular

⁶ Casaca, Paulo, “Terrorism Revisited: Islamism, Political Violence and State-Sponsorship,” (Springer Publishing, 2017), pg. 74.

⁷ Ibid. Pg. 75.

democracy in Iran. He was assassinated by an Iranian agent disguised as a mailman in Bethesda, Maryland.⁸

On February 7, 1984, General Gholam Ali Oveisi, a Shah loyalist, was assassinated while leaving his home in Paris.⁹ In July 1980, an assassination attempt was made on Shapoud Bakhtiar, the Shah's liberal-minded last prime minister in a Parisian suburb. However, that terror attack did result in the death of a French policeman and a neighbor of Bakhtiar, leading to four different Iranian terrorists getting sentenced to life imprisonment.¹⁰

Following the convictions, the Iranian regime set off several bombs in Paris in 1985 and 1986, seeking to free the assassins: "They resulted in the death of 13 people and 255 injuries."¹¹ Later on, in August 1991, Iranian agents struck Bakhtiar again, this time strangling and stabbing him and his secretary to death.¹²

Between 1989 and 1996, the Iranian regime assassinated more than 160 Iranian dissidents across the globe.¹³ One of the most famous incidents of these Iranian terror attacks occurred in Germany. On September 17, 1992, prominent representatives of the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan Dr. Sadegh Sharafkandi, Fattah Abdoli, Homayoun Ardalan and their translator Noori Dekhordi were murdered in the Mykonos restaurant over dinner by assassins hired by the Iranian regime. As a plaque in Germany made in the victims honor says: "They died in the battle for freedom and human rights."¹⁴

However, Iran did not confine its wanton terrorist activities to Iranian dissidents and members of the former Shah's regime. For the Iranian regime, terrorism is part of their *raison d'être*. Article 151 of the Iranian Constitution specifies the duties of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corp or IRGC "as protecting the revolution and its accomplishments."¹⁵

In other words, "the IRGC is the backbone of the apparatus established to preserve the dictatorship, which itself rests on three pillars: the first is the suppression within Iran, the second is the export of terrorism and fundamentalism beyond Iran's borders and the third is the program to manufacture a nuclear bomb and nuclear capable missiles to threaten other countries."¹⁶ The infamous Quds Force is part of the IRGC: "Neither in the Iranian Constitution nor in the budget is there any reference to the Quds Force as a separate entity."¹⁷ Nations across the world have suffered because of the Iranian terror attacks since the Islamic Revolution toppled the Shah's government.

⁸ Casaca, Paulo, "Terrorism Revisited: Islamism, Political Violence and State-Sponsorship," p. 77.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Hakakian, Roya, "Assassins of the Turquoise Palace," (New York: Grove Press, 2011). Pg. 296.

¹⁵ "Terrorist Training Camps in Iran: How the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps Trains Foreign Fighters to Export Terrorism," (National Council of Resistance of Iran US Representative Office, 2017), Location 45.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid., Location 194.

On December 15, 1981, Hizb Al Dawa Al Islamiya, an Iranian front group, targeted the Iraqi Embassy in Beirut: “The suicide bomber drove a car loaded with approximately 100 kg of explosives into the embassy building, killing 66 people, including the Iraqi Ambassador to Lebanon.”¹⁸ Hezbollah, another proxy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, was responsible for “the April 1983 suicide bomb attack against the US Embassy in Beirut; killing 66 people; the October 1983 Beirut barracks bombings, during which two Hezbollah suicide terrorists separately targeted two buildings housing US and French military, killing 241 servicemen and 58 French paratroopers; the 1992 suicide bomb attack against the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires, killing 22 people; and the 1994 suicide bomb attack targeting a Jewish community center in Buenos Aires, killing 85 people.”¹⁹

According to the Israeli Foreign Ministry, the Argentinian Magistrate concluded in 2007 that Iran stands directly behind the attack both on the Israeli Embassy and the Jewish community center in Buenos Aires, and dispatched the terrorists personally.²⁰ In 2012, Iran stood behind a suicide bombing in Burges, Bulgaria that killed 5 Israeli citizens and a Bulgarian Muslim.²¹ 30 other Israelis were wounded in that terror attack.²²

More recently, Iran stood behind the attack upon the Azerbaijani Embassy in London in 2022 and the attack upon the Azerbaijani Embassy in Tehran on International Holocaust Memorial Day in 2023. In the attack upon the Azerbaijani Embassy in Tehran, the Iranians hoped to kill everyone inside of the embassy as punishment for the Azerbaijanis opening up an embassy in Tel Aviv, but due to the diligence of the Azerbaijani security staff, only one security guard was killed.²³

“Iran’s regime has an agenda to become an empire in the world,” Ayoob Kara, who served as Israel’s Communication Minister, stated in an exclusive interview. “For that, they use all their money and that of their allies to increase their power. They support the terror everywhere. The regime is very extremist, religious and they want the world to be afraid of them. They don’t care about anything else. They even don’t care to die. They believe that the next world is better. This is the main problem. To stop this, one must stop the regime. People don’t understand how dangerous the continued existence of this regime is.”

Iran’s involvement in the October 7th massacre

¹⁸ Casaca, “Terrorism Revisited,” Pg. 74.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ “27th Anniversary of AMIA Bombing,” *Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs*, 2021, <https://mfa.gov.il/MFA/ForeignPolicy/Iran/SupportTerror/Pages/The-27th-Anniversary-of-the-AMIA-bombing-18-July-2021.aspx>.

²¹ Karman, Eli, “Analysis: Iran and Hezbollah’s terror escalation against Israel,” *Haaretz*, 23 July 2012, <https://www.haaretz.com/analysis-iran-stepping-up-terror-against-us-1.5299609>

²² Ibid.

²³ Avraham, Rachel, “Experts: Attack on the Azerbaijani Embassy in Tehran an attempt to impede Azerbaijan’s ties with Israel,” *The Jewish Press*, 29 January 2023, <https://www.jewishpress.com/news/middle-east/iran-news/experts-attack-on-azerbaijani-embassy-in-iran-an-attempt-to-impede-azerbaijans-ties-with-israel/2023/01/29/>.

In the immediate aftermath of the October 7th massacre, prominent Middle East scholar Mathew Leavitt wrote in the Jerusalem Strategic Tribune that many pundits have blamed Iran for the October 7th massacre, which resulted in the slaughter of 1,200 Israelis and the abduction of 252 others to Gaza: “Citing a Hamas source, the *Wall Street Journal* reported that Iran helped plot the attack and that the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corp gave it the go-ahead at a meeting in Beirut. Another *Journal* report claims that in the weeks leading up to the assault, hundreds of Hamas and other Islamist militants received specialized training in Iran.”²⁴

As early as August 2023, Hamas deputy leader Salah Al-Arouri publicly acknowledged, “We are preparing for an all-out war, and we are discussing the prospects of this war with all relevant parties.”²⁵ Leavitt noted that such discussions surely included the IRGC and Hizballah, with whom Hamas leaders met regularly in a “joint war room” in Beirut.²⁶

According to Leavitt, “Iran has funded, armed, trained, and provided intelligence to Hamas for decades. Though Hamas has multiple income streams, funding from Iran has been especially important for the group’s military and terrorist structures.”²⁷ As US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan concluded when asked about Iran’s role in the October 7th massacre, “We have said since the beginning: Iran is complicit in this attack in a broad sense because they provided the lion’s share of the funding for the military arm of Hamas.”²⁸ That was in the immediate aftermath of the October 7th massacre, when various reports about Iran’s culpability had not yet been independently verified. However, with the time, it became clear that Iran played a far greater role in the October 7th massacre, the greatest tragedy to befall the Jewish people since the Holocaust.

After the IDF seized a series of documents in Gaza, Israeli journalist Nadav Shagrai told Mosaic Magazine: “Three months before the massacre, . . . in late June 2023, a Hamas delegation led by Ismail Haniyeh— [the Qatar-based head of Hamas], later assassinated by Israel in Iran—and Saleh Arouri—later assassinated by Israel in Lebanon—visited Iran. The delegation held a series of meetings with state leaders there, headed by Supreme Leader Khamenei. . . . The Revolutionary Guard commander Hossein Salami said in that same meeting that the Iranians see “signs and possibility of removing Israel from the map.” At the end of that month, Saleh Arouri traveled to Tehran and presented Hamas’s plans for the invasion of the Gaza border communities to Izadi. The Quds Force commander Esmail Qaani . . . was present at training sessions for hundreds of Hamas operatives held on Iranian soil during September, just weeks before the massacre.”²⁹ According to the report in Mosaic Magazine, the only thing that Hamas may have kept to themselves is the exact date that they were planning the October 7th massacre.³⁰

²⁴ Leavitt, Matthew, “The Hamas-Iran Relationship,” *The Jerusalem Strategic Tribune*, November 2023, <https://jstribune.com/levitt-the-hamas-iran-relationship/>.

