



MEDIA KIT

Ahead of the 2026 FIFA World Cup NCRI Calls on FIFA to Expel Iran's Regime from International Football

Press Conference • Photo Exhibition • March
Los Angeles City Hall
June 10, 2026



National Council of Resistance of Iran
U.S. Representative Office

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Biography of Speakers at NCRI-US World Cup Press Conference

Los Angeles City Hall, June 10, 2026

Hamid Azimi

Hamid Azimi is a Principal Applications Engineer at Oracle based in the San Francisco Bay Area and a member of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI). Drawing on a deep technology background and years of community organizing, he focuses on human rights in Iran, accountability for state repression, and practical policy steps the U.S. and Europe can take to support a democratic, secular, non-nuclear republic in Iran.

Asghar Adibi

Asghar Adibi is a former member of Iran's National Football Team in the 1970s. He was a midfielder who played for various clubs in Iran's Premier League. He participated in the 1974 Asian Games. Adibi is a member of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, which is Iran's parliament-in-exile.

Bahram Mavaddat

Bahram Mavaddat is a former player for Iran's National Football Team, and participated in the 1978 World Cup in Argentina. He was a goalkeeper with an impressive record of clean sheets that went unbroken for 40 years. He also won league championships in Iran's Premier League. Mavaddat is a member of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI). He will join virtually from Germany, where he lives.

Soolmaz Abouali

Dr. Abooali Soolmaz is a 3-time World and 5-time Pan American Champion, 16-time US National Champion, and USA team member in Traditional Karate. She holds a PhD in conflict resolution and is a professor at George Mason University. In 2025, Dr. Abooali was elected as the first female president of the World Traditional Karate-Do Federation.

Milad Sharif

Milad Sharif is a 17-year-old accomplished wrestler born in the United States to Iranian parents. He is the captain of his high school wrestling team and is also part of the Los Angeles wrestling team. He has spent his life raising awareness about human rights violations in Iran.

Shahram Homayounfar

Shahram Homayounfar is a former member of the Homa soccer team, a prominent team in Iran's Premier League in the 1970s. He lives in San Diego as a financial advisor.



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How the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) interferes in Iranian Sports, Suppresses Athletes

June 10, 2026

Over the past four decades, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has systematically brought Iranian sports under its control.

Thus, Iran's football federation is in egregious violations of FIFA statutes, and must be expelled from FIFA, the same way South Africa, during the Apartheid regime, was banned from all international competitions in all sports.

The Iranian regime interferes in sports through various means:

1. Installing military commanders in management positions for control, seizing ownership and control of clubs
 - a) The President of the Iranian Football Federation (Mehdi Taj) is a former IRGC intelligence officer.
 - b) IRGC commanders occupy management positions in the majority of Persian Gulf Pro League clubs.
 - c) At least 15 IRGC commanders have been formally documented and identified in club management.
2. Suppressing protesting athletes
 - a) Since 1981, hundreds of athletes, including Habib Khabiri, who was the captain of Iran's National Football Team, have been executed for their political beliefs.
 - b) Navid Afkari, a champion wrestler, was executed in 2020 for participating in anti-government protests.
 - c) During the uprisings since 2018, many athletes have participated in the protests, and dozens have been killed by the regime.
 - d) Since the January 2026 uprising, a number of athletes who were arrested during the protests have been hanged by the Iranian regime.
3. Imposing ideological and gender-based control
 - a) Iran is the only country in the world that systematically bans women from entering sports stadiums.
4. Iran's Football Federation must be expelled from FIFA
 - a) Direct interference of the IRGC in football
 - b) Suppression of players.
 - c) Discrimination based on their gender or political beliefs.

Iranian Sports under the Shadow of the IRGC

Sports in Iran—especially football (soccer)—extend far beyond mere athletic activity; they are a profound socio-political phenomenon. In a country of over 90 million people, Iran's stadiums are among the few public spaces where citizens can collectively

express their emotions. This very characteristic has made sports a strategic target for institutions of power, particularly the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC).

