

Global Solidarity with the IRAN Green Movement

Mir-Hossein Mousavi's unprecedented interview on the 2nd of February 2010, carried on the website Kalameh, is the clearest indication that the sustainable struggle for democracy in Iran, 150 years in the making, is entering a new phase and going forward. Unquestionably, the Green Movement and its active member Mousavi bravely and openly demonstrate the great sense of deep frustration, concern and resentment towards the current state of affairs in Iran. Mr. Mousavi believes that the pivotal aspirations and objectives of the 1979 revolution which were freedom, economic programs and social justice, equality, and the rule of law have not been fulfilled. This is the first time, since the infamous June 2009 presidential election, that Mr. Mousavi has sharply criticized the regime of the *Islamic Republic* and in particular, its judiciary under Mr. Sadeq Larijani. Having called for an independent judicial system, Mr. Mousavi now believes that the lack of independent press and freedom of assembly, imprisonment of political persons of conscience, torture and executions of dissidents (two have been recently executed, with nine more convicted), flagrant violations of basic human rights and the political upheaval inflicted on Iran are due to Iran's history of despotism. He went so far as to suggest that the situation is only comparable to the era before the Pahlavi regime, a remark indicating the severity of the despotic rule, *i.e.*, Velayat e Faqih.

Unlike the 1906 constitutional and the 1979 revolutions, when only the intellectuals and elites were moving the agenda forward, the current movement in Iran is being moved by the majority of Iranians, who are not only knowledgeable about their history and the region, but also well versed with modern technological and communications media.

"Despotism in the name of religion is more dangerous than any other form of despotism, [as] we have lost total confidence in the judicial system" declared Mr. Mousavi. He stressed that the Islamic Constitution "is not cast in stone and is changeable subject to the needs of the society and the nation." Most importantly, he announced that *"if we do not respect people's [legitimate] rights and the ballot box which are indivisible elements of the Constitution, this will lead to the annulment of this all important contract between the people and the state."*

Mr. Mousavi, referring to himself as an ordinary man among tens of millions, emphasized that the Green Movement belongs to all strands of the Iranian nation and invited people from all walks of life to march peacefully on the 22nd of Bahman 2010 (11th of February 2010). He also asked all Iranians including the security services, police, Basij, and Sepah and all Iranians to respect each other and to refrain from violence as the international community is closely watching the development in Iran. Mr. Mousavi further stated that he had no representative abroad; however, he also added that, *"The resilience of being in*

the Green Movement is that everyone is expressing their views in an atmosphere of contemplation and calm wherein I also express my views in our shared destiny."

Irrespective of differences of opinion among Iranians, they are staunchly united in deploring any unilateral military intervention and/or political meddling in Iran. Notwithstanding the diversity of thought of the millions of Iranians in Diaspora, especially among the tens of thousands of intellectuals, academics and scholars abroad, there has indeed emerged a consensus of unequivocal support for the Green Movement and Mr. Mir-Hossein Mousavi's latest statement of the 2nd of February 2010. Most Iranians abroad, as well as their compatriots in the millions inside the Country believe that religious despotism is the root cause of Iran's current dilemma, and that it needs to be eradicated collectively and responsibly from within. They further reaffirm their irrevocable commitment to the much anticipated realization of civil and constitutional rights and the enactment of the rule of law, justice and democracy in Iran through non-violent civil disobedience. The Iranian community in Diaspora expresses their solidarity with the people of Iran and joins them in solidarity on the 11th of February 2010, the day that marks the 31st anniversary of the Iranian revolution, in the major cities of Iran, especially Tehran, and in major cities around the world and wherever Iranians reside.

Signatories:

Abrahamian Ervand

CUNY Distinguished Professor; Department of History Weissman School of Arts & Sciences; Baruch College, USA

Gorji Ali

Professor of Neuroscience Research and Neurophysiology; Munster University, Germany

Haghighatjoo Fatemeh

Visiting Scholar, Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy, University of Massachusetts Boston, MA, USA

Hashemi Nader

Assistant Professor of Middle East and Islamic Politics, Josef Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver, CO, USA

Karimi-Hakak Mahmood

Professor Department of Creative Arts, Siena College, New York, Artistic Director, Mahak International Artists Inc, Albany, New York of Theatre, NY, USA

Keshavars Fatemeh

Professor and Chair, Asian & Near Eastern Languages and Literatures Washington University in St. Louis, IN, USA

Kian Azadeh

Professeur de sociologie, Directrice du CEDREF Université Paris-Diderot-Paris, France

Mahdavi Pardis Assistant Professor, Pomona College, USA

Mahdi Akbar Professor of Sociology, Ohio Wesleyan university, OH, USA

Malekahmadi Farshad

Associate Professor of Sociology, Naugatuck Valley Community, College, CT, USA

Mansouri Mehdi

Associate Professor of Education & Technology, Herzing University, Educational Consultant to Depts. at Virginia Commonwealth University, University of IL at Chicago, Hunter College of NY, NY, USA

Milani Abbas

Hamid and Christina Moghadam Director of Iranian Studies Stanford University, CA, USA

Mir-Hosseini Ziba

Professor, London Middle East Institute, SOAS, University of London, UK

Moaddel Mansoor Professor of Sociology, Eastern Michigan University, MI, USA

Mohammadi Majid

Visiting Scholar in Stony Brook Institute for Global Studies, NY, USA

Monshipouri Mahmood

Associate Professor, Dept. of International Relations, San Francisco State University, CA, USA

Mousoli Reza

BSc (Hons) MSc CED MBCS, Senior Lecturer Programme Director Foundation Degree in Computing, Canterbury Kent, UK

Naraghi Arash

Assistant Professor, Religion and Philosophy, Moravian College, PA, USA

Navab Mohamad

Professor, Project Leader, Cardiology, University of California, Los Angeles, CA, USA

Rahni Davood N.

Professor of Chemistry, Pace University New York, NY, USA

Sadri Ahmad

Professor of Sociology and James P. Gorter Chair of Islamic World Studies, Lake Forest College, IL, USA

Ziai Hossein

Jahangir and Eleanor Amuzegar Chair in Iranian Studies, Director of Iranian Studies, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, UCLA, CA, USA