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ “Iran’s role in planning the October 7th attacks,” Mosaic Magazine, 31 March 2025, <https://ideas.tikvah.org/mosaic/picks/irans-role-in-planning-the-october-7-attacks>.

³⁰ Ibid.

In other words, not just Hamas, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad and the other Gazan terrorist groups are complicit in the October 7th massacre. The Islamic Republic of Iran is also to blame for the massacre, gang-rape, rape, mutilation, burning, and sadistic torture of the residents of communities in the Gaza Envelope in Southern Israel. Furthermore, Iran is also to blame for the current hostage crisis and likely serves as a major impediment to the remaining hostages obtaining their freedom. According to the Begin Sadaat Center for Strategic Studies, there are still 20 living Israeli kidnappees and the bodies of 30 dead (two more bodies have been found by the IDF) in the hands of the Palestinians.³¹

These above figures do not even include Iran's culpability in the damage caused to some 6,500 buildings in Southern Israel on October 7th.³² Nor does it include Iran's responsibility for the 30,000 residents of Southern Israel, who not only lost their homes on October 7th but are also deeply traumatized after losing friends and relatives during the brutal Hamas massacre.³³ Nor does it include Iran's role in the constant rocket fire emanating from Gaza.

According to the Israeli government, between October 7th, 2023 and May 2024, over 12,500 rockets have been fired at Israel from the Gaza Strip alone.³⁴ According to data provided by the Israel Fire and Rescue Services, as of 25 May 2024, firefighters have dealt with 556 incidents of rocket hits.³⁵ Since Hamas is an Iranian proxy, the mullahs in Tehran stand at the head, spreading its tentacles from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean. These were not passive observers. They are also responsible for this massive humanitarian suffering.

Damage Hezbollah Caused to Northern Israel during Israel's Ongoing Gaza War

Between October 8, 2023 and November 2024, the attacks on Northern Israel resulted in the deaths of 43 civilians.³⁶ As of July 2024, more than 80,000 Israelis were forced to evacuate from their communities in Northern Israel because of constant Hezbollah rocket fire.³⁷ In July 2025, the Times of Israel reported that Ze'ev Elkin, the Finance Ministry's point man for rehabilitating the southern and northern border areas, announced a NIS 1 billion (\$297 million) plan for 28 communities displaced by attacks from the Lebanese terror group Hezbollah, a proxy of the Islamic Republic of Iran.³⁸

³¹ Hecht, Eado, "The Gaza Terror Offensive," *The Begin Sadaat Center for Strategic Studies*, 30 July 2025, <https://besacenter.org/the-gaza-terror-offensive-october-7-8-2023/>

³² Stub, Zev, "Billions in damages: Israel rebuilds after Iran war, destruction in south and north," *Times of Israel*, 31 July 2025, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/billions-in-damages-israel-rebuilds-after-iran-war-destruction-in-south-and-north/>.

³³ "UN Silent on Displaced Israelis," *UN Watch*, 2 July 2024, <https://unwatch.org/report-un-silent-on-israeli-idps/>.

³⁴ "Swords of Iron: War in the South," *Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs*, <https://www.gov.il/en/pages/swords-of-iron-war-in-the-south-7-oct-2023>.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ "Hezbollah bombardments take a heavy toll on the nature in Northern Israel," *Times of Israel*, November 2024, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/hezbollah-bombardments-take-heavy-toll-on-nature-in-northern-israel/>

³⁷ "UN Silent on Displaced Israelis," *UN Watch*, 2 July 2024, <https://unwatch.org/report-un-silent-on-israeli-idps/>.

³⁸ Stub, Zev, "Billions in damages: Israel rebuilds after Iran war, destruction in south and north," *Times of Israel*, 31 July 2025, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/billions-in-damages-israel-rebuilds-after-iran-war-destruction-in-south-and-north/>.

While many residents of Southern Israel were able to return to their homes after several months, there are 67,000 residents of communities in Northern Israel who only this month, 21 months later, have been able to return home.³⁹ Last year, the government earmarked NIS 15 billion (\$4.1 billion) for rehabilitating and revitalizing the north, where many towns were evacuated after October 7, 2023, in anticipation of military conflict with Hezbollah in Lebanon.⁴⁰ So far, some NIS 3.3 billion has been spent repairing towns, so that these 67,000 Israelis can return to their homes.⁴¹

Regrow Israel conducted a study where they found that Hezbollah caused more than \$108 million in damages to Northern Israeli agriculture: “From Oct. 8 until a ceasefire was declared at the end of last year, thousands of missile strikes destroyed key infrastructure, ignited massive fires and forced the abandonment of farms, leaving a deep impact on national food security, local livelihoods, and market stability.”⁴²

“Everyone knows about the disaster of the south,” Danielle Abraham, executive director of ReGrow Israel, told *eJewishPhilanthropy*. “The damage in the south happened in one day on Oct. 7. The damage in the north is much larger, more complex, over a much larger area and probably higher damage, not only because of direct attacks and cyber-attacks but also because of the longer exposure to war and abandonment.”⁴³

According to the report, northern Israel experienced 9,000 direct hits by missiles, rockets and drones, as well as more than 10 cyber-attacks.⁴⁴ Almost 100,000 acres of land were burned as a result.⁴⁵ All of this, the report noted was compounded by prolonged presences by Israeli military forces and disruptions to the local supply chain, creating a situation of even greater complexity.⁴⁶

The estimated damages include some \$75 million to replant dead orchards, more than \$3 million to replant destroyed vineyards, approximately \$7 million in damages to infrastructure and pastures for cattle herding and more than \$23.5 million in damages to chicken coops in the poultry sector, according to the report.⁴⁷

Within six months of Hezbollah starting its attacks on northern Israel on Oct. 8, 2023, approximately 35,000 tons of fresh fruit and vegetables from the north were estimated to have

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ Stub, Zev, “Billions in damages: Israel rebuilds after Iran war, destruction in south and north,” *Times of Israel*, 31 July 2025,

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/billions-in-damages-israel-rebuilds-after-iran-war-destruction-in-south-and-north/>.

⁴² “Hezbollah attacks caused more than \$108 million in damages to northern Israeli agriculture,” *E Jewish*

Philanthropy,

<https://ejewishphilanthropy.com/hezbollah-attacks-caused-more-than-108-million-in-damages-to-northern-israeli-agriculture-study/>.

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

been lost — accounting for 25% of total national food loss, the report noted.⁴⁸ In addition, it said prices have surged in response, with vegetable prices in Israel rising 18% and fruit prices in Israel rising 12% in early 2024 compared to the previous year.⁴⁹ In addition, more than 60% of surveyed farmers in the north reported damage to their farms, with a quarter ceasing operations entirely.⁵⁰

The devastation that Hezbollah, a proxy of Iran, caused to Northern Israel does not only affect farmers. It has greatly adversely affected the environment in the State of Israel. The Hula Valley before the war was a world-class nature reserve that hosted rare birds during their migration season, 30 kilometers from the Israeli-Lebanese border. As of November 2024, all that is left of this nature reserve after the war against Hezbollah is destroyed vegetation and fire-charred soil in some areas.⁵¹

Inbar Rubin, field director at the Hula Nature Reserve, told the Times of Israel that she is worried about the war's effects on birds. "The noises of war, the sounds of interceptions, of [rockets] falling and the loud booms — these are the sounds that birds hear," Rubin said. "It's a huge source of stress."⁵²

Dr. Ofra Gallily DDM, an animal behavior consultant, told Haaretz, "Animals can certainly have post-trauma symptoms."⁵³ Eti Altman, spokeswoman for the animal rights organization Let Animals Live, told Haaretz: "A huge number of dogs have been abandoned or fled from bombs in southern Israel and Gaza, and got lost. The ones who've been caught and placed in shelters demonstrate acute stress at every rocket siren or explosion."⁵⁴ Thus, it is not far-fetched to accuse Hezbollah, a proxy of Iran, of causing post-traumatic stress disorder for migratory birds and other wildlife in the Hula Valley and other natural areas in Northern Israel.