Over the course of four decades, the IRGC has systematically brought Iranian sports under its control through some primary mechanisms:

- Installing military commanders in management positions to directly interfere. The President of the Iranian Football Federation (Mehdi Taj) is a former IRGC intelligence officer. IRGC commanders occupy management positions in the majority of Persian Gulf Pro League clubs. At least 15 IRGC commanders have been formally documented and identified in club management.
- Seizing ownership of clubs for additional influence, turning them into tools that serve their purposes.
- Suppressing protesting athletes and imposing ideological and gender-based control. Navid Afkari, a champion wrestler, was executed in 2020 for participating in anti-government protests. Iran is the only country in the world that systematically bans women from entering sports stadiums.

Mass Executions of Athletes in the 1980s

Since its inception, the clerical regime has carried out mass executions of political dissidents, particularly supporters of the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI/MEK), which is the main Iranian opposition movement that has confronted the regime since its early days, with extensive support among the youth and athletes. Prominent Iranian sports champions were killed by the regime for their association with the MEK:

- **Habib Khabiri:** Captain of the Iranian national football (soccer) team; he was executed by firing squad in June 1984.
- **Forouzan Abdi:** Member of the Iranian women's national volleyball team; she was hanged during the 1988 prison massacres for her support of the MEK after spending seven years in prison.
- **Houshang Montazer-ol-Zohour:** Champion Greco-Roman wrestler who represented Iran at the 1976 Montreal Olympics; he was executed on October 3, 1981, only weeks after he became the Iranian wrestling champion in the 82 kg division in 1981.
- **Shahla Shahdoost:** A member of the women's national table tennis team and a law student at the University of Tehran; she was executed in 1981.
- **Ala Koushali:** Footballer for Daraei, Persepolis, and the Iranian select team; he was tortured to death by IRGC operatives who shot him repeatedly in the forests of northern Iran on December 28, 1981.
- **Mahshid Razaghi:** Member of the Iranian National under-23-year football team and Homa Club; he was executed by an IRGC firing squad on July 30, 1988.

- **Samad Montazeri:** A weightlifting champion who represented Iran in the 1986 Asian Games and later joined the ranks of the MEK and was killed in 1988.
- **Javad Nasiri:** Member of the Iranian national fencing team; he was sent to the gallows in the summer of 1988.

Execution of Sports Champions in Popular Uprisings of the Past Decade

The clerical regime has executed numerous Iranian sports champions who participated in the popular uprisings of 2017–2018, 2019, 2022, and the recent January 2026 protests.

Among these victims is **Navid Afkari Sangari** (July 13, 1993 – September 12, 2020), a national wrestling champion. He was arrested, brutally tortured, and executed on fabricated charges of killing a security guard during the 2018 protests.

During the uprising of January 2026, many more athletes from among the Iranian people were killed, including: Hadi Forough, Mahan Mardani, Ahmad Ramezanzadeh, Sepehr Ebrahimi, Yazdan Afrough, Abolfazl Mehri, Zahra Azadpour, Mohammad Hossein Parnoun, Erfan Ebrahimi, Mobin Ghanbari, Ahmad Khosravani, Saman Fattahi, and Milad Mianekhah.

Suppression of Protesting Athletes

- **Media Surveillance:** The IRGC-controlled Fars and Tasnim news agencies systematically identify and target "defiant" athletes.
- **Threats and Arrests:** Protesting athletes face direct intimidation, arbitrary arrest, and prolonged imprisonment.
- **Professional Bans:** Implementation of lifelong bans from all sports and athletic activities.
- **Pressure on Families:** Retaliatory arrests of family members and targeted destruction of personal property.
- **Coerced Confessions:** State television (IRIB) regularly broadcasts forced confessions extracted from detained athletes under duress.

Banning Women from Entering Stadiums

Iran remains the only country in the world that systematically bars women from entering sports stadiums. This ban has been strictly enforced by security forces since 1981, despite the absence of any written statutory law. Recent moves to allow a limited, token number of women into specific matches are purely performative and designed for international public relations.

