

## **The Call: The Association of Iranian-Canadian Radio Producers for Freedom, Democracy and Human Rights in Iran**

The 1979 Revolution in Iran can be considered a remarkable transformation in Iran's modern history. By recognizing Ayatollah Khomeini at Guadalupe, Finland, the leaders of the 7 most powerful industrial nations thwarted the Iranian revolution. After secret discussions, they took Ayatollah Khomeini to Noufel de Chateau where global media was invited, introducing him to the world as the transitional figure of the revolution replacing the Shah.

Clerics during the Shah's time were flourishing in mosques and religious schools and through years of savings from Bazaar (Iranian Market) investors, and therefore were quickly able to organize and, with the West's support, portray the revolution to the world as their own. Domestically, they announced promises that were only to be broken including the separation of religion from state affairs, and political freedoms such as freedom of assembly. On April 1<sup>st</sup>, a few months after they had assumed control, and at a time when even they had yet to develop or propose a definition of an Islamic state, the clerics took advantage of an atmosphere high in emotion and staged a referendum that deceptively only offered an Islamic Republic, not one word more not one word less, institutionalizing one of the most criminal regimes of modern times.

In order to establish itself and uproot the seeds of freedom, the Islamic Republic went on to abuse holy scripture and quickly justified the use of torture, arbitrary arrest and imprisonment, terror and assassination plots, and mass executions in the name of God and religion. In order to further achieve their interests and institutionalize various official and unofficial military and security organs of government, the new regime commenced the forcing of Islamic cover and suppression of women's rights, the suppression of rights for the Kurdish, Turkeman, Baluchi and Arab people's, the burning of books that did not match their ideology, and the shutting down of universities and publications. Prisons became refilled with many of whom had just been freed only now had new management, management that would not even hesitate to imprison, torture or execute a teenager. People such as Lajvardi helped develop new tools for torture and forced repentance, commencing the systematic elimination of political figures and freedom activists, the elimination of a generation in modern day Iran.

Forcing of an 8 year war "blessing" onto the people was yet another crime for the regime to retain its position, which resulted in hundreds of thousands of innocent deaths and millions of incapacitated and injured children, youth, and elderly. The destruction of Iran and Iraq's human population and economic resources was an express declaration of war by the two governments against their own people. Among the accomplishments of this very war were formalized operations against political organizations, TV-shows manufactured to indoctrinate as well as distract from the daily arrests, assassinations and executions, cutting women and splashing acid on them through the excuse of "bad cover," direct attacks on workers and prevention of any kind of association or strike,

military operations in Kurdistan, and barring rights of religious minorities. Even after the establishment took the “poison” of ceasefire due to political, social and economic pressures both in and out of the country, it did not cease in its barbarity and in an act of revenge massacred the thousands of political prisoners who were the best and brightest of the nation at the time. A special committee through the famous order of Ayatollah Khomeini added yet another crime against humanity to the Islamic Republic’s name.

Though the Islamic Republic was able to kill a generation and survive in the past 30 years through the guise and justification of God and religion, it has always been subjected to worker’s, women’s, student and intellectual movements with political, economic, and social demands that have often brought the whole establishment to its knees. The protest movement in the millions only one year ago is a testament to this, where on December 27<sup>th</sup> or “Ashura,” the protests against government forces reached their peak and put the Islamic Republic in the defensive.

Opposition to the regime has never been limited to inside the country. For years survivors and runaways of the brutal era have resided abroad and have been opposing the Islamic Republic outside Iranian borders. Exposing the regime’s crimes through campaigns, speeches, art and others methods has led to a crisis of legitimacy for the Islamic Republic in the eyes of the world and prompted global organization supporting the people in Iran’s acquisition of rights. In turn, the Islamic Republic has exported its assassins all over the world, spent millions of dollars, attempted to create division, and engaged in pressure tactics against families of exiles who still live in Iran, all in order to dissolve and distract the opposition abroad.

The consistent activity of thousands of activists from all around the world has brought the various dimensions of the Islamic Republic’s crimes to airwaves and television screens everywhere, causing the Islamic Republic to retreat and be on the defensive. This has been particularly true in recent years as information technology has greatly progressed, allowing the Islamic Republic to be shamed more and more each day. During the latest uprising, we all witnessed the tremendous effect that reports and video footage released to the public by activists inside Iran has. We all witnessed how the death of Neda and many others who were protesting for freedom resulted in massive support for the people’s resistance.

To end 31 years of crime by this regime, we must bring the various opposition voices together. The widespread, dispersed activity of the global opposition together with today’s information technology presents the opportunity for us to develop a solid, more voice, a voice that brings together all the different opposition perspectives as much as possible for the free exchange of views and ideas in developing a secular, free, democratic and humane future.

We, a group of Iranian-Canadian radio producers and radio productions, have decided to follow a mandate consisting of widespread collaboration and the production of joint programming between opposition groups of varying perspectives in order to develop that stronger, more unified voice. We, the below signatories, and in support of the people of

Iran's opposition to the Islamic Republic, announce our membership and the formation of The Association of Iranian-Canadian Radio Producers for Freedom, Democracy, and Human Rights in Iran, also referred to as The Call. Our vision is to develop an association that goes beyond national boundaries and beyond radio as a medium for information exchange. The purpose of this association is to facilitate the establishment of a free, secular, non-discriminatory, humane and democratic country.

The Call is an independent organization that despite differences in ideology and political views and affiliations amongst its members seeks to be the voice of the people of Iran. This is done by being an open medium for freedom of thought and expression as well as campaigning against stoning, torture, and execution, and in support of the rights of women, workers, students, refugees, religious minorities, equal treatment of different cultures, and any other cry of freedom against the Islamic Republic.

The Call develops programming with the joint participation of various production teams to raise public awareness on human rights violations, inequality, and violations of civil and democratic rights in Iran. Joint declarations are also made in order to respond to news coming out of Iran, demanding, for instance, an end to stoning verdicts, torture, execution, and pushing for the freedom of political prisoners, women's rights, the rights of victims of the regime to prosecute the Islamic Republic, the rights of minorities, and the rights of children. We consider it our duty to participate in events in support of freedom organized by Iranians and non-Iranians whatever their ideological and cultural background or political affiliation.

This organization is independent and does not depend, financially or otherwise, to any other organ or organization. Funds for the Call are acquired through membership, supporters, and fundraising events.

Every radio producer and radio production that is signatory to the Call retains full autonomy in their own programming and is only subject to the Call's mandate when acting in a joint capacity such as in joint programming and joint declarations.

The Call invites all who are engaged in media, whether radio, television or any other medium, whether they reside in Canada or elsewhere, and with whatever political or religious orientation or affiliation as long as they believe in freedom of thought, expression and democracy for Iran, to be partners with us and participate in our programs and initiatives.

Signatories in alphabetical order:

Next Generation Revolution Radio  
New Green Movement Radio  
Payam Radio

October 10, 2010