Before the Hezbollah war, around 50,000 cranes migrated to the Hula Valley in the wintertime. Longtime ornithologist Yossi Leshem told the Times of Israel: "And for them, it was really paradise."⁵⁵ But after the Israel-Hezbollah war started, he added, the number of birds arriving dropped by 70 percent for the sources of food that the migratory birds relied upon began to dry up with the fires that Hezbollah caused with their rockets.⁵⁶ Although there is now a cease-fire in place with Hezbollah, it will take many years for the nature in Northern Israel to return to its former glory and the Islamic Republic of Iran can be blamed for that as well.

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ "Hezbollah bombardments take a heavy toll on the nature in Northern Israel," *Times of Israel*, November 2024, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/hezbollah-bombardments-take-heavy-toll-on-nature-in-northern-israel/>.

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ Schuster, Ruth, "Dogs of War: Animals Get PTSD Too," *Haaretz*, 31 July 2024, <https://www.haaretz.com/science-and-health/2014-07-31/ty-article/.premium/dogs-of-war-animals-get-ptsd-too/0000017f-e48b-d804-ad7f-f5fb006f0000>.

⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁵ "Hezbollah bombardments take a heavy toll on the nature in Northern Israel," *Times of Israel*, November 2024, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/hezbollah-bombardments-take-heavy-toll-on-nature-in-northern-israel/>.

⁵⁶ Ibid.

Damage Houthis Caused to the State of Israel

According to the American Jewish Committee, “The Houthis are an extremist Shia-Islamist movement and terrorist army. Backed by Iran, this organization controls approximately one-third of Yemen’s territory and more than two-thirds of the country’s population. It has emerged as a prominent player in the **Israel-Hamas war**, which began on October 7.”⁵⁷

“Since late 2023, Houthi terrorists have fired near daily ballistic missiles and suicide drones at Israel and ships in the Red Sea – most of them intercepted by Israel’s multi-layered air defense system or U.S. warships in the Red Sea – and have violated international maritime law by hijacking commercial ships sailing in the Red Sea, posing a direct threat to international shipping and the global economy,” the American Jewish Committee added.⁵⁸

The Houthis — an Iran-backed proxy whose slogan calls for “Death to America, Death to Israel, [and] a Curse on the Jews” — began attacking Israel and maritime traffic in November 2023, a month after the October 7 Hamas massacre.⁵⁹ According to the Times of Israel, the Houthis held their fire when a ceasefire was reached between Israel and Hamas in January 2025.⁶⁰ By that point, they had fired over 40 ballistic missiles and dozens of attack drones and cruise missiles at Israel, including one that killed a civilian and wounded several others in Tel Aviv in July last year, prompting Israel’s first strike in Yemen, the Times of Israel reported.⁶¹

Since March 18, when the IDF resumed its offensive against Hamas in the Gaza Strip, the Houthis in Yemen have launched 66 ballistic missiles and at least 17 drones at Israel, the Times of Israel stressed.⁶² According to the report, several of the missiles have fallen short.⁶³ However, on May 4, 2025, a Houthi missile successfully hit the perimeter of the main terminal of Ben-Gurion Airport, injuring eight people. Israel failed to intercept that missile.

Due to the Houthi threat, millions of Israelis across the Jewish state have been living in a situation where they are routinely forced to run to bomb shelters. Thanks to the successful Houthi attack on Ben-Gurion Airport, many airlines refuse to fly to Israel, thus threatening the country’s once thriving tourism industry. According to Israel Hayom, Delta Air Lines, ITA, and Air India have suspended Israel flights until August 31; Transavia and Air Canada until September 7; Iberia Express until October 24; and KLM and Ryanair until October 2025, and Easy Jet until March 2026.⁶⁴

⁵⁷ “What to know about the Houthis, their attacks on Israel and the US, and their treatment of Yemen’s Jews,” *American Jewish Committee*, May 2025, <https://www.ajc.org/news/5-things-to-know-about-the-houthis>.

⁵⁸ What to know about the Houthis, their attacks on Israel and the US, and their treatment of Yemen’s Jews,” *American Jewish Committee*, May 2025, <https://www.ajc.org/news/5-things-to-know-about-the-houthis>.

⁵⁹ Emmanuel, Fabian, “IDF intercepts ballistic missile fired by Yemen’s Houthis,” *the Times of Israel*, 29 July 2025, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-intercepts-ballistic-missile-fired-by-yemens-houthis-no-injuries/>.

⁶⁰ Ibid.

⁶¹ Ibid.

⁶² Ibid.

⁶³ Ibid.

⁶⁴ Avrahami, Sahar, “Traveling to Israel? This airline paused its route,” *Israel Hayom*, 15 July 2025, <https://www.israelhayom.com/2025/07/15/traveling-to-israel-this-airline-paused-its-route/>.

Mark Feldman, CEO of the Zion tours Jerusalem travel agency, said last Passover that international travelers are putting their itinerary at risk if they choose to fly an airline other than Israel's local El Al, Arkia, or IsraAir carriers. "Foreign carriers have made it clear—they'll pull out immediately if missiles hit near Ben Gurion Airport again," he told The Media Line.⁶⁵ It is now the August holiday season and not much has changed since then.

Due to the threats that the Houthis pose to international shipping, the port of Eilat was forced to shut down. The Eilat port shut down because its activities were reduced by 90% due to the threats that the Houthis posed to international shipping and the Eilat port could not continue to handle on its own such grave economic losses.⁶⁶ "The Eilat port has strategic national importance to Israel as the country's southern gateway on the Red Sea for maritime trade with the Far East, India, and Australia, and constitutes a significant economic anchor for the city and its residents," Eilat port CEO Gideon Golber told The Times of Israel in the hopes of getting governmental aid to stay afloat. "The closure of a strategic seaport in Israel would be a huge international success for the Houthis that none of our enemies have ever achieved."⁶⁷ Sadly, no governmental bailout arrived and the Houthis thus succeeded in shutting down the Eilat port.

According to the American Jewish Committee, aside from threatening Israel, "The Houthi rebels in Yemen have been associated with antisemitic rhetoric and actions, raising concerns for the country's tiny remaining Jewish community. While the majority of Yemen's Jewish population, which once totaled 50,000, had left decades ago, the small amount that has remained has come under increasing persecution which started under former President Ali Abdullah Saleh but intensified under the Houthis, including the imprisonment of Levi Marhabi, who has been held by the Houthis since 2016, according to a United Nations report released in 2022. Additionally, the Houthis have also targeted other religious minorities, including Christians and members of the Baha'i community."⁶⁸

Damage Iran Caused to Israel directly during the 12-Day War

Average Israelis paid a heavy price during Operation Rising Lion. For 12 days, schools, workplaces, gyms, restaurants, shopping malls, cinemas, theaters, swimming pools, the beaches, the trains, the buses, the airport, and every aspect of life in Israel shut down, while Israelis were ordered to remain close to bomb shelters. Numerous Israelis were stranded overseas, as all flights going to Israel, including the Israeli airlines, were canceled.

The Times of Israel reported that Iran's ballistic missile attacks on Israel during the 12 days of war claimed the lives of 28 people — all but one of them civilians — and wounded over 3,000

⁶⁵ Klabin, Nathan, "They know where to hit us: Houthi threats target Israel's tourism lifeline," *Yedioth Achronot*, April 2025, <https://www.ynetnews.com/travel/article/rjutin8rig/>

⁶⁶ Wrobbel, Sharon, "Hurt by Houthi blockade, debt-ridden Eilat port seeks aid to help it stay afloat," *the Times of Israel*, 17 July 2025, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/debt-ridden-eilat-port-hurt-by-houthi-blockade-seeks-aid-to-help-it-stay-afloat/>.

⁶⁷ Ibid.

⁶⁸ "What to know about the Houthis, their attacks on Israel and the US, and their treatment of Yemen's Jews," *American Jewish Committee*, May 2025, <https://www.ajc.org/news/5-things-to-know-about-the-houthis>.

people.⁶⁹ Another two civilians perished due to their injuries after the Iran war concluded, bringing the total fatalities from the Iran war to 30.

According to the report, Israel's Health Ministry said a total of 3,238 people were hospitalized during the 12-day war with Iran, including 23 who were seriously injured, 111 moderately, 2,933 lightly, 138 who suffered from acute anxiety, and another 30 whose conditions have not been determined, with the vast majority of the injured being civilians.⁷⁰

Another 10,000 Israelis were displaced from their homes due to the rocket fire from Iran and were forced to live as internally displaced persons inside of hotels.⁷¹ The Times of Israel reported that Israeli homeowners filed more than 45,000 claims for some NIS 5 billion (\$1.47 billion) of property damage sustained during Israel's 12-day war with Iran in June.⁷²

The damage caused by the Iranian missile attacks to the civilian life in Israel were devastating. The emergency medicine department at Soroka Hospital, one of the most important hospitals in the Negev region, was hit by an Iranian missile on June 19. Afterwards, the hospital was barely functioning in the middle of a war, which was a major loss for Israeli society. It should be emphasized that Soroka Hospital is the most important hospital in the Negev region and the damage done to this hospital significantly adversely affects the health of the residents of the Negev region, who were forced to travel further to get medical treatment inside of a hospital.

