



Date: March 12, 2017

No : 2039-16

His Excellency Benjamin Netanyahu
The Prime Minister of Israel

Your Excellency:

We have continuously urged and requested all leaders and particularly those of the free democracies to differentiate between the policies and acts of the Islamic Republic and that of the Iranian people.

Every year on October 29, thousands of Iranians congregate around the tomb of Cyrus the Great to celebrate his entrance into Babylon in 539 B.C.E bearing the Cyrus Cylinder, commonly recognized as the first Charter of Human Rights, which he placed under the walls of Babylon.

This past October, on the occasion of commemorating Cyrus the Great's internationally recognized day for his renowned freeing of the Jewish inhabitants of the ancient city of Babylon on October 29, 543 BC, young Iranians spontaneously braved the elements as well as the security thugs of the Islamic Republic's regime and travelled to and gathered at the historical site of the Tomb of Cyrus the Great. As a result many were later arrested, beaten and tortured.

The Book of Esther in the Bible tells the story of the Persian King, Xerxes who issues proclamations for the Jews to defend themselves against the conspiracy for their murder. Esther was the King's Queen and Mordecai was his advisor.

More recently, an Iranian diplomat and Consul General of the Iranian Embassy in Paris during the Nazi occupation of France, Abdol Hossein Sardari, was posthumously honored by the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles in 2004. Other Jewish institutions worldwide have honored Sardari for providing critical assistance to thousands of Iranian and non-Iranian Jews in occupied France from 1940-1944.

These are just but a few examples of Iran's history of its Jewish heritage. It is therefore important to once again remember to differentiate between Iran and the policies of the Islamic Republic. It is with an emphasis on the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and a non-violent solution for the future of Iran that we seek the moral support of all defenders of democracy.

Sincerely,

Reza Pahlavi
President
Iran National Council for Free Elections