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dr. Milan ZVER

Member of the European Parliament - Evropski poslanec
EPP European People's Party - Evropska ljudska stranka

His Excellency Charles Michel,
President of the European Council
Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
B-1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
Belgique/België

August 19, 2023

Dear Mr. President,

We write this letter with profound concern and anger regarding the recent conspiracy orchestrated by the Iranian regime against the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (MEK) and the refugees who are members of this organization. We urgently appeal for Your Excellency's attention and support to condemn this unjust action on behalf of the European Union.

On July 29, 2023, the Iranian regime's Judiciary announced an indictment against the MEK, and 104 members related to this organization. Furthermore, the Iranian regime has demanded that they appoint legal representation on their behalf. The defendants mainly comprise refugees or citizens of European countries, including those residing in Ashraf-3, Albania, who have been living outside Iran for more than four decades.

It is evident that the Iranian regime, facing growing discontent and protests internally and unable to suppress the MEK and its organized units within the country, is now attempting to impose restrictions against its organized opposition abroad. Moreover, there are concerns that such indictments may be used as a pretext for carrying out terrorist operations against the opposition.

The unprovoked attack on Ashraf 3 last June 20, based on the Iranian regime's fabricated allegations, resulted in the death of a refugee, and left many others wounded. Regrettably, the European Union's silence and inaction in response to this attack may have emboldened the regime to pursue further indictments and even call for the extradition of opposition members.



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The request to introduce a lawyer is a deceptive ploy employed by this regime. It serves as a stark reminder of the tragic events of 1988 when 30,000 political prisoners, with 90% of them belonging to the MEK, were hanged by death committees within a few weeks following the fatwa of Ruhollah Khomeini, the founder of this regime.

This unbearable sign serves as a harrowing reminder of the regime's disregard for international laws and principles, aiming to silence the voice of the legitimate and popular opposition.

The European Union, established upon the pillars of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, must resolutely oppose all endeavors to stifle legitimate dissent and silence voices of opposition.

We wholeheartedly support the Iranian resistance's call to establish an international tribunal to try those responsible for crimes against humanity committed by the Iranian regime. We also urge the regime to present all their claims and documents against the opposition in this court if they genuinely seek justice.

The Iranian regime's plot to target the MEK and its members on European soil constitutes a grave affront to the very foundations on which the EU is built. Silence in the face of such actions serves as a green light for the continuation of killings in Iran, where the regime holds the record of executions and repeatedly violates international standards and laws. Additionally, this inaction jeopardizes the safety and security of Iranian refugees residing in Europe.

We ask you, as the President of the European Union Council, to ensure the full protection of Iranian political refugees in Ashraf-3 and their enjoyment of all the rights stipulated in the 1951 Geneva Convention, the European Convention on Human Rights, and international law, including freedom of speech and assembly. This issue was underscored by the Prime Minister of Albania in a letter to the Vice-President of the European Parliament in April 2016.

We stand united in our commitment to defending democracy and human rights in Iran. We send a clear message to the Iranian regime that its efforts and conspiracies to pressure and suppress the opposition abroad will not be tolerated.



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Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

We look forward to hearing back from you and appreciate your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Milan ZVER, MEP from Slovenia
Ryszard CZARNECKI, MEP from Poland
Gianna GANCIA, MEP from Italy

CC:

Ursula von der Leyen, President is the head of the European Commission
Josep Borrell, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Roberta Metsola, President of the European Parliament
EU Member states