

An open letter to the world's states:

## **When will you stop legitimising Iran's murderous regime?**

22 September 2022

Following the brutal killing of Mahsa Amini at the hands of the Islamic Republic's 'morality police' and the nationwide anger and protests that it has unleashed, the question now facing the world's governments, in particular in the West, is: when will you stop legitimising this regime by continuing to recognise it and deal with it?

Part of the reason that the Islamic Republic has survived this long, despite the heroism and sacrifices of the people of Iran to topple it, is the policy of the Western governments for the recognition of this regime, continued relations with it and the consequent legitimacy that this has given the regime and helped strengthen it.

It was the height of duplicity and a disgrace that Raisi was allowed to enter the United States and speak at the UN General Assembly yesterday like a 'normal' head of state, while his 'morality police' only last week killed 22-year-old Mahsa Amini for not fully wearing the hated compulsory hijab, and while his security forces and plainclothes *Baseej* thugs, just as he was speaking, were out beating up, tear-gassing, arresting and killing women and men protesters on the streets of Iranian cities. At least 36 protesters are reported to have been killed in the first five days of the protests.

The current uprising of the people of Iran, with women courageously leading them, has inspired the whole world. There has been an outpouring of support from ordinary citizens, activists, artists, actors, writers, celebrities and human rights defenders. People of the world, notably your own citizens and the electorate you will again go to for their votes at the next election, are outraged at the savagery of Iran's Islamic regime and have wholeheartedly come out in support of the women and men of Iran.

Compare this wave of global solidarity to the half-hearted diplomatic condemnations of the Islamic Republic by the states. Condemnation alone is not enough to deter the Islamic Republic. What is expected of any government which claims to adhere to the most basic norms of human rights is action to match the enormity of the crimes of this fascistic regime against humanity, not just now but in its over four-decades long disgraceful and barbaric existence. What has long been required and has now become an urgent necessity is a global boycott of this regime, stripping it of diplomatic recognition, cutting off political ties with it, expelling it from international bodies and arresting and prosecuting its officials for crimes against humanity.

The Islamic Republic will sooner or later collapse, and on its ruins the people of Iran will be celebrating the end of a barbaric regime that had been terrorising them, the Middle East and the whole world for over four decades. Then they will remember who was on their side and who stood in the way of their fight for freedom.

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