APPENDIX: MEK's Athlete Executed by the Iranian regime



HABIB KHABIRI

- ★ National football star and former captain of Iran's national team
- III Imprisoned for his political beliefs after the 1979 revolution
- EXECUTED** BY THE IRANIAN REGIME IN 1984 AT THE AGE OF 29 for affiliation with the MEK
- ✈ Remembered as a symbol of courage, dignity, and sacrifice



MANY IRANIAN ATHLETES HAVE BEEN PERSECUTED, IMPRISONED, OR KILLED FOR THEIR BELIEFS.

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FIFA MUST EXPEL THE IRGC-CONTROLLED FOOTBALL FEDERATION OF IRAN.



FOROUZAN ABDI

IRAN'S NATIONAL VOLLEYBALL CHAMPION

EXECUTED AT 31

- III A celebrated athlete imprisoned for seven years
- ✈ Executed by the Iranian regime during the 1988 massacre for affiliation with the MEK
- ✊ One of many Iranian athletes persecuted for their beliefs
- ♥ Honor her memory. Stand with the people of Iran.



FROM FOROUZAN ABDI TO TODAY'S PERSECUTED ATHLETES, THE IRANIAN REGIME HAS USED SPORTS AS A TOOL OF REPRESSION.

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FIFA MUST EXPEL THE IRGC-CONTROLLED FOOTBALL FEDERATION OF IRAN.



June 10, 2026

Iran allegedly used soccer clubs to spy on citizens, opposition group urges FIFA ban regime before World Cup

NCRI report alleges facial-recognition cameras, seat-by-seat ID mapping and security officials across Iranian clubs

By Jackson Thompson Fox News

EXCLUSIVE: Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has allegedly used the country's soccer system to spy on citizens, potentially [violating FIFA bylaws](#), according to a new report from a major opposition party.



Iranian opposition officer reveals alleged plot by IRGC to weaponize the country's soccer matches

National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI)'s U.S. office's Deputy Director Alireza Jafarzadeh reveals shocking soccer plot report to Fox News Digital.

The National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI)'s U.S. office provided the report to Fox News Digital. It outlines an alleged plot for Iran's soccer federation and top clubs to be drawn into a broader state security apparatus, and that at least 15 IRGC commanders have been formally documented and identified in soccer club management.

The NCRI, citing alleged official IRGC documents, accuses the IRGC of using clubs, stadium infrastructure and security-linked management posts to monitor fans, suppress dissenting athletes and violate FIFA rules on political interference.

The report alleges facial-recognition technology and other devices and tracking systems were used to monitor spectators. The report cites alleged internal Iranian security documents, including Tehran Province [Security Council](#) material from 2025 and a Sarallah Headquarters security plan from 2024.

According to NCRI-US's translations of those documents, officials discussed facial-recognition cameras at Azadi, Takhti and Shahr-e Qods stadiums; ticketing tied to Iran's national civil-registration database; seat-by-seat mapping of spectators by national ID; monitoring and vetting of fan-club leaders; and designated police staging areas or quick-reaction units inside stadiums.

"It is highly critical for security, intelligence, and law enforcement agencies to utilize and exploit the video surveillance cameras of the Azadi Complex during matches, given the constant potential for unpredictable security incidents. It is highly conceivable that future riots and civil unrest could originate inside the sports stadiums," the report said, quoting the documents.

Fox News Digital reached out to the Football Federation Islamic Republic of Iran and Iran's mission to the [United Nations](#) for comment.

NCRI-US is the Washington office of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, an Iranian opposition coalition that advocates replacing the Islamic Republic with what it describes as a democratic, secular and non-nuclear republic. The group says the material was obtained through the network inside Iran of the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran, or MEK, a major opposition movement that Tehran considers an enemy.

[Alireza Jafarzadeh](#), deputy director of NCRI-US, told Fox News Digital that the organization first became focused on stadium surveillance while tracking how Iranian authorities identified protesters during recent uprisings.

"Our focus was basically in terms of the protests and seeing how the Iran regime actually [was] trying to identify the protesters in the streets, identifying the leaders of the protests," Jafarzadeh said. He said NCRI later realized, while reviewing what he described as a large batch of internal material, that "when it comes to a sports field, the [Iran regime has a special](#) attention on sports as a means of repression."

