Editor's Note

Killing Spree Continues in Iran

Last week, the regime continued its descent into darkness, marked by a relentless campaign of executions designed to quell dissent and stifle opposition.

In the past fortnight alone, the theocracy took the lives of at least 37 prisoners across various cities including Isfahan, Bandar Abbas, Gonbad Kavous, Tabriz, Arak, and Gorgan. These brutal executions, carried out in the shadows of secrecy, serve to remind the world of the regime's utter disregard for the sanctity of human life.

Urgent intervention is imperative to halt the relentless cycle of torture and execution that threatens the lives of thousands languishing on death row.

For far too long, the regime's officials have evaded accountability for their crimes against humanity and acts of genocide spanning four decades. Their continued impunity serves as a chilling endorsement of further bloodshed and lawlessness.

The President-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), Maryam Rajavi, tweeted: "The @UN , the #HumanRights Council & Special Rapporteur on #Iran must take urgent action to save the lives of political prisoners Reza Rasaeei and Habib Deris who face imminent execution. The Iranian regime's Judiciary must also withdraw the fake and cunning execution verdict against the popular rapper Toomaj Salehi."

In response to this tyranny, the Iranian people rise in unified resistance, fueled by an unwavering determination to overthrow the shackles of oppression and reclaim their long-denied freedom. Theirs is a struggle not merely for survival, but for the very soul of a nation ensnared in the grip of tyranny.

This week's featured article covers a conference in Berlin, attended by German lawmakers, and says: "Moderated by Christian Muller, a representative of the German Federal Parliament, the meeting delved into critical discussions on the Iranian regime’s terrorism, its demonization campaign against the National Council of Resistance Iran (NCRI), its human rights violations, and the need to expand the activities in Germany in supporting the Iranian people’s quest for a free, democratic and non-nuclear republic of Iran."

Human Rights

37 executions, including one woman, in the past 10 days
NCRI (Apr. 29) - Ali Khamenei, in fear of a popular uprising, continues to carry out brutal executions of prisoners. Today, Monday, April 29, the regime’s executioners hanged three prisoners in Isfahan prison. On Sunday, April 28, Rashed Baluch and Hojjat Shams Khani were executed in Bandar Abbas, and another Baluch compatriot named Mansour Naroui was executed in Gonbad Kavous. On Saturday, April 27, three prisoners named Sohrab Hokmabad, Amir Mahrani, and Davoud Namari were hanged in Tabriz Central Prison.
and Iraj Sanamiri was hanged in Arak Prison. On Tuesday, April 23, two prisoners were hanged in Gorgan and Arak. On Wednesday, April 24, Khamenei’s henchmen executed at least eight prisoners, and on April 21, they executed 16 prisoners, the names of 19 of whom were listed in the NCRI statement released on April 25. Thus, the number of registered executions in the past 10 days has risen to at least 37 prisoners. In another criminal act, agents of the repressive State Security Forces opened fire on the car of two young men named Mohannad Khashnan and Younes Chah Ahmadi in Bandar Abbas on Saturday, April 27, which resulted in the car catching fire and the death of both young men. Read more...

**Start of a new wave of executions in Iran: Execution of 9 prisoners in one day**

Iran HRM (Apr. 22) – The suppression of security forces against women in Iran, under the pretext of combating improper veiling, began on Saturday, April 13, 2024, and has taken on unprecedented dimensions with beatings, violence, and unprecedented brutality against women. On the first day, security forces surrounded several main squares in Tehran with patrol vans from the Guidance Patrol and repressive forces. They brutally detained any woman who did not comply with their standards. Reports and images shared by Tehran citizens vividly demonstrate this suppression. The sound of stun guns can be clearly heard in one of the published videos capturing the moment of a woman’s arrest by the Guidance Patrol. On Wednesday, April 16, 2024, security forces provoked a woman near Tajrish Metro Station in northern Tehran, leading to her nervous breakdown. Witnesses of this incident have reported that several individuals who had filmed the scene were abducted, and the woman was transferred to the hospital. Read more...

**Iranian rapper’s death sentence draws international uproar**

The Wall Street Journal (Apr. 27) – An Iranian court has sentenced a popular dissident rapper to death following his outspoken support of the 2022 women’s rights movement, drawing international criticism of Tehran as it renews a crackdown on dissent. The sentence handed down by a judge in Isfahan this week against rapper Toomaj Salehi, 33, on vague national-security charges is “unprecedented,” said one of his lawyers, Mostafa Nili. Salehi denies the charges. Read more...