Six Ben Gurion University research laboratories were destroyed and nine others were damaged by the impact of an Iranian missile that struck the Soroka University Medical Center campus on June 19, the educational institution said in a postwar update, the Time of Israel reported.⁷³ According to the report, the damage to the six destroyed laboratories "wiped out years of work on diverse research projects in medicine and biology," the university says.⁷⁴

The Times of Israel reported that classrooms, teaching laboratories, and the dissection room of the Faculty of Health Sciences were also significantly impacted, along with 30 buildings on the main Marcus Family Campus.⁷⁵ According to the report, the homes of 50 BGU faculty or staff members and 48 students were damaged, with 25 of the former and 41 of the latter having to evacuate.⁷⁶

⁶⁹ Emmanuel, Fabian, "The Israel-Iran war by the numbers, after 12 days of fighting," *the Times of Israel*, 24 June 2025, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/the-israel-iran-war-by-the-numbers-after-12-days-of-fighting/>.

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ Stub, Zev, "2,000 new immigrants among 10,000 Israelis displaced by war, MK says," *the Times of Israel*, 2 July 2025, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/2000-new-immigrants-among-10000-israelis-still-displaced-after-war-mk-says/>.

⁷² Stub, Zev, "Billions in damages: Israel rebuilds after Iran war, destruction in north and south," *Times of Israel*, 31 July 2025, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/billions-in-damages-israel-rebuilds-after-iran-war-destruction-in-south-and-north/>.

⁷³ Avraham, Rachel, "The psychological cost of Operation Rising Lion," *Defend Jerusalem*, <https://defendjerusalem.com/the-psychological-cost-of-operation-rising-lion/>.

⁷⁴ Ibid.

⁷⁵ Ibid.

⁷⁶ Ibid.

On Facebook, Ben-Gurion University itself painted an even grimmer picture: “BGU students, faculty, and staff are enduring **perpetual traumatic stress**, displacement, and destruction. Recently, another Iranian missile landed in Beer-Sheva, taking the lives of 4 innocent victims. Close to 100 faculty members and students’ homes were damaged so far, an additional 66 were evacuated from their homes, and 70% of buildings and dormitories on the Marcus Family Campus have sustained damage.”⁷⁷

Ben-Gurion University was not the only campus hit. Additionally, it was reported that one of the Iranian missiles fell near the campus of Tel Aviv University. According to a Facebook post published by Tel Aviv University, “secondary damage occurred – mainly shattered glass – in several buildings and dormitories. Fortunately, none of our students, faculty, or staff were harmed.”⁷⁸

This came after it was reported that an Iranian missile struck the Weizmann Institute of Science, one of the most prestigious academic institutions in the State of Israel, on June 15. While nobody was killed, the attack destroyed two buildings — a life science building and an empty building that was still under construction.⁷⁹ Dozens more were damaged. Some 45 labs were wrecked.

“It was a war zone,” Tzahor, a researcher at the Weizmann Institute, told The Times of Israel over the phone. “Everything in our beautiful institute was covered in glass and pieces of metal.”⁸⁰ Tzahor’s lab, which included 22 years of work, scientific samples, including thousands of heart tissue from both animals and patients, DNA and RNA samples, and more, were gone.⁸¹

Aside from harming Israeli academia, the Iranians also targeted a Chabad kindergarten and other targets within Israel with cluster bombs, a move that was condemned by Amnesty International. According to a recent report that was published by Amnesty International, “The Iranian forces’ use of cluster munitions during the ‘**12 Day War**’ with Israel was a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law. The Iranian forces fired ballistic missiles whose warheads contained submunitions into populated residential areas of Israel, in attacks endangering civilians. Amnesty International analyzed photos and videos showing cluster munitions that, according to media reports, struck inside the Gush Dan metropolitan area around Tel Aviv on 19 June.”⁸²

“In addition, the cities of Beersheba, southern Israel (20 June), and Rishon LeZion, to the south of Tel Aviv (22 June), were also struck with ordnance that left multiple impact craters consistent with the submunitions seen in Gush Dan,” Amnesty International reported. “Such submunitions hit a school and basketball court in Beersheba, but no deaths or injuries were reported.”⁸³

⁷⁷ Ibid.

⁷⁸ Avraham, Rachel, “The psychological cost of Operation Rising Lion,” *Defend Jerusalem*, <https://defendjerusalem.com/the-psychological-cost-of-operation-rising-lion/>.

⁷⁹ Ibid.

⁸⁰ Ibid.

⁸¹ Ibid.

⁸² Avraham, Rachel, “Amnesty International condemns Iran’s use of cluster bombs against Israel,” *Defend Jerusalem*, <https://defendjerusalem.com/amnesty-international-condemns-irans-use-of-cluster-bombs-against-israel/>.

⁸³ Ibid.

“Cluster munitions are inherently indiscriminate weapons that must never be used. By using such weapons in or near populated residential areas, Iranian forces endangered civilian lives and demonstrated clear disregard for international humanitarian law,” said Erika Guevara Rosas, Amnesty International’s Senior Director for Research, Advocacy, Policy and Campaigns. “Civilians, particularly children, are most at risk of injury or death from unexploded submunitions. Iranian forces’ deliberate use of such inherently indiscriminate weapons is a blatant violation of international humanitarian law.”⁸⁴

Other Iranian targets during the 12-day-war included two historic Ottoman Turkish mosques in Haifa, the Bursa Financial District in Ramat Gan, an oil refinery in Haifa, a power station in Southern Israel, an old age home, and of course, countless apartment buildings and homes. Indeed, numerous homes in Bat Yam, Rishon LeTzion, Tel Aviv, Ramat Gan, Beersheba and other places lay in ruins. It is critical to emphasize that none of these places are legitimate targets under international law. Therefore, what the Iranian regime did to the civilian population in Israel constitutes war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The Iranian Regime’s Terror Against Its Own People: A Cry for Help

Perhaps no one has suffered more from the mullahs in Tehran more than the Iranian people themselves. Since 1979, when a leftist movement that sought to topple the shah and replace the regime with more democratic governance was hijacked by radical Islamists, the people of Iran have suffered immensely. To date, they live under a dictatorship which deprives them of their basic human rights, women’s rights, and gay rights. In fact, it is illegal to be gay in Iran. There are cases of people getting executed for the crime of being gay.

Even more troubling, in the city of Isfahan, there were a series of acid attacks perpetrated against Iranian women and Iran’s judiciary closed these cases without any convictions. It is not news that the Iranian regime systematically represses women and girls. According to the United Nations, at least 31 women were executed in Iran in 2024, up from 22 in 2023.⁸⁵ Of these women, 19 were executed for murder, with nine convicted of killing their husbands in cases involving domestic violence or forced child marriage, areas where the UN reported “Iranian women have no legal protections. Some executions were reportedly linked to the protests that began in September 2022 under the banner “Women, Life and Freedom.””⁸⁶

According to Iran Human Rights, “Many of the women executed for murder acted out of desperation in response to violence, rape or coercive control. About 70% of women sentenced to death for murder, are charged for murdering their male partner. Trapped in abusive marriages, they were often driven to acts of self-defense. Yet Iran’s legal system rarely acknowledges such mitigating circumstances. Women’s testimonies are worth half of men’s, and laws fail to recognize domestic violence or marital rape, leaving these women defenseless in court. Those accused of murder face qisas (retribution in kind), where the victim’s family are

⁸⁴ Ibid.

⁸⁵ “UN Human Rights Council hears alarming updates on executions in Iran,” *UN News*, June 2025, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/06/1164586>.

⁸⁶ Ibid.

given the responsibility of deciding between forgiveness, blood money, or execution, often resulting in death sentences.”⁸⁷

Iran executes more people per capita than any other country in the world. The United Nations added: “At least 975 people were executed in Iran in 2024, the highest number reported since 2015. Of the total executions, just over half were for drug-related offenses, 43 percent for murder, two percent for sexual offenses, and three percent for security-related charges. At least four executions were carried out publicly.”⁸⁸ In Iran, sexual crimes do not relate to the rape and sexual harassment of women, like they do in the West. According to the non-profit Impact Iran:

Iranian law does not criminalize marital rape or other forms of domestic violence. Rape is not classified as a distinct crime under Iranian law. The only crime of sexual assault recognized under Iranian law is the crime of “*zina*” (sexual intercourse outside marriage) “without consent.” *Zina* without consent only covers forced or coerced vaginal and anal penetration by a penis “up to the point of circumcision” -therefore excludes other forms of penetration- and only when the perpetrator and the victim are unmarried – therefore explicitly excludes marital rape.