Jafarzadeh added that Iranian soccer stadiums are among the few spaces where large numbers of young people gather and express collective emotion, making them a target for [security forces](#). Soccer is Iran's most popular sport, and clubs such as Persepolis and Esteghlal draw massive followings.

According to NCRI's report, minutes from a May 2025 Sports Commission meeting under the Tehran Province Security Council discussed the need to equip multiple Azadi, Takhti and Shahr-e Qods stadiums with facial-recognition cameras.

The same document says cooperation from the Football Federation, the Football League Organization, Esteghlal and Persepolis was "strictly required" for the [video surveillance](#) project at Azadi Stadium, according to the NCRI. Another section lists the president of Iran's soccer federation, Mehdi Taj, among officials copied for "executive implementation."

The report also cited minutes from a later Tehran Province Security Council session saying officials discussed smart ticketing connected to Iran's National Organization for Civil Registration, mandatory identity verification, numbered seats matched to national ID numbers, facial-recognition cameras, X-ray scanning machines and "fan cards" for pre-vetted fan leaders.



Habib Khabiri, former captain of Iran's national soccer team (right), and Forouzan Abdi, a former member of the women's national volleyball team, were executed in 1984 and 1988 by the Iranian regime for their affiliation with the main Iranian opposition movement, the MEK

The report also cited minutes from a later Tehran Province Security Council session saying officials discussed smart ticketing connected to Iran's National Organization for Civil Registration, mandatory identity verification, numbered seats matched to national ID numbers, facial-recognition cameras, X-ray scanning machines and "fan cards" for pre-vetted fan leaders.

Jafarzadeh said NCRI believes the purpose of collecting such information is to identify people who oppose the regime and enable later arrests.

"The information they got from the sports facilities, they used in order to identify the people who were opposed to the regime, and then later on arrested them," Jafarzadeh said. "The regime uses sports and athletic events in order to exert its repression on the population."

The report further alleged that Iran's soccer system has been penetrated by IRGC and security-linked figures for decades. NCRI names at least 15 people it describes as IRGC or security-linked figures who have held senior positions in clubs, federations, league management or sports bodies. Among them, the report [identifies Taj as a former](#) IRGC intelligence officer who currently leads the Iran soccer federation.

Official FIFA bylaws say member associations must "manage their affairs independently," ensure their affairs are not influenced by third parties, and that they be "neutral in matters of politics and [religion](#)," "independent," and avoid "any form of political interference."

Jafarzadeh said FIFA should expel Iran's soccer federation, comparing the case to international sports bans imposed on apartheid-era South Africa.

"You cannot have a sports club, a sports facility, dominated with the military, which is part of the Iran regime," he said. "Sports federations, they have to be able to operate autonomously independent of the government..."

"My message to FIFA is that do exactly what you did with South Africa during the apartheid. The Iranian Football Federation that is controlled by the Revolutionary Guards must be expelled from FIFA."

FIFA also says violations of that independence requirement can lead to sanctions, even if the outside influence was not the fault of the association.

Fox News Digital has reached out to FIFA for comment.

The report also accuses Iran of systematic gender discrimination in sports, especially [restrictions on women entering stadiums](#) and state control over female athletes' uniforms.

Human Rights Watch reported in 2022 that Iranian authorities blocked dozens of women from entering a soccer stadium in Mashhad. FIFA, however, has also pointed to recent cases where women were allowed to attend Iranian matches, including a 2024 women-only crowd at a Persian Gulf Pro League match in Isfahan.

Rights groups say Iranian women continue to face discriminatory barriers to stadium access.

Rights groups have documented cases in which Iranian athletes faced punishment after supporting or participating in anti-government protests.

Habib Khabiri, a former famed Iran national soccer player and team captain, was listed in a 1985 United Nations report among people "allegedly summarily and arbitrarily executed" in Iran in 1984-1985. Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty reported that Khabiri was arrested in 1983, tortured in prison and executed in 1984 after alleged ties to the Mojahedin-e Khalq.