**Alarming rise in casualties among border workers**

HRANA (Apr. 28) – HRANA News Agency reports that from February 20 to April 19, 2024, the number of incidents causing death and injury among cross-border laborers (Kolbar) and fuel carriers (Sukhtbar) has significantly increased. During this period, at least 15 Kolbars in the border areas of Kermanshah, Kurdistan, and West Azerbaijan provinces, and 9 Sukhtbars in the southeastern border areas of the country, lost their lives. Additionally, 141 Kolbars and 11 Sukhtbars were injured. Indiscriminate military shootings were the leading cause, followed by incidents such as falls from heights, frostbite, and cardiac arrest. In comparison, the casualty figures from the previous two months totaled 93 (10 dead and 83 injured). This indicates a 90% increase in casualties and injuries among border workers (both Kolbars and Sukhtbars) in the recent two months. Read more...

**Protests, Economy**

**Workers, retirees protest deteriorating economic conditions and mounting repression by the regime**

PMOI (Apr. 28) – Protests have been sweeping across Iran as the country faces a deteriorating economic situation and growing repression, particularly against women and girls. Over the past two days, workers, retirees, farmers, and truck drivers have taken to the streets in cities across Iran to demand their rights and voice their discontent with the regime’s policies. On April 26-28, truck drivers in several cities, including Tehran, Asaluyeh, and Babaiy Expressway, went on strike to protest the significant reduction in their fuel rations. With the price of fuel continuing to rise due to the regime’s disastrous policies, the drivers are finding it harder to make ends meet. And the government reducing the allocation of subsidized fuel will only make things worse for them and have a ripple
effect on the costs of living. In Tehran’s Babayi Expressway, the protesting drivers held a large placard that read, “In the year of ‘production leap,’ we don’t have diesel fuel.” The slogan is a reference to comments by regime supreme leader Ali Khamenei who called the Persian calendar year 1403 (March 2024–March 2025) the year of “production leap.”

Read more...

Iranian Resistance

Maryam Rajavi’s message to conference of German MPs in Berlin
Official website (Apr. 25) – … Exporting terrorism, Islamic fundamentalism, and warmongering are the main elements of the foreign policy of the clerical regime in Iran. This has always been a part of the regime’s survival strategy. However, in the current situation, because of its extreme weakness and its fear from people’s uprisings leading to its overthrow, it has resorted to these destructive policies. The religious dictatorship ruling Iran is at war with Iranian society and the international community. In 2023 alone, the regime executed 864 individuals. These days the regime has intensified suppression of women in the streets. Their goal is to enchain the society and prevent another uprising. In addition, it launched terrorist attacks abroad on the office of the National Council of Resistance in Berlin and centers affiliated with the resistance in Paris and London. Plots against Ashraf 3 and trial for more than 100 members of the Iranian Resistance in their absence. The recent developments in the region also show that the regime relies on war to maintain its power. On April 13, the regime had to put aside the mask of proxy groups and directly enter the war. It was proven that the main party to the war that started on October 7 is the Iranian regime. Khamenei is the only party that benefits from the horrific killings and suffering of innocent people in the region. The head of the snake of war and terrorism is in Tehran. The increase of the regime’s export of terrorism and warmongering clearly indicates that the previous policy towards the Iranian regime has been mistaken. This highlights the need for a correct path forward. Read more...

Iran’s youth respond to growing wave of repressive measures
PMOI (Apr. 27) - As the mullahs’ regime desperately continues to ramp up repressive measures, the rebellious youth of Iran are responding by increasing their attacks on the regime’s centers of repression and corruption. Iran’s regime has engaged in a series of new repressive measures against women and girls to quell protests and hide its own setbacks and failures. In recent days, there have been many reports and videos of security forces harassing women and girls who do not comply with the regime’s misogynistic hijab
34 yrs ago, on Apr. 24, 1990, Prof. Kazem Rajavi, #Iran's first post-revolution Amb. to the #UN & the great martyr to the cause of human rights in Iran, was assassinated near Geneva by 13 terrorists sent by Tehran.

Dr. Rajavi's relentless efforts were pivotal in bringing the issue of egregious human rights abuses to the forefront of the @UN agenda. In an interview with the @nytimes on Nov. 24, 1985, he said, "We are writing the history of human rights with our blood."

