

Interfaith Messages of Solidarity with the People of Iran

Transcript (Excerpts) - June 2020

Rabbi Joseph Potasnik

I want to say thank you to all of you for allowing me to share this special moment with you. I'm Rabbi Joseph Potasnik. Know that you who fight for freedom are not fighting alone. We a free people stand with you. It is said that those who turn their backs never see tears. We will never turn our backs on you. We stand with you.

We who value democracy want you to have democracy. We who value liberty want you to have liberty. And we who enjoy free speech want you to enjoy free speech. Together with your friends in this country we sent letters, we made phone calls to make sure that members of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress would support Resolution 374 and we were successful. It is said that some people in this world only dream to fight. I know for you, you fight for a dream, a dream of decency and dignity for all of your people.

Imam Tahir

Greetings. This is your Imam Tahir Kukaj, Imam of Albanian community here in New York City. I would like to express my support to the Iranian people in their struggle to get their freedom and democracy and rule of law against dictatorship that has hijacked the religion in order to suppress very young Iranian people since 1979. The worst dictatorship is a dictatorship ruled or used against the people in the name of God. As a Muslim, as a human being, I am against dictatorship, wherever it is. And particularly in this great nation in Iran, that has been always a cradle of civilizations for years and even centuries. I stand with Iranian people and I support them in their struggle to get their country back together, freedom, democracy and rule of law.

Bishop Robert Stearnes

My name is Bishop Robert Stearnes, and I'm honored to address you today. Every year, hundreds of Iranian American citizens and their supporters, including prominent American officials, have been traveling to Paris, France, to attend a grand gathering that attracts about a hundred thousand supporters every year. I have been privileged to attend that event. In recent years, including the 2018 gathering, over 600 parliamentarians from 70 nations and every continent on earth have gathered to hear Mrs. Maryam Rajavi and to show their support, to show our support for the Iranian opposition leaders 10-point Jeffersonian plan, which calls for a wonderful future for Iran and the Iranian people. This plan calls for the universal right to vote for free elections, for a market economy and advocates for gender, religious and ethnic equality, a foreign policy based on peaceful coexistence and a non-nuclear Iran. On May 22nd, the Department of State said since coming to power in 1979, the Iranian regime has been implicated in assassinations, terrorist plots and terrorist attacks in more than 40 countries. Senior Iranian officials have declared that Iran follows and constantly surveils Iranian dissidents in these other countries to crack down on them and to strike decisive blows.