



UK PARLIAMENT HOSTS CONFERENCE ON ENDING IRANIAN EXECUTIONS AND SUPPORTING NCRI'S DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION



On April 28, 2026, the Palace of Westminster hosted a major conference titled "Iran: Towards Peace and Freedom." Members of the House of Commons and House of Lords joined human rights advocates and legal experts to discuss the escalating wave of executions and repression in Iran.

The conference took place at a critical moment following the nationwide uprisings of late 2025 and early 2026, which spread across hundreds of cities and were met with violent crackdowns by the Iranian authorities.

Speakers warned that the regime's

growing reliance on executions reflects increasing internal weakness and fear of renewed protests.

The lawmaker emphasised that the international community must end its silence regarding executions and support the Iranian people's demand for freedom and democratic change.

The conference featured a keynote address by Mrs Maryam Rajavi, President-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI).

Addressing MPs and peers, she described the regime as "fragile and unstable" and warned of escalating

repression following recent unrest and regional developments.

Mrs Rajavi stated that since March 2026, at least 18 political prisoners, including PMOI members and protesters, had been executed following unfair trials and torture. She warned that executions are increasingly being used to intimidate young people and suppress Resistance Units organising future protests.

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UN OFFICIALS DEMAND AN IMMEDIATE HALT TO EXECUTIONS IN IRAN

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk and UN Special Rapporteur on Iran Mai Sato have strongly condemned the recent wave of executions and repression in Iran.

Both officials warned that Iranian authorities continue to use vague security charges, forced confessions, and unfair trials to silence dissent and intimidate political

opponents. Volker Türk stated that the growing use of the death penalty, particularly following recent protests, violates Iran's international obligations and must stop immediately.

The UN officials also expressed concern over mass arrests, worsening prison conditions, internet shutdowns, and restrictions on freedom



of expression.

They called on the Iranian authorities to immediately halt

executions, guarantee fair trials, restore internet access, and release arbitrarily detained prisoners.



DEFIANCE BEHIND BARS: TWO ELITE IRANIAN STUDENTS REJECT THE REGIME'S "PARDON"

Two of Iran's most talented young students, Amirhossein Moradi and Ali Younesi, remain imprisoned for their political beliefs. Both former astronomy Olympiad medalists and students at Sharif University of Technology were arrested in 2020 and sentenced to lengthy prison terms on charges linked to support for the PMOI.

Following the recent executions of political prisoners, both students publicly rejected the regime's so-called "amnesty" and issued powerful statements from prison.

In a letter from Evin Prison, Amirhossein Moradi described the proposed pardon as "shameful," declaring: "We neither forgive nor forget." He vowed not to seek personal freedom while others remain imprisoned and oppressed.

Ali Younesi, writing from Ghezel Hesar Prison, also rejected a reported pardon for the remainder of his sentence. Referring to executed prisoners as symbols of resistance, he wrote: "Freedom is a stolen right; we do not beg for a stolen right, we fight to obtain it."

Their statements come amid a growing wave of executions targeting political prisoners in Iran. Rather than silencing dissent, the words of Moradi and Younesi reflect a generation refusing intimidation and continuing to demand freedom and justice despite years of imprisonment and repression.

Human rights organisations and



international observers have repeatedly expressed concern over the treatment of political prisoners in Iran, particularly students, activists, and protesters detained following nationwide demonstrations. Campaigners have called on Iranian authorities to immediately halt executions, guarantee fair trials, restore internet access, and release arbitrarily detained prisoners.

BOB BLACKMAN CALLS FOR IRGC TERRORIST DESIGNATION

Conservative MP Bob Blackman called for the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) to be designated as a terrorist organisation during a debate in the UK House of Commons on May 14 concerning national security threats linked to Iran. He warned that the Iranian regime continues to pose a direct threat to Britain through espionage, intimidation, and support for extremist networks operating across the Middle East and beyond.

Blackman criticised the British government's approach toward Tehran as inadequate and argued that the delay in proscribing the IRGC has continued for too long. He also raised concerns about Iran-linked organisations, financial interests, and property

holdings in London allegedly connected to the Iranian regime and the IRGC. According to Blackman, stronger legal measures are needed to counter hostile Iranian influence and protect Britain's national security.

The debate reflected growing concern in the UK over alleged Iranian state-linked activities, including surveillance, cyber operations, and threats against dissidents, journalists, and Jewish communities. British lawmakers and security experts have increasingly warned about the activities of Iranian proxy networks operating internationally.

Referring to wider regional instability, Blackman pointed to Iran's involvement in drone and



missile attacks across the Middle East, which have contributed to repeated violence, casualties, and displacement. He argued that the IRGC plays a central role in supporting armed proxy groups whose activities have fuelled conflict throughout the region. Pressure on the British government to formally ban the IRGC has increased in recent months, with growing support from MPs across different political parties.



SUNDAY TIMES HIGHLIGHTS EXECUTIONS IN IRAN

Times April 26, 2026

FACES OF THE DEAD

With international attention focused on rising tensions in the Strait of Hormuz, Iran has sharply intensified its use of executions against political prisoners and dissidents, according to human rights groups and reports emerging from inside the country. The growing wave of executions has been described by campaigners as an unprecedented attempt by the Iranian authorities to spread fear and suppress renewed unrest.