Over 30 years have passed, yet the enormous pain & sorrow of his departure lingers deeply within me. Having had the privilege to know & assist Dr. Rajavi was truly an honor of a lifetime. RIP, Dr. Kazem 🌹.
Berlin conference emphasizes backing Iranian Resistance amid escalating Middle East discord

EIN Presswire
April 29, 2024

The National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI) Foreign Affairs Committee in an article reported that on April 25, a conference was held in the German capital, Berlin, titled “Solving the Iran Crisis: Advocating for Democratic Solutions.” Moderated by Christian Muller, a representative of the German Federal Parliament, the meeting delved into critical discussions on the Iranian regime’s terrorism, its demonization campaign against the National Council of Resistance Iran (NCRI), its human rights violations, and the need to expand the activities in Germany in supporting the Iranian people’s quest for a free, democratic and non-nuclear republic of Iran.

Professor Alejo Vidal-Quadras, former Vice President of the European Parliament and a co-founder of the Committee on International Search for Justice took part as a special guest and shared his experience as a survivor of Tehran’s terror machine and a long-time subject of the regime’s demonization campaign against the Iranian Resistance. The gathering, graced by various members of the Bundestag (German Federal Parliament) and esteemed personalities like Mr. Peter Altmaier, former Minister of Economics and senior advisor to Chancellor Angela Merkel, lauded the principled stance and valor of Professor Vidal-Quadras.

In a video message addressing the conference, Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, the President-elect of the NCRI, commended the bravery and steadfastness of Dr. Vidal-Quadras, portraying the regime’s attempt to assassinate him as emblematic of its true nature. Amid growing internal dissent and fear of popular uprisings, Mrs. Rajavi contended that the regime had intensified its repressive measures, including a surge in executions and suppression of women in public spaces.

In the context of regional conflicts, Mrs. Rajavi pointed to the regime’s direct involvement in warfare, particularly citing recent events on April 13 as evidence of its aggressive stance. She asserted that Supreme Leader Khamenei benefits from the turmoil and suffering caused by the regime’s actions, positioning Tehran as the primary instigator of conflict and terrorism in the region.

In her address, the NCRI President-elect strongly criticized the policy of appeasement towards the Iranian regime, particularly regarding its two key elements: turning a blind eye to the regime’s oppression of its people and its acts of terrorism and warmongering abroad, and actively siding with the regime to thwart any prospects of democratic change in Iran.

She emphasized that the time for regime change is now more ripe than ever, asserting the capability of the Iranian Resistance and the Iranian people to bring about such change. Mrs. Rajavi urged members of the Bundestag to take decisive action by promoting initiatives to:

1. Officially designate the IRGC as a terrorist entity.
2. Declare the Iranian regime as a threat to world peace and security under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.
3. Activate the snapback mechanism in UN Security Council Resolution 2231.
4. Recognize the Iranian people’s legitimate struggle to overthrow the mullahs’ regime.

In his speech, MP Carsten Müller condemned the Iranian regime’s attacks on Israel and the alarming rate of executions within Iran, which often go unnoticed by the international community. He called for decisive action, including labeling the Revolutionary Guards as a terrorist organization, to hold the regime accountable for its atrocities. Asserting solidarity with the Iranian people’s aspirations for freedom, MP Müller emphasized the importance of supporting the opposition’s efforts to bring about meaningful change from within. He highlighted recent resolutions from the US Congress in support of a free and democratic Iran as a significant step forward.

Professor Alejo Vidal-Quadras delivered a compelling speech advocating for a significant shift in Western policy towards Iran. Addressing the German MPs and human rights activists present, he highlighted the ineffectiveness of the policy of appeasement towards the Iranian regime, stressing the urgent need for regime change in Iran. The former Vice President of the European Parliament praised the Iranian opposition, particularly the NCRI and the People’s Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI), as crucial...
agents for democratic transformation in Iran. He also emphasized the oppressive nature of the Iranian regime, citing its history of human rights abuses and terrorist activities. Furthermore, the ISJ co-founder underscored the potential for a democratic Iran to positively impact global geopolitics and emphasized the importance of active engagement in advocating for change. He called on politicians to dedicate time and resources to advancing the cause of democracy and human rights in Iran, emphasizing the potential for a democratic Iran to contribute to a better world.

Former German Minister of Economy and senior advisor to German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Peter Altmaier, expressed his support for the Iranian community in Germany and their struggle for freedom in Iran. He acknowledged the enthusiasm and commitment of Iranians in Europe and emphasized the importance of their cause for both Iranians and Germans.

Mr. Altmaier praised the Ten-Point Plan proposed by Mrs. Rajavi, describing it as a document aligned with universal principles of democracy and human dignity. He also expressed his understanding that among the Iranian diaspora, the NCRI enjoys the largest base of support from Iranians living in Europe and the United States.