Habib Khabiri, the captain of Iran's National Soccer Team, was executed for supporting the PMOI.

Habid Khabiri, former captain of Iran's National Soccer Team, executed by the Iranian regime in June 1984 because he refused to denounce his affiliation with the main Iranian opposition movement, the PMOI/MEK.

[Jafarzadeh highlighted](#) Khabiri as a symbol of the regime's repression of athletes, as Khabiri was a rising soccer star who became captain of Iran's national team before being arrested and asked to appear on television to renounce his political beliefs.

"He refused, and he was executed on June 21, 1984," Jafarzadeh said. "He became a symbol for all of the athletes."

Jackson Thompson is a sports reporter for Fox News Digital covering critical political and cultural issues in sports, with an investigative lens. Jackson's reporting has been cited in federal government actions related to the enforcement of Title IX, and in legacy media outlets including The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, The Philadelphia Inquirer, The Associated Press and ESPN.com.

Signatories Of International Athletes' Appeal To Stop Execution Of Iran's Sports Stars – June 2026



Martina Navratilova

Former World No. 1 Women's Tennis Player - (Czech Republic/United States)



Soolmaz Abooli

16-time US Champion and 3-time World Champion in Traditional Karate - (United States)



Sharron Davies MBE

Swimmer, Olympic Medalist - (United Kingdom)



Craig Foster AM

Former Captain of the National Football Team of Australia - (Australia)



Alberto Frati

Boxer; Former UBO International Super Featherweight Champion - (Italy)



Nikolai Terteryan

Boxer; European Games Gold Medalist - (Denmark)



Moslem Eskandar Filabi

Olympian; Gold Medalist in Greco-Roman Wrestling at the Asian Games - (Iran)



Tracy Edwards MBE

1990 Yachtsman of the Year; Skipper of the First All-Female Crew in the Whitbread Round the World Yacht Race - (United Kingdom)



Bahram Mavaddat

Former Goalkeeper of the National Football Team of Iran - (Iran)



Carilyn Johnson

Ultrarunner, 4-time Member of Team USA; 2-time Gold and 1-time Silver Medalist Team Member at the IAU 24-Hour World Championship - (United States)



Mohammad Ghorbani

Olympian; Gold Medalist in Freestyle Wrestling at the World Championships and Asian Games - (Iran)



Inga Thompson

Cyclist, Olympian, 10-time US National Champion, 3-time World Medallist - (United States)



Statement on Religious Fascism Ruling Iran and the Murderer of Athletes on the Eve of the 2026 FIFA World Cup

On June 2, 2026, the NCRI's Sports Commission issued the following statement addressing concerns related to athletes, governance, and the 2026 FIFA World Cup:

After 47 years of repression, executions, and massacres carried out by the religious fascism ruling Iran, especially following the January 2026 uprising and massacre, the time has come for the theocracy ruling Iran to be expelled from the International Football Federation (FIFA), as was the case regarding the Apartheid regime in South Africa in the 1960s.

The Sports Committee of the National Council of Resistance of Iran asks FIFA not to allow the medieval clerical dictatorship to misuse the World Cup matches to lend legitimacy to the oppression of the Iranian people, especially the Iranian athletes. South Africa only gained access to FIFA and global tournaments after the fall of Apartheid.

To better control athletes and sports environments, and to further plunder and loot, the **Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)** has been elevated to dominate major parts of Iran's sports, particularly football.

The Iranian Football Federation is under the control of the IRGC, which is listed as a terrorist organization by both the United States and the European Union.

The head of the football federation—who accompanies the Iranian regime's team in competitions—is a criminal IRGC commander and a repressive figure named Mehdi Taj. The government of Canada recently blocked his entry into Canada.

In the past 47 years, the religious dictatorship has arrested, tortured, and/or executed hundreds of the best athletes and national champions, or killed them during street protests. More prominent athletes have been banned from sports arenas and international competitions for the slightest opposition to the regime.

Only during the people's uprising in Iran last January, a significant number of young Iranian athletes were killed and executed.