The Penal Code provides various exemptions for husbands, fathers, and grandfathers who kill or assault their female relatives, including in the name of so-called “honor”. Article 1108 of the Civil Code stresses that if a wife refuses to have sex with her husband without a “legitimate” excuse, she is not entitled to ‘spousal maintenance’.

Iranian law criminalizes all sexual intercourse outside of marriage, referred to as “*zina*”, whether consensual or not. If a woman is a victim of non-consensual *zina*, she must prove the offense in court with the confession from the perpetrator or the testimony from four male witnesses or equivalent. Because consensual sexual relations outside marriage are also illegal, women who cannot prove the act was non-consensual risk being prosecuted themselves. They may face severe punishments like flogging, stoning, or even the death penalty under certain circumstances. The mandatory punishment for a perpetrator of non-consensual *zina* is the death penalty, which can deter women from reporting the crime.⁸⁹

In Iran, in the past, there were cases of women, who were stoned to death for the crime of committing adultery. The fact that marital rape is not a crime in Iran, but adultery is, highlights how strongly the Iranian regime discriminates against women.

One of the gravest incidents of human rights abuses to occur within the Islamic Republic was the poisoning of hundreds of Iranian schoolgirls in 91 schools across 20 provinces following the eruption of the “Women, Life, Freedom” Protests. For several months, the Iranian regime denied that the poisonings were taking place and even repressed Iranians who addressed the subject. According to the United Nations, in the wake of the Iranian regime’s reaction to the

⁸⁷ “Women and the Death Penalty in Iran: A Gendered Perspective,” *Iran Human Rights*, 2025, https://iranhr.net/media/files/En_Gender_Perspective_of_the_Death_Penalty_in_Iran_EN.pdf.

⁸⁸ Ibid.

⁸⁹ “Women and Girls Rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran Fact Sheet,” *Impact Iran*, <https://impactiran.org/2024/12/02/upr2025-women-and-girls-rights-in-the-islamic-republic-of-iran/>.

massive poisonings, “We fear that they are orchestrated to punish girls for their involvement in the movement – Women, Life, Freedom, and for expressing their opposition to mandatory hijab and voicing their demands for equality.”⁹⁰

However, while all Iranians are suffering under this brutal dictatorship, no one has suffered more than Iran’s ethnic and religious minorities. In fact, former European Parliamentarian Paulo Casaca related that the Mandeans are on the verge of becoming extinct on the Iranian side of the border of Khuzestan due to Iranian policy. Kurdish dissident Kajal Mohammadi noted that the Iranian regime has been engaged in the systematic killing of Kurds, Ahwaz Arabs, Turkmen, and Azerbaijanis since the 1979 Iranian Revolution.

According to her, “Right from the start, Ayatollah Khomeini declared jihad against the Kurdish political organizations and accused them of enmity against God. Khomeini even went as far as labeling the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan as ‘the Party of Satan’ and sanctioned mass murder against the Kurdish nation. Thousands of Kurds were executed.” As Azerbaijani activist Tarlan Ahmadov noted, “South Azerbaijanis are not allowed to speak in their language. They don’t have radio, schools or media in their language.”⁹¹

Human Rights Watch “documented the rape, torture and sexual assault of ten detainees, both female and male, from Kurdish, Baluch and Azeri minority regions that occurred between September and November 2022 during the nationwide protests. Detainees described being raped by security forces and some said they witnessed security forces raping other detainees. In seven of the cases, detainees said that security forces had tortured them to coerce them into making confessions.”⁹² What Human Rights Watch illustrated is part of a larger pattern of repression that followed the eruption of the “Women, Life, Freedom” protests, which started after the brutal murder of 22-year-old Kurdish citizen Mahsa Amini for not donning a hijab properly.

According to Amnesty International, “Iranian intelligence and security forces committed horrific acts of rape, gang rape, and other forms of sexual violence, which amount to torture and other ill-treatment against women, men and children as young as 12, who were arbitrarily detained in connection with the nationwide protests that took place during the “Women, Life, Freedom” uprising between September and December 2022. Sexual violence was used by state agents with total impunity as a weapon of torture to crush protesters spirit, self-esteem and sense of dignity, to deter further protests and to punish them for challenging the political and security establishments and its entrenched system of gender-based discrimination, as enforced through draconian legislation including abusive compulsory veiling laws.”⁹³

⁹⁰ “Iran: Deliberately poisoning schoolgirls further evidence of continued violence against women and girls,” OHCHR, 2023, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/03/iran-deliberate-poisoning-schoolgirls-further-evidence-continuos-violence>.

⁹¹ Avraham, Rachel, “Iran and the problematic partition of Azerbaijan,” *Israel Hayom*, 31 May 2022, <https://www.israelhayom.com/2022/05/31/iran-and-the-problematic-partition-of-azerbaijan/>

⁹² “Iran: Events of 2024,” *Human Rights Watch*, [World Report 2025: Iran | Human Rights Watch](https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2025/iran)

⁹³ “They violently raped me,” Amnesty International, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/7480/2023/en/>.

The murder of Amini highlighted the repression experienced by Kurdish women in Iran on a daily basis. Indeed, during the Women, Life, Freedom protests, “Iran Human Rights has verified the killing of 551 protesters including 68 children and 49 women. Additionally, at least 22 protesters including four children and eight women have died by suicide or under suspicious circumstances.”⁹⁴ However, the Kurds are merely one of many minorities in Iran that faces brutal discrimination and oppression.

In Iran, members of the Bahai Faith are forbidden from studying in universities and are not recognized as a legitimate faith. According to Human Rights Watch, “Iranian authorities have targeted Baha’i women and, in 2024, two-thirds of imprisoned Baha’is were women, according to the Baha’i International Community (BIC), which represents the Baha’i community worldwide. Dozens of Baha’is were arrested, put on trial, and sentenced to prison on charges such as “propaganda against the state” and “participation in conducting misleading propaganda and educational activities contrary to the sacred laws of Islam.”⁹⁵

In addition, Zoroastrians, Jews and Christians are treated as second class citizens, while Evangelical Christians and Mandeans face repression similar to members of the Bahai faith. Following the 12-day war with Iran, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom reported: “Following U.S. and Israeli military strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities and other targets in June 2025, the Iranian government dramatically escalated its crackdown on dissidents and religious minorities. Iran’s top judicial chief instructed prosecutors throughout the country to expedite trials and intensify punishments for individuals tried on religiously-based charges, including “Corruption on Earth” and “Enmity against God,” in an effort to extinguish perceived internal threats including espionage.”⁹⁶

They continued: “Iran’s parliament also passed a law imposing the death penalty for cooperation with Israel, the US, or “hostile groups” on the basis that such actions constitute “Corruption on Earth.” Iranian authorities have systematically carried out arbitrary mass detentions of religious minorities, including Baha’is, Jews, Christians, and Sunnis. After Israel carried out targeted strikes on Evin Prison, prison authorities transferred a group of Christian prisoners without notice to the Greater Tehran Central Penitentiary and Qarchak women’s prison, where they are being held in poor, overcrowded conditions. Iranian state media has also escalated its antisemitic rhetoric in wake of the attacks. In July, Iranian news agency published a propaganda music video with lyrics that explicitly threaten Jews. This inflammatory rhetoric has made Jews in Iran feel increasingly insecure and threatened.”⁹⁷

Indeed, following the recent war, a number of Iranian Jews have been arrested and harassed by the authorities in the Islamic Republic of Iran. In the eyes of the regime these days, having a phone conversation with a relative in Israel is enough in order to face espionage charges. While in the past the regime turned a blind eye to such phone calls, the mullahs started to clamp down upon Jews who insisted upon maintaining contact with relatives in Israel since the end of the 12-day war with Israel.

⁹⁴ “One year report,” Iran Human Rights, <https://iranhr.net/en/articles/6200/>.

⁹⁵ “Iran: Events of 2024,” *Human Rights Watch*, [World Report 2025: Iran | Human Rights Watch](https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2025/iran).

