



The British Parliamentary Committee for Iran Freedom

13 December 2005

Press Release

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Almost half the Members of Parliament have called on the UK Government and EU to adopt a firm policy towards Tehran's mullahs and remove the unjust terror tag against the People's Mojahedin of Iran (PMOI)

In a press conference today in Westminster, British Parliamentarians from three major political parties announced a new initiative towards Iran. Some 279 MPs and 126 Peers have signed the "Statement on Iran" calling for the "removal of the terror label against the PMOI", describing it as "the most important impediment" to democratic change in Iran. Citing legal opinions by several of the most prominent jurists which emphasised that the terror label against the PMOI had no legal basis from the very beginning, but was politically motivated.

Speakers included Andrew Mackinlay MP, a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Rt. Hon. The Lord Renton, QC, Lord Slynn of Hadley, Stephen McCabe, MP, Lord Clarke of Hampstead, Dr. Rudi Vis, MP, Baroness Scott of Needham Market, David Amess, MP, David Drew, MP, Baroness Harris of Richmond, Brian Binley, MP, Lord King of West Bromwich, Baroness Masham of Ilton, Dowlat Nowrouzi, UK Representative of the NCRI...

Mrs Maryam Rajavi, the President Elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI) addressed the conference via satellite.

In the statement the Parliamentarians said that the UK Government had justified its policy of engagement with the Iranian regime over recent years on the basis that it would encourage the Iranian regime to change and that their policy would assist those described as 'moderates' within the Iranian regime. The opposite has been proved to be true on both counts. With the appointment of Iran's sham President and his cabinet of Revolutionary Guards commanders, the Iranian regime has changed, but very much for the worse. The Revolutionary Guards have taken full control.

Pointing to the Iran regime's involvement in terrorism and violence in Iraq, the statement concluded, "To continue appeasement of the mullahs at this time would be gambling with the security and stability of the Middle East. The solution to the Iranian problem is democratic change by relying on the Iranian people and Resistance. Mrs. Maryam Rajavi argued for this option during her address to a meeting in the European Parliament last December."

Lord Corbett of Castle Vale, chairman of the British Parliamentary Committee for Iran Freedom said, "The only reason the PMOI was proscribed was in a shabby deal to please the mullahs. The policy of appeasement is in ruins as Iran moves nearer to developing nuclear weapons and continues its gross interference in Iraq.

In her message addressed to the conference Mrs Rajavi said “Two decades of appeasement played a key role in the rise to power of the most radical factions of the regime. Appeasement led the mullahs to conclude that the international community lacks the will to deal with them. This statement is the voice of the people of Great Britain; calling for change in the policy towards Iran. Through this statement, Parliament is showing its support for taking the Mojahedin off the terror list. Parliament wants an end to the policy of appeasement of the mullahs. It declares support for democratic change by the people of Iran and the Iranian Resistance.

Sponsors of the ‘Statement on Iran’ include Lord Corbett of Castle Vale, Rt. Hon. The Lord Renton, QC, Rt. Hon. The Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, QC, Rt. Hon. The Lord Archer of Sandwell, QC, Lord Waddington, QC, Lord Taverne, QC, Lord Clarke of Hampstead, Lord Dholakia of Waltham Brooks, Andrew Mackinlay MP, Lord Alton of Liverpool, Dr Rudi Vis MP, David Amess MP, Mike Hancock MP and David Drew MP, Lord Russell-Johnston, Baroness Gould of Potternewton, David Willetts MP, David Jones MP, Lord Hoyle, Baroness Harris of Richmond.....