On behalf of the athletes who fell for freedom, such as **Habib Khabiri** (captain of the national team and member of the Iranian national football team in the 1978 World Cup qualifying matches), **Alaeddin Etrati Koushali** (soccer player, member of the Iran Under-23 national football team), **Mahshid Razaghi** (soccer player), **Forozan Abdī** (member of the Iranian women's national volleyball team), **Houshang Montazerolzehour** (member of the Iranian national Greco-Roman wrestling team), **Samad Montazeri** (national champion of weightlifting), and **Navid Afkari** (wrestling champion), along with the many other suppressed athletes and their families in Iran, we call on FIFA to strongly condemn the religious fascism ruling Iran for the killings and purges of athletes and to expel it from FIFA.

- **Moslem Eskandar Filabi**, Chair of the Sports Committee of the National Council of Resistance of Iran
- **Dr. Mohammad Qorbani**, World Wrestling Champion in 1971, winner of 9 world wrestling medals
- **Asghar Adibi**, a member of Iran's national football team during the 1970 Asian Games in Bangkok
- **Bahram Mavadat**, member of Iran's national football team in the 1978 World Cup in Argentina
- **Hassan Naiebagha**, member of Iran's national football team in the 1978 World Cup in Argentina and the 1976 Olympics in Montreal
- **Abbas Novinrouzgar**, a former member of Iran's national football team

National Council of Resistance of Iran – Sports Committee
June 2, 2026

Champions Martyred for A Free Iran

True Representatives of the Iranian Nation



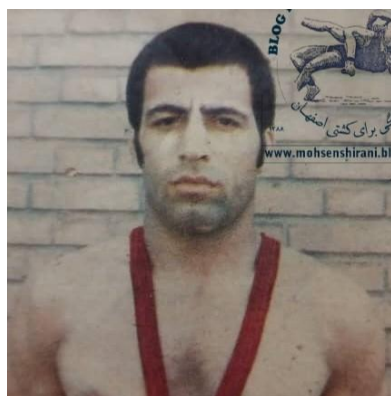
Habib Khabiri, captain of Iran's national football team, was tortured and executed in 1984 because of his political beliefs and affiliation with the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI/MEK). He had been arrested by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) in 1982.

During his imprisonment, authorities repeatedly pressured Khabiri to renounce the PMOI/MEK and publicly condemn the organization. According to former political prisoners, Khabiri refused, choosing to remain loyal to his struggle for freedom and democracy. Reports indicate that his fiancée was also executed on the same day.



Khabiri was not the only Iranian athlete persecuted for his political convictions.

Forouzan Abdi, a member of Iran's national women's volleyball team, was arrested in 1982 because of her affiliation with the PMOI/MEK. Authorities subjected her to severe physical and psychological torture. In an effort to force her to recant, security forces detained members of her family for several months. Despite these pressures, she refused to renounce her beliefs. Abdi was ultimately executed during the 1988 massacre of political prisoners, in which an estimated 30,000 prisoners were killed.



Houshang Montazerolzohour, a gold medalist on Iran's national Greco-Roman wrestling team, was arrested along with his father in August 1981, only two days after winning a national wrestling championship. One month later, he was executed because of his membership in the PMOI/MEK.

Montazerolzohoor had represented Iran at the 1976 Summer Olympics in Montreal and at the 1977 Summer Universiade in Bulgaria.



Mahshid Razaghi, a member of Iran's national Olympic football team, was arrested in 1980 for distributing anti-government publications and sentenced to one year in prison.

After completing his sentence, however, he was not released and remained imprisoned until his execution during the 1988 massacre of political prisoners. His brother, Ahmad Razaghi, was executed days later.



National wrestling champion Navid Afkari was arrested following anti-government protests in 2018. To justify a death sentence, Iranian authorities accused him of murder, a charge he consistently denied. Afkari stated that he had been subjected to torture and forced to confess.

His case drew international attention, prompting appeals from athletes, human rights organizations, political leaders, and sporting bodies around the world. Nevertheless, Iranian authorities carried out his execution on September 12, 2020.