⁹⁶ Miller, Hillary, “State Perpetuation of Religious Freedom Violations in the Islamic Republic of Iran,” *United States Commission on International Religious Freedom*, 2025, <https://www.uscifr.gov/sites/default/files/2025-07/2025%20Iran%20Country%20Update.pdf>.

⁹⁷ Ibid.

Voices for Regime Change in Iran

- *Persian dissident Dr. Reza Parchizadeh*

Since seizing power in the wake of the Islamic Revolution of 1979, Iran's Islamist regime has maintained a rigidly repressive stance toward large segments of its population, particularly those who do not conform to its ideological and theological vision. This authoritarianism has played out across virtually every facet of domestic and foreign policy, fueling decades of discontent and compounding Iran's internal and external crisis.

Domestically, the regime has systematically suppressed dissent, subordinated civil liberties to religious dogma, and preserved a political system that concentrates power in the hands of unelected clerics. Basic freedoms such as speech, press, assembly and political participation remain under constant threat, while institutions of accountability and reform are effectively neutralized.

Meanwhile, economic injustice runs deep. Despite Iran's abundant natural and human resources, wealth is inequitably distributed, often concentrated in the hands of the regime loyalists and institutions like the Revolutionary Guards. Religious and ethnic minorities including Jews, Christians, Bahais, Kurds, Arabs and Baluchis, face persistent discrimination, exclusion and state-sanctioned abuse, rendering them second-class citizens in their own country.

In the realm of foreign policy, the regime's ideological commitments have created enduring antagonism with the West---especially with the United States---by presenting liberal democracy as a threat to the Islamic Republic's survival. This hostility has resulted in chronic diplomatic isolation, prolonged sanctions, and a highly confrontational posture throughout the regime. Iran's virulent opposition to Israel, often expressed in openly genocidal terms, has further alienated it from the global community and added fuel to ongoing regional tensions.

Concurrently, the regime has aggressively interfered in the affairs of neighboring Arab countries through a well-developed network of proxies and militias. Whether in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon or Yemen, Iranian involvement has often deepened existing conflicts, exacerbated sectarian divides and obstructed peace efforts. These actions stem not from rational state interests but from an entrenched ideological agenda that prioritizes regional hegemony and revolutionary exportation over peace, cooperation or the welfare of the Iranian people. Collectively, these policies have entrenched the regime's isolation, eroded its legitimacy and left both Iran and its neighbors mired in instability.

The Islamist regime in Iran must ultimately be dismantled but how this is accomplished is a matter of grave consequence. The path to change cannot mirror the regime's own brutality. Any effort to bring about its downfall must consider the profound dangers of removing a deeply embedded authoritarian system. The risks of widespread human suffering, internal chaos, and regional conflagration are real and must be managed with care and foresight. The aim should not be simply to remove a dictatorship but to create the conditions for a peaceful, democratic and inclusive political order that can endure. The manner in which the regime falls will shape the future of Iran for generations to come.

Foremost among the necessary considerations is the imperative to avoid mass civilian casualties. The regime has repeatedly shown its readiness to employ lethal force against its

own citizens. This, coupled with the threat of foreign military action by countries like Israel and the United States, significantly increases the danger of widespread bloodshed. The Iranian people, who have endured decades of repression, must not be made to bear the brunt of a violent regime change. A transition must be orchestrated in a way that prioritizes the safety, dignity and agency of ordinary citizens. Otherwise, any hope for long-term stability or legitimacy will be irreparably compromised.

Equally important is the preservation of Iran's national integrity. The collapse of centralized authority, if handed poorly, could lead to internal fragmentation. Iran's multi-ethnic composition makes it particularly vulnerable to the dangers of civil war, sectarian conflict, and balkanization. Historical precedents in the region and beyond serve as cautionary tales: when state institutions disintegrate without a viable alternative, the vacuum is often filled by violence, extremism and disintegration. A reckless or hasty transition could unravel the fabric of Iranian society and transform it into a source of ongoing regional volatility. Thus, regime change must be accomplished by a clear and inclusive plan for maintaining national unity.

At the same time, any serious effort to remove the regime must account for the regime's capacity to retaliate beyond its borders. Faced with existential threat, Tehran may double down on its asymmetric strategies, unleashing proxy forces and sabotage campaigns throughout the region. Its allies including Hezbollah, Shia militias in Iraq and the Houthis in Yemen could be mobilized to spread instability and violence. In the worst case scenario, the regime could attempt to provoke a full-scale regional war. Any effective strategy must anticipate these contingencies and include parallel efforts to neutralize the regime's regional instruments of power.

To avert these dangers and enable a genuine transition, the democratic world must place its focus squarely on empowering Iran's civil society. This is the most effective and legitimate force capable of weakening the regime from within. Unlike external interventions, grassroots movements emerge from the people themselves and reflect their aspirations for freedom and dignity. The protests that erupted three years ago remain the clearest demonstration of civil society's transformative potential. That wave of resistance, led by women and youth, brought the regime to the brink of collapse and signaled a growing rejection of clerical authoritarianism. It was a moment of profound national awakening that deserves continued international support.

Already, civil society has forced the regime to make notable concessions. The most visible of these has been the retreat in enforcement of the mandatory hijab. While the law remains unchanged, widespread defiance has rendered it largely unenforceable in many areas. This is a powerful testament to the efficacy of internal resistance. Acts of civil disobedience when sustained and organized can push even the most entrenched regime into retreat. Such momentum must be nurtured, not squandered. Democratic nations should offer material, moral and institutional support to Iranian civil society, helping it grow in strength and reach.

To that end, Western governments must rethink their engagement with Iran. In every diplomatic dialogue, they should insist on concrete concessions that advance the rights and freedom of the Iranian people. This includes advocating for freedom of speech, women's rights, and unimpeded access to information. Moreover, long-term investments should be made in civic and educational programs that promote democratic values. Initiatives that

foster independent journalism, expand academic exchange and teach the principles of open governance can gradually build the social infrastructure required for a post-theocratic Iran.

Should military action ever become unavoidable, it must be pursued in concert with these civil society efforts. A purely external intervention, without internal legitimacy or grassroots support, risks repeating the tragic failures of Afghanistan and Iraq. In those cases, military success proved fleeting because it was not grounded in sustainable political or social framework. The lesson is clear: lasting change in Iran must come from within, with the people leading the way. The role of the international community is not to impose a new regime in Iran but to help cultivate the conditions in which democracy can flourish. Only then can Iran move beyond the shadow of tyranny and toward a future defined by democracy, peace and stability.

Dr. Reza Parchizadeh is a political theorist, security analyst and cultural expert. He wrote his masters thesis on Middle Eastern history and Orientalist philosophy, and his doctoral dissertation on political thought and cultural studies in the English-speaking world, and defended both with distinction.

His principal areas of research are Middle Eastern politics, security studies, foreign policy, international relations, medieval and early modern political thought, and Renaissance literature. Dr. Parchizadeh serves on the editorial boards of The Journal for Interdisciplinary Middle Eastern Studies of Ariel University and the international news agency Al Arabiya Farsi.

- *South Azerbaijani dissident Ahmet Obali*

After the 12-day war between Israel and Iran, the world should know two main points. Number one, the Islamic Republic will never give up on the pursuit of a nuclear bomb. Number two, this regime will not simply collapse by bombing and calls by so-called mainstream opposition. We also noticed that during the war, while Iran was being hit hard and unable to defend itself, there were calls by the Prime Minister of Israel and by so-called mainstream opposition, including monarchists, for the people to come out and overthrow the government. Of course, nothing happened.

There are good reasons why it did not happen. Because the so-called mainstream opposition, just like the current and previous regimes, have always ignored the ethnic minorities and non-Persian ethnic groups, which make up more than fifty percent of the population. If you look at the border between Iran and Pakistan, we see all of the Balochis concentrated on the borderline of Baluchistan. If you go down the shores of the Gulf of Oman and the Persian Gulf and up to Ahwaz, this is all populated by ethnic minorities. If you turn around going up around towards Turkey, you will see Kurds. Between Turkey and Iran, the border is populated by Azeris. If you go up towards Azerbaijan and Armenia, it is Azeris up till the Caspian Sea. If you go up towards Turkmenistan, it is populated by Turkmen. These are very important areas and important parts of the countries, which are populated by different ethnic groups.

All of the ethnic groups have their problems not only with the Iranian regime but also Persian nationalism. If you look at the Mahsa Amini uprising and pay attention, most of the areas that did the main protests were non-Persian areas. Non-Persian areas started and then towards the end, some Persian cities joined the protests. There is really a deep division that has not been

exploited to overthrow the regime. This really needs to be taken into account. Until then, nothing will happen. I am for the overthrow of the government and starting a new life in the country not only for Persians but all of the ethnic minorities, so that they can have their own voice on what they want to pursue.