Altmaier highlighted the need for broader public awareness of the human rights abuses perpetrated by the Iranian regime and suggested strategies for achieving this, including leveraging social media to showcase the faces and stories of Iranian victims. He encouraged engagement with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and academic institutions to raise awareness and build support for the Iranian cause.

Altmaier also discussed the growing international recognition of the Iranian regime’s support for terrorism and its nuclear ambitions. He emphasized the need for a united front against the regime’s oppressive tactics and called for increased international pressure to address human rights violations in Iran.

German MP Michael Meister reflected on his two-decade involvement with the Iranian resistance, underscoring the need for determination and perseverance in fighting the Iranian regime.

He recalled his initial encounter with Mrs. Rajavi in Berlin, recognizing the significant progress made in advancing the resistance against the Iranian regime. Acknowledging the evolving nature of the regime’s atrocities, MP Meister stressed the dual threat posed by its internal repression and external aggression.

He expressed alarm at the staggering number of executions in Iran, averaging seven lives lost per day, and emphasized the broader context of human rights abuses perpetrated by the regime. He echoed previous calls for designating the Revolutionary Guards as a terrorist organization, both domestically and internationally, to curb its destabilizing influence.

The German MP argued that economic pressure remains essential in exerting leverage and compelling political change in Iran. In the end, Mr. Meister reiterated his long-standing commitment to the cause of the Iranian Resistance and expressed hope for eventual success in enabling the Iranian people to determine their future.

MP Christoph de Vries stressed that peace in the Middle East remains elusive as long as the current regime in Iran persists, citing recent attacks on Israel as evidence of the regime’s destabilizing actions beyond its borders.

He emphasized the imperative of preventing the regime from acquiring nuclear weapons, citing intelligence reports indicating an imminent threat. Rejecting the policy of appeasement, MP De Vries affirmed his party’s commitment to taking concrete action. He referenced several motions introduced in the Bundestag aimed at countering the regime’s influence, including listing the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist organization across Europe. Additionally, he called for restrictions on trade with Iran, highlighting the need to weaken the regime while supporting the Iranian people’s resistance.

The German legislator also addressed the issue of the Islamic Center in Hamburg, urging its closure due to its links to the Iranian regime and its involvement in supporting terrorist activities.

Martin Patzelt, a former member of the German Bundestag, expressed his commitment to supporting the cause of freedom and human rights in Iran during the gathering.

He also emphasized his long-standing engagement with the issue of Iran, having served for eight years on the Human Rights Committee of the Bundestag, where he closely monitored developments in the country. Mr. Patzelt highlighted the need to discern truth from misinformation perpetuated by the Iranian regime, which seeks to undermine the efforts of the Iranian resistance.

Drawing on his experiences, including visits to Ashraf 3 in Albania and engagement with the NCRI, Patzelt affirmed his belief in the council as a viable alternative for a free Iran. He
commended their organizational prowess and their commitment to democratic values within a Muslim society.

Acknowledging the challenges posed by the Iranian regime’s repression and economic hardships, he emphasized the importance of collective action involving political leaders, civil society, and religious institutions in advancing the cause of human rights and democracy.

Read more...

Suggested Reading

**Iran: The Ayatollah's Hidden Hand**

In this informative and well-presented volume, Professor Ivan Sascha Sheehan pulls back the curtain on the regime’s propaganda franchise. He reveals the excessive investment of funding, infrastructure, and workforce frantically trying to convince Iranians and the world not to believe their own eyes and ears. After years of trying to ignore the MEK, hoping others would do the same, regime officials now seemingly cannot stop talking about how effectively the MEK’s message and organizing efforts are empowering the national uprising. Sheehan’s research makes clear that the regime is scared, knowing that there is a blueprint and a competent political organization – run at every level by women – ready to help guide Iran to a legitimate constitutional future when the regime crumbles, just as happened with the Shah.

Read more here.

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**About Iran Weekly Roundup:**
This weekly is compiled by the US Representative Office of National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI-US). The NCRI is a broad coalition of democratic Iranian organizations, groups, and personalities founded in 1981 in Tehran. The NCRI is an inclusive and pluralistic parliament-in-exile that has more than 500 members representing a broad spectrum of political tendencies in Iran. The NCRI aims to establish a secular democratic republic in Iran, based on the separation of religion and state. Women comprise more than half of the Council’s members. Mrs. Maryam Rajavi is the president-elect of the NCRI.

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