Alaeddin Etrati Koushali (also known as Koushali Etrati) was a member of Iran's Under-23 national football team and a university student.

He was executed by the Iranian regime on December 23, 1981, in the city of Lahijan because of his political activities and support for the PMOI/MEK.

Today, he is remembered alongside other executed Iranian athletes whose lives were cut short because of their commitment to freedom in Iran.



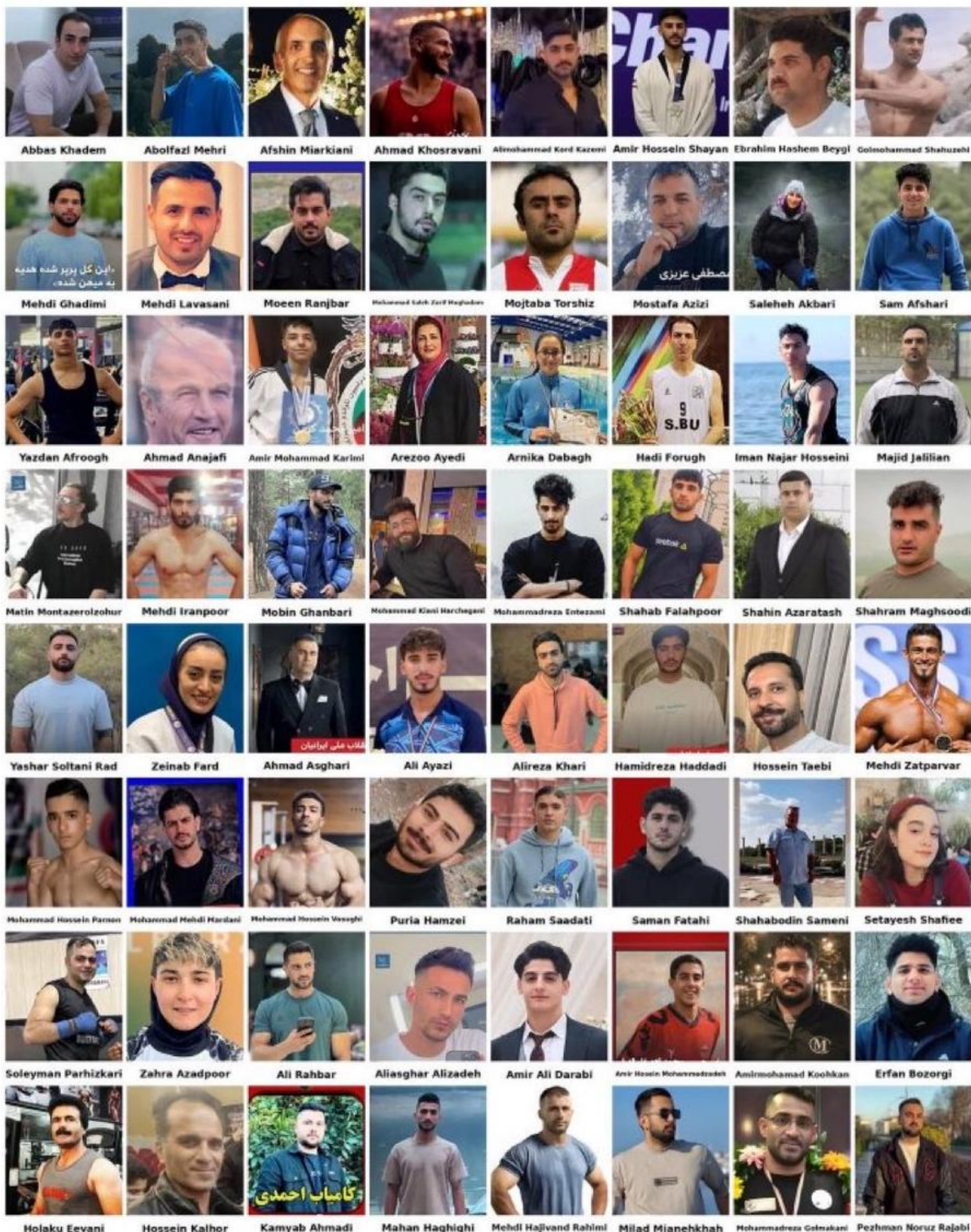
Samad Montazeri was a member of Iran's national weightlifting team for three years before joining the Iranian Resistance in 1987.

