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Statement

Fabricating Lies and Defamatory Campaigns Against the Iranian Resistance: A Tool for the Regime's Repression and Hostage Diplomacy

As a member of the British Parliament and on behalf of the International Committee of Parliamentarians for a Democratic Iran, I unequivocally condemn the Western policy of appeasing the Iranian regime by targeting Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, President-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), with fabricated allegations as a bargaining chip to secure hostage releases.

The recent slander in *Le Canard Enchaîné*—part of a shameful deal to free a French hostage—exemplifies this disgraceful trend. Far from weakening the Iranian Resistance, such concessions only embolden Tehran's 46-year strategy of hostage diplomacy and repression.

While I wholeheartedly welcome the release of yet another hostage in Iran, I believe that slander, character assassination, and fabricated legal cases against the Iranian Resistance only embolden the Iranian regime to escalate its hostage-taking tactics and intensify repression. These tactics are not isolated incidents but are part of a broader strategy designed to undermine the organized opposition and suppress dissent.

The consequences of this misguided approach were evident in the cases of Assadollah Assadi, a convicted Iranian terrorist diplomat who was handed back to Tehran by Belgium in a prisoner exchange, and Hamid Noury, a notorious torturer involved in the 1988 massacre of political prisoners who was sentenced to life in prison in Sweden but was exchanged with a hostage.

Each instance of compromise by Western governments reinforces the regime's belief that it can manipulate the international community through blackmail, terrorism, and fabricated allegations against its opposition.

I reject sacrificing the democratic opposition, particularly the NCRI and People's Mojahedin Organisation of Iran (PMOI/MEK), to appease a regime that thrives on blackmail and lies.

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I have met Mrs. Rajavi on several occasions, and I am impressed by her relentless efforts and leadership in the fight to bring an end to dictatorship in Iran and establish a free and democratic republic. Such disinformation, which originates from the Iranian regime, will only reinforce my support for her efforts.

I, therefore, stand firmly with Mrs. Rajavi, as the prime target of relentless character assassination, and pledge to support the Resistance's fight against these injustices.

21 March 2025

Bob Blackman CBE MP and President of the International Committee of Parliamentarians for a Democratic Iran (ICPDI)

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