I also believe that truly this regime is not only in pursuit of nuclear weapons but most Persian nationalists would like to have nuclear weapons. Therefore, we have to concentrate on the ethnic groups from the periphery to do the uprising and overthrow the government. One of the largest ethnic groups that have taken up arms to uprising and overthrow the government is the Kurds. We also have Baloch and Arabs. The problem is that while they pursue an armed uprising, the largest ethnic group is the Azerbaijanis and they do not want an uprising but a civil movement. There is a problem here between the ethnic groups. There has to be a solution formulated that will include all of the ethnic groups as well as the Persians. Then, you will have a winning formula to overthrow the regime.

The ethnic groups must be taken into account. They need to have a voice. They need to have hope. They need to have a coordinated effort or nothing will happen. To achieve this, the outside players really need to help the ethnic groups not only coordinate but to believe in themselves that they can actually do this.

This regime has so many problems. The country is financially collapsing. The people need to work. The people need to make money and earn a living. There is no electricity in many areas. There is no power in many areas, as the country is running out of power. This is a country full of problems. There is not a single problem that will make the regime fall. It needs to be a collection of everything. The collection is so big that it can be achieved via simple coordination. Most of the efforts should be on the ethnic minorities. Not only do they have their own cultural and political issues. They also have financial issues.

They suffer even more than the central part of the country. So, I think that the ethnic minorities should have a voice from outside helping them and should have television stations, organizations that can be concentrated on, personalities that can be concentrated on. There is not a single person in the opposition among the ethnic minorities that we can concentrate on and say that this person can successfully overthrow the regime. This person is not there. That is why the regime is still standing. So, the politicians and heads of the governments that seek a nuclear free Iran should spend more time on the people of Iran than bombs, fighting planes and rockets.

Ahmet Obali is the founder of the Chicago-based Gunaz TV (South Azerbaijani TV), which seeks to promote Azerbaijani nationalism in Iran and opposes Iran's theocratic regime. He is considered to be a prominent figure within the Iranian opposition within the United States and is a well-known journalist in the South Azerbaijani community, with cordial ties also with prominent figures in neighboring Azerbaijan.

He was the victim of a brutal assault by the Iranian regime in a hotel room in California, which left him permanently disabled. He gave his messages via voice messages, as the brutal assault implemented by the Iranian regime left him too disabled to type on the computer.

- *South Azerbaijani dissident Dr. Javad Abbassi*

For over four decades, the Islamic Republic of Iran has clung to power as one of the world's most repressive, ideologically rigid regimes. What began as a revolution promising freedom,

justice and dignity in 1979 instead gave birth to a centralized, Aryanist, patriarchal theocracy. Today, that regime is in terminal decline not only economically and politically, but morally, ideologically and socially. Iran does not simply need new leaders. It needs a new system.

The current political structure, anchored in the absolutist doctrine of Velayat-e-Faqih, concentrates power in the hands of unelected clerics and military elites. This exclusionary model suppresses reform, criminalizes dissent and governs through censorship, imprisonment and executions. Reformists are routinely silenced or disqualified from elections. The system is not merely resistant to change. It was designed to prevent it.

The Islamic Republic has fundamentally lost its political legitimacy. Especially after the mass uprisings of recent years, the majority of Iranians no longer recognize the regime's claim to sovereignty. Legitimacy derives from popular consent, but a state that systematically violates the rights of its people forfeits that consent. A striking historical parallel is the Soviet Union in 1981, a regime that lost public trust, lost legitimacy and ultimately disintegrated. Iran today finds itself in a similar trajectory.

This erosion of legitimacy is not theoretical. It is felt in every corner of daily life. Repression has replaced governance. Force has replaced persuasion. The regime can no longer claim to represent the Iranian people. It only rules over them.

Iran's economic collapse is not incidental. It is structural. Decades of state-run economic mismanagement, entrenched corruption and the monopolization of resources by the IRGC and clerical elites have decimated the private sector. Inflation is rampant. Poverty is widespread. The state has no credible economic plan, nor the capacity to implement one.

The result is a mafia-like economy where the gap between the rich and the poor has widened into a chasm. The middle class has all but disappeared, leaving a divided society of a disenfranchised majority and a predatory elite. The poor and the wealthy now view each other with mutual resentment. Economic grievances have become existential, driving protests across cities and provinces.

The Islamic Republic has not only failed economically. It has also fractured the very fabric of Iranian society. Gender apartheid, including the constitutional exclusion of women from political participation, is a cornerstone of the regime. One of the most glaring injustices within the Islamic Republic is the treatment of women. Iran's constitution, rooted in Sharia law, institutionalizes gender inequality by excluding women from meaningful political participation and leadership. Women are barred from running for the presidency, serving as judges in criminal courts or holding positions of significant religious or political authority. The exclusion is not incidental. It is structural and deliberate. The regime's gender policies amount to a form of gender apartheid, where women are treated as second class citizens under the guise of religious doctrine.

The institutionalized discrimination stands in direct violation of universal human rights norms and the principle of democratic inclusivity. Any legitimate transformation of Iran's political system must therefore begin with dismantling the patriarchal legal structures and replacing them with a secular, rights-based constitution that guarantees equal political, social and legal participation for women across all spheres of public life.

Women are systematically subjugated through discriminatory laws, forced veiling and institutionalized surveillance by morality police. Gender repression is not an aberration. It is central to the regime's ideology.

Simultaneously, the state weaponizes identity. Iran is a multiethnic and multilingual nation, home to Azerbaijanis, Kurds, Arabs, Baloch, Turkmen, Lurs and others. But the regime treats diversity as a threat, not a strength. Through policies of cultural erasure, demographic manipulation and securitization, it has denied these groups their right to self-determination, a right enshrined in the UN Charter and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The cleavages ethnic, sectarian, gender-based have all become active fault lines, not just latent tensions. The political system refuses to acknowledge the pluralistic nature of Iranian society and instead responds with censorship, surveillance and violent suppression. This has deepened the rift between state and society.

The Iranian political system is fundamentally closed and inflexible. It lacks the capacity to respond to social and political demands, let alone initiate genuine reform. It has entered a phase of absolute political gridlock, where repression is the only tool left in the regime's arsenal. The system is incapable of evolution. It is choking on its own rigidity.

Externally, Iran's foreign policy is constructed on ideological hostility rather than diplomacy and mutual interest. The regime has alienated nearly every regional and global partner, whether Azerbaijan, Arab states, the United States, Afghanistan or Israel. Its confrontational posture has led to crippling sanctions, diplomatic isolation and exclusion from regional alliances.

At the heart of this self-defeating policy is the Islamic Republic's reliance on proxy warfare. Through the IRGC and Quds Force, it has militarized the region, exporting instability to Syria, Iraq, Lebanon and Yemen. These operations serve the regime's revolutionary project, not the Iranian people and they come at a devastating economic and diplomatic cost.

Iran has become the only state in the region that openly engages in state-sponsored assassinations. Its international posture relies on supporting extremist non-state actors, sabotaging economic corridors and fueling insecurity across the Middle East.

Internally, the regime operates through parallel and opaque institutions from religious foundations to intelligence agencies designed not for governance but self-preservation. These entities serve the interests of mafia-like power networks, not the public. There is no transparency. No accountability. Reform is structurally impossible under this system.

Perhaps most critically, the values of the Iranian people are fundamentally at odds with the values of the regime. The majority of Iranians aspire to dignity, equality, representation and peace. The regime stands for repression, hierarchy, surveillance and confrontation. This irreconcilable conflict of values makes the survival of the current regime not just unsustainable, but untenable.

As the regime clings to power through executions, violence and fear, its moral legitimacy has disintegrated. The Islamic Republic is collapsing not because of foreign intervention but because of its internal contradictions. Iranian citizens, women, workers, students, minorities, are not asking for cosmetic reform. They are demanding a new social contract. From the

streets of Tehran to the villages of Sistan and Baluchistan, the call is not for regime change alone but for systematic transformation: political, legal, cultural and geopolitical.

The transformation must include:

- Full constitutional recognition of all ethnic and national identities within Iran, based on the principle of self-determination.
- Federal or confederal governance, empowering local communities and decentralizing power.
- Legal equality for women and the abolition of patriarchal laws and institutions.
- Clear separation of religion and state, ending the monopoly of ideological theocracy.
- The disarmament of militias and depoliticization of the military.
- Root and branch institutional reform to eliminate corruption and establish transparency.
- A diplomatic reset, reintegrating Iran into the global community through peace, not provocation.