While traveling with Iran's weightlifting delegation to South Korea for the Asian Games, he broke away from regime control and joined the Resistance.

In July 1988, he was killed while fighting alongside Resistance forces against the Iranian regime.

Athletes Killed in Iran's January 2026 Uprising

Champions of Freedom, True Representatives of a Nation Striving for Liberty



National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), The Parliament in Exile



The NCRI was founded in July 1981 in Tehran, Iran, and acts as the parliament-in-exile, which aims to establish a secular, democratic, and non-nuclear republic in Iran.

There are five organizations represented in the NCRI, including the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI), also known as Mujahedin-e Khalq (MEK), the largest and most popular resistance group in Iran.

The NCRI is committed to gender equality, freedom of religion, thought, press, and association, support for peace in the Middle East, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI), aka MEK

Formed in 1965, the MEK, the largest and best-organized Iranian opposition movement, is the main component of the democratic coalition, the NCRI. The MEK is committed to a secular, democratic, non-nuclear republic. MEK has been at the forefront of opposition to the mullahs, who view the MEK as an existential threat due to its support at home.

MEK's modern, tolerant, and democratic view on Islam has been the antithesis to the Islamic fundamentalists and the *velayat-e faqih* system. The MEK has been the main victim of repression in Iran. In summer 1988, the Iranian regime massacred 30,000 political prisoners, mostly members of MEK. Over 100,000 of its members have been murdered since 1981.



MARYAM RAJAVI'S TEN-POINT PLAN FOR THE FUTURE OF IRAN

1. Rejection of *velayat-e faqih* (absolute clerical rule). Affirmation of the people's sovereignty in a republic founded on universal suffrage and pluralism;

2. Freedom of speech, freedom of political parties, freedom of assembly, freedom of the press and the internet. Dissolution and disbanding of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), the terrorist Qods Force, plainclothes groups, the unpopular Basij, the Ministry of Intelligence, Council of the Cultural Revolution, and all suppressive patrols and institutions in cities, villages, schools, universities, offices, and factories;

3. Commitment to individual and social freedoms and rights in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Disbanding all agencies in charge of censorship and inquisition. Seeking justice for massacred political prisoners, prohibition of torture, and the abolishment of the death penalty;

4. Separation of religion and state, and freedom of religions and faiths;

5. Complete gender equality in the realms of political, social, cultural, and economic rights and equal participation of women in political leadership. Abolishment of any form of discrimination; the right to choose one's own clothing freely; the right to freely marry and divorce, and to obtain education and employment. Prohibition of all forms of exploitation against women under any pretext;

6. An independent judiciary and legal system consistent with international standards based on the presumption of innocence, the right to defense counsel, the right of appeal, and the right to be tried in a public court. Full independence of judges. Abolishment of the mullahs' Sharia law and dissolution of Islamic Revolutionary Courts;

7. Autonomy for and removal of double injustices against Iranian nationalities and ethnicities consistent with the NCRI's plan for the autonomy of Iranian Kurdistan;

8. Justice and equal opportunities in the realms of employment and entrepreneurship for all people of Iran in a free market economy. Restoration of the rights of blue-collar workers, farmers, nurses, white-collar workers, teachers, and retirees;

9. Protection and rehabilitation of the environment, which has been massacred under the rule of the mullahs;

10. A non-nuclear Iran that is also devoid of weapons of mass destruction. Peace, co-existence, and international and regional cooperation.



Maryam Rajavi is the President-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), a coalition of some 500 Iranian opposition groups and personalities, committed to a democratic, secular and non-nuclear republic in Iran. Half of NCRI's members are women. As a Parliament-in-exile, the Council's primary task is to hold free and fair elections for a Legislative and National Constituent Assembly in Iran no more than six months after the ouster of the ruling theocracy.