One of the victims was Pouya Ghobadi, a 31-year-old electrical engineer from Sonqor in western Iran. In a secretly recorded video from prison, Ghobadi sat alone in a prison yard beneath coils of barbed wire while singing lyrics associated with resistance and defiance. Weeks later, he was executed after reportedly being tortured and accused of membership in an outlawed opposition organisation. Human rights groups state that his family was not properly informed and that his body was not returned.

According to Amnesty International and Iran Human Rights, at least 17 political prisoners and protesters were executed over a five-week period in early 2026, making it one of the fastest waves of executions seen in decades. Amnesty considers Iran the

world's second most prolific executioner after China. Human rights monitors estimate that executions in 2025 rose dramatically, with some estimates exceeding 2,000 deaths due to the secrecy surrounding many cases.

Reports indicate that many prisoners were sentenced after extremely short trials lacking due process. Families and lawyers were often not informed prior to executions, while bodies were frequently withheld. Kristyan Benedict of Amnesty International described the process as “a machinery of fear,” arguing that the Iranian judiciary is using executions as a political tool to intimidate society and deter further protests.

The article also highlights the situation inside Ghezel Hesar and Evin prisons, where secretly smuggled footage reportedly showed condemned prisoners singing resistance songs, recording final testimonies, and speaking openly against the authorities before execution. One prisoner, Vahid Baniamarian, directly addressed Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei in a recorded message, declaring that repression would not silence opposition voices. He criticised decades of policies that, in his words, had brought poverty, war, and instability to Iran and the wider region. He was executed on April 4.



Human rights activists argue that the executions accelerated following the nationwide protests triggered by economic hardship, political repression, and earlier demonstrations after the death of Mahsa Amini in 2022. Mahmood Amiry-Moghaddam, director of Iran Human Rights in Norway, stated that the Iranian authorities fear internal unrest more than external military conflict. According to him, the regime uses executions to create fear because it lacks legitimacy among large sections of the population.

Several of those executed were accused of links to opposition groups, espionage, or participation

in protests. Human rights organisations claim many confessions were extracted under torture and that defendants were systematically denied fair trials and legal representation. One prominent case involved Saleh Mohammadi, a young wrestling champion arrested during protests over inflation and rising food prices, who was later publicly executed in Qom. Rights groups warn that the Iranian regime is increasingly relying on executions, intimidation, and repression to maintain control amid growing instability. They continue to urge the international community to pressure Tehran to halt executions and comply with international human rights standards.

WASHINGTON TIMES EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW: MRS. MARYAM RAJAVI ON IRAN'S DEMOCRATIC FUTURE

In an exclusive interview with The Washington Times, Maryam Rajavi, President-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), argued that the Iranian regime is currently at its weakest point in nearly five decades. She rejected claims that the regime has become stronger despite recent conflicts and regional tensions, stating that growing public dissatisfaction, deep economic and social crises, and the expansion of organised resistance have severely weakened the government. Rajavi pointed to the recent execution of political prisoners, including members of the MEK (People's Mojahedin Organisation of Iran), as evidence of the regime's fear of uprisings and organised opposition.

Rajavi explained that the Iranian Resistance believes democratic change can only come through the Iranian people and organised resistance on the ground. She described a strategy combining popular uprisings with resistance units that organise protests and challenge the regime's security forces. According to her, resistance units carried out hundreds of anti-repression operations during recent uprisings and continue to expand across Iran. She argued that attempts to promote alternative



figures connected to the former monarchy do not reflect the aspirations of the Iranian people, who seek a democratic future rather than a return to dictatorship.

Rajavi also outlined the NCRI's political roadmap for the period following the fall of the regime. Under this plan, a provisional government would hold free and fair elections for a Constituent Assembly within six months. The elected assembly would then draft a democratic constitution and appoint a new government. The NCRI's Ten-Point Plan advocates a democratic republic based on freedom of expression, separation of religion and state, abolition of the death penalty, gender equality, an independent judiciary, autonomy for oppressed nationalities, and a non-nuclear Iran. Rajavi stressed that the resistance movement does not seek power for itself but rather aims to peacefully transfer

sovereignty to the Iranian people through democratic institutions.

A major theme of the interview was the role of women in the Iranian Resistance. Rajavi explained that women have played a central role in the movement for decades and now occupy many leadership positions within the NCRI and MEK. She argued that women's leadership has become institutionalised within the resistance and serves as a foundation for achieving gender equality in a future democratic Iran.

Rajavi further argued that fears of post-regime chaos, similar to Iraq or Libya, are misplaced because Iran has an organised opposition movement with a clear political structure, a provisional government, and a roadmap for democratic transition. She emphasised that Iran possesses a strong national identity and a long history of resistance

against dictatorship. According to Rajavi, the NCRI's broad social network inside Iran, continued support among young people and women, and its exposure of Iran's secret nuclear activities demonstrate the movement's domestic legitimacy and influence.

Finally, Rajavi called on the international community to support the Iranian people's struggle for democracy. She urged governments to condition diplomatic engagement with Tehran on ending executions and releasing political prisoners, to hold Iranian leaders accountable for human rights abuses, and to recognise the Iranian people's right to resist dictatorship. She concluded by stating that the resistance movement's ultimate goals are freedom, equality, democracy, and the separation of religion and state in a future Iran.