The regime is no longer capable of reform or recovery. What Iran needs now is not another revolution of slogans, but a democratic reconstruction rooted in human dignity, pluralism, and justice. We must empower the Iranian people not only with moral support, but with international mechanisms, legal tools, and a new constitutional foundation for liberation. A free, inclusive and democratic Iran is not just possible. It is necessary. The time to begin that transformation is now.

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- *Kurdish journalist Sirwan Mansouri*

Since its establishment in 1979, the Islamic Republic of Iran has consistently relied on fear, intimidation and repression as key pillars for maintaining power. Through these means, it not only sustains its rule but also suppresses the people's ability to protest and organize. Within this repressive structure, the targeting of women and girls has always been a top priority.

The regime is well aware that women serve as the driving force behind social and cultural change, primarily due to their role in raising children and shaping future generations. Among the pillars of the regime's legitimacy is the enforcement of compulsory hijab and broader control over women's bodies and appearance. Given that the Islamic Republic is founded on Islamic principles and Ja'fari Shia jurisprudence, the enforcement of so-called Islamic norms in society, particularly in matters related to women's appearance, has become central to its ideological and political identity.

Any resistance to these norms is met with harsh retaliation. Women belonging to ethnic and religious minorities, especially Kurdish women, have historically faced even more severe repression. From the regime's perspective, they are doubly criminalized: first, for their ethnicity; second, for their faith. As ethnic Kurds, these women are automatically viewed as threats by the state. They are seen as the nurturers of future Kurdish resistance fighters, an existential challenge to the regime's centralized control.

Kurdish fighters have long been on the front lines defending not only the rights of the Kurdish people but also those of other oppressed national groups in Iran, often at great

personal cost: imprisonment, torture, execution and enforced disappearances. Religiously, many Kurdish women are Sunni Muslims, in contrast to the state's official Twelver Shia identity as enshrined in the constitution. This religious difference becomes an additional source of marginalization.

When combined with their ethnic background, it leads to systematic exclusion in education, employment and civil participation. For example, during the national university entrance exams, many desirable fields of study are effectively inaccessible to them due to the discriminatory practices. Even after graduation, ideological and religious interviews during the hiring process often disqualify them from entering public service.

Those who do succeed in gaining employment face additional barriers. Their ability to wear traditional Kurdish attire, practice religious rituals, speak their mother tongue in offices and schools, or teach in Kurdish is frequently restricted. Career advancement is also hampered due to ethnic and religious biases. This cycle of exclusion perpetuates across generations, beginning from birth and repeated throughout one's life, forming a systematic and class-based form of oppression.

The Jina Movement, "Women, Life, Freedom," which originated in Iranian Kurdistan following the murder of the Kurdish woman Mahsa Amini, illustrated the power and agency of Kurdish women. The uprising, which began in her hometown of Saqqez, quickly spread across the entire country. Kurdish women embraced a form of civil resistance that was non-violent, mobilized broad support among Iranian women and imposed a higher political cost on the regime's suppression tactics.

Though the state responded with brutal crackdowns, mass killings, imprisonment, blinding protesters, rape in prisons and passing laws like the Hijab and Chastity Bill, it failed to suppress the movement completely. Today, many Iranian women openly defy the regime's dress codes, not because the state lacks the will to enforce them, but because it lacks the capacity. In Kurdish society, however, compulsory hijab has never been the primary barrier for women.

Traditional Kurdish clothing, which is often comprehensive and modest, has allowed Kurdish women to navigate state dress codes without compromising their cultural identity. More importantly, the strong communal support for women in Kurdish society has played a vital role in their resistance. Masih Alinejad once pointed out on Voice of America that the reason the "Women, Life, Freedom" movement began in Kurdistan was precisely because Kurdish women are not left alone by their communities---they are supported and defended.

The celebration of Nowruz (Kurdish New Year), originally a cultural ritual, has in recent years evolved into a political act in Kurdistan. Kurdish women have taken the lead in these events, dressed in colorful traditional clothes, lighting fires, dancing and chanting slogans in support of political prisoners and martyrs. These acts of defiance have so alarmed the regime that in 2024, many of the organizers and participants were arrested and remain in prison. Despite relentless repression, Kurdish women continue to lead the fight for freedom and justice in Iran.

Their nonviolent resistance and perseverance have yielded partial victories, yet the broader struggle for women's rights in Iran, especially in Kurdish regions, requires collective national effort and international solidarity. The global community must amplify their voices, and free

media must shed light on their demands. Governments and policy makers around the world should exert pressure on the Islamic Republic to uphold basic human rights.

The solidarity of women across Iran hinges on civil organizing and grassroots mobilization---something Kurdish women have long exemplified and which could serve as a model for the rest of the country. Although significant progress has been made, the path to full realization of women's freedom remains long. Civil resistance, cross-class alliances and the rising cost of repression must force the regime to concede, even if only partially, to the legitimate demands of women. This is not impossible, but it will be a difficult and collective battle.

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Conclusion

Considering the grave threat that the Iranian regime continues to pose to the State of Israel and the fact that the Iranians are not permitting experts from the IAEA to access Iran's nuclear facilities, it would behoove the State of Israel to seek regime change in Tehran and not stop at the weakening of Iran's nuclear program following the 12-day-war. However, for this move to have lasting success, it should be done with the cooperation of Iran's ethnic minorities and members of the Persian opposition, not including the Pahlavis, who enjoy limited support within Iran proper.

Since Iranians opposed to the regime cannot unite around a single figure, a broad coalition should be formed that includes the Komala Party of Iranian Kurdistan, the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan, the Arab Struggle Movement for the Liberation of Ahwaz, the Baloch Liberation Army, the Baloch Liberation Front, the South Azerbaijan National Awakening Movement and other groups that are opposed to the Iranian regime. This coalition will work together in order to help the Iranian people topple the regime, while enjoying logistical, financial and emotional support from the State of Israel.

The State of Israel should start investing in helping the Kurds, South Azerbaijanis, Baloch, Ahwaz, and Turkmen of Iran obtain their freedom. The State of Israel should also make it a national priority to revive the "Women, Life, Freedom" movement, so that women and girls across Iran working together with Iran's ethnic minorities and other secular democratic members of the Iranian opposition can become a formidable force seeking to topple the regime.

Once a grassroots support base of Iranians is formed that is dedicated to the cause of regime change in Tehran, Israel with the backing of the Trump administration can provide air support as the Iranian people themselves demonstrate in the streets and work to overthrow the regime from below. With Israel fighting from the air and the Iranians themselves working to topple the regime from below, a winning formula is created in order to rid the world of the threat that the mullahs pose to the international community once and for all.

It is understood that many members of the Iranian opposition have different ideas for what a future Iran should look like. For example, the Arab Struggle Movement for the Liberation of Ahwaz are Arab nationalists, who want the Ahwaz region of Iran to be an independent state. Both the Baloch Liberation Front and the Baloch Liberation Army similarly seek an independent

Baluchistan In contrast, the Komala Party of Kurdistan is a social democratic party of Kurds, with former communist ties. Their ideas regarding Iran's future are more liberal.

In contrast, the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan is a separatist movement of Iranian Kurds, seeking a free and independent Kurdistan. However, the South Azerbaijan National Awakening Movement seeks for the South Azerbaijan region of Iran to be united with Azerbaijan proper and has close ties to the Azerbaijani government.

Other members of the Iranian opposition have a different vision for Iran's future, where the country will stay united under a democratic, decentralized, federal form of government. They bitterly reject the idea of Iran being broken up into a number of ethnic states. Such sectors of the opposition may be wary to work with Iran's successionist groups, even though these organizations are all well-organized and have the best shot at toppling the regime on the ground due to their already existing paramilitary activities.

However, all groups working with Israel should be convinced to put on hold their differing ideas about a post-mullah Iran and focus instead of toppling the regime. Once the mullahs are gone, the Kurds, Baloch, South Azerbaijanis, Persians, Turkmen and other members of Iranian society can hold debates and discussions, which will be voted on democratically, that will decide what direction that Iran will take in the future. However, the most important thing right now is to topple the regime and be united in this goal, so that all Iranians and the world entire can have a brighter future. All Iranians must know that once the regime is gone, everything can be on the table regarding ideas about Iran's future, so long as Iran's nuclear program is obliterated, Iran's proxies cease to exist, and the system of Vilayet E-Faqih is toppled. Everything else the Iranians themselves have the power to decide democratically and Israel will support them in this.

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