



The Cyrus Cylinder منشور کوروش or Cyrus Charter استوانه کوروش was discovered under the foundation of a Babylonian palace in 1879, making it perhaps the oldest time capsule on record. It commemorates Cyrus' victory over Babylonia in 539 BC and sets out the rights of subjects in his expanding empire. It is often commemorated as the oldest charter of human rights in the world.

Contents of August 2022 Advocacy Bulletin

- Woman, Life, Freedom, by Paul Barker
- Advocacy in Support of Iranian Women's Protests
- Iranian Music of Protest
- Political Turmoil in Iran
- Iranian Drones
- Broader US Policy Towards Iran
- Iranian Leadership Issues
- Arguments For and Against a Restored JCPOA
- Economy
- Media
- Human Rights
- History

Woman, Life, Freedom زن، زندگی، آزادی **Note from the Editor, by Paul Barker**

The death of Mahsa Amini in the custody of Iran's 'Morality Police' has reverberated in women-led protests across Iran calling for basic human rights. The Peace Corps Iran Association stands in support of Iranians as they raise their voices for "Woman, Life, Freedom"

Statement from the Board of the Peace Corps Iran Association 18 October 2022

Over the past 43 years periodic mass protests have arisen against the theocratic government of Iran, most notably in 2009, 2017 and 2019. The 2022 protests may pose the greatest challenge yet to the legitimacy of the Iranian clerical regime. The demonstrations sprang from the September 16 death in police custody of a 22-year-old Iranian Kurdish woman, Mahsa Amini. The protests are led by women and schoolgirls but joined by broad strokes of Iranian society. Armed clashes have broken out between the government forces in Kurdish cities in the northwest and Baluchi cities in the southeast. Truck drivers, teachers, oil sector workers and other workers have struck and demonstrated. Chants and signs of demonstrators disparage the Supreme Leader and the regime. The regime's response has been predictably brutal, killing hundreds and imprisoning thousands of demonstrators and launching military strikes against Kurdish positions in Iraq.

The Iranian government blames foreign meddling, particularly the US and Israel, but also anti-Iran elements in neighboring countries. Gauging the most appropriate response has been a balancing act for the international community. The protests need to be, and be seen to be, led by Iranians in Iran. Threats or military action by any foreign power would be counterproductive. Statements in support of Iranian aspirations for “Women, Life and Freedom” are appropriate. The belated decision of the Biden administration to remove sanctions and restrictions on internet services to Iran is welcome.

The international community has three priorities in its dealings with Iran:

- 1) Prevent it from acquiring nuclear weapons.
- 2) Reign in its interference in regional states
- 3) Support the human rights aspirations of the Iranian people, particularly the girls and women leading the current protests.

While diplomacy remains the only tool capable of reining in Iran’s nuclear program, no progress in restoring or replacing the JCPOA seems viable under prevailing circumstances.

Iranian direct and indirect meddling in the affairs of other states has taken an ugly step with its dispatch of technical advisors and sale of hundreds of drones to Russia for use in its war against Ukraine. Popular sentiment in Iran is strongly on the side of the underdog, Ukraine, so sense can only be made of the Iranian arms sales by shared Russian-Iranian antipathy towards the US. The fact that Iranian drones are proving effective against Ukrainian positions underscores the need for regional controls and limits on the arms trade.

Clear support for the rights of women in Iran should become our highest priority for a while. It is a little problematic for the US government to claim a lot of moral high ground over the current circumstances in Iran, keeping in mind recent US Supreme Court decisions which set back some human rights for American women and threaten others, and decisions which significantly weaken barriers between church and state in our country. Acknowledging setbacks in our own country should give us some humility, but also cause for solidarity with the aspirations of Iranians, especially Iranian women, as they strive to secure basic rights.

Advocacy in support of Iranian women’s protests

Solidarity Statement with Iranian People from Progressive, Women’s Rights and Anti-War Orgs, NIAC, 2022/10/19

As US organizations committed to women’s rights and justice across the world, we stand in solidarity with the brave people of Iran, overwhelmingly Iranian women and girls, who are demonstrating for their basic rights and strongly condemn the outrageous, widespread and systematic human rights violations of the Iranian government seeking to silence the Iranian peoples’ demands.

Since the killing of 22 year-old Mahsa (Jhina) Amini at the hands of Iran’s so-called morality police, Iranian protesters have bravely demonstrated for an end to the nation’s mandatory hijab laws and broader system of repression. They have been met with internet shutdowns and brutal

violence from the Iranian government, including beatings from security forces, mass arrests and deadly force. Nearly two hundred have been killed and thousands have been arrested for voicing their demands and hopes for a brighter future.

We echo the Iranian people's demands of "Women, Life, Freedom" and urge the US and international community to press the Iranian government to halt its outrageous violence against peaceful protesters and release all prisoners of conscience.

39 organizations, including PCIA

Take Action in Support of Iranians Fighting for their Rights, NIAC

- [Tell Congress to Stand in Solidarity with Iranian Protesters](#)
- [Call Your Member of Congress and Demand Action](#)
- [Tell Meta: Stop silencing Iranians, lift up their voices!](#)
- [Find protests and vigils near you](#)
- [Sign up for our Human Rights Tracker](#)

American Iranian Council Statement on Recent Protests in Iran

Although the American Iranian Council has for the past thirty years primarily focused its efforts on relations between the US and Iran, and not on Iranian internal affairs, from time to time the events within Iran are so extraordinary as to require extra attention. The recent period following the death of twenty-two-year-old Mahsa Amini has been such a time.

Young Iranians - women and men alike - have come out in a show of unity demanding change for their country, including the removal of restrictive dress codes for women and the "morality police" system, which led to Mahsa Amini's death. They are also demanding a broader array of changes, including better economic conditions and renewed integration with the rest of the world.

The American Iranian Council supports the Iranian people in their calls for change. We urge the Iranian government to be restrained in its use of force against protesters and to accept its peoples' legitimate demands. Meanwhile, as news of the protests spread around the world, the AIC cautions other countries against intervening in Iran's internal affairs.

MAPA Statement on Iran Protests, Val Moghadam and the MAPA Middle East Working Group

Massachusetts Peace Action (MAPA) is an organization dedicated to peace and social justice for all, with programs and campaigns on nuclear disarmament, a peace economy, healthcare over warfare, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Middle East. We oppose war, sanctions, and violations of popular and state sovereignty – whether in Cuba, Venezuela, Honduras, Palestine, Ethiopia, Russia or Ukraine. And we support the right of people to engage in peaceful protest without fear of repression, reprisals, or imprisonment, whether in Saudi Arabia, Israel, the U.S., France, or Iran.

In that spirit, we join the worldwide chorus of expressions of solidarity with the Iranian people who have taken to the streets to protest the death in police custody of Mahsa (Jina) Amini, the young Kurdish woman apprehended for inadequate *hejab* by the so-called morality police. The women-led tsunami of protests across Iran has been joined by men of all ages, social classes, and ethnicities in an unprecedented show of shared anger over police brutality, the unjust targeting of the young Kurdish woman, and the Islamic regime's authoritarian rule. Those grievances are inscribed in the slogan heard across the country: **Woman, Life, Liberty (Zan, Zendegi, Azadi).**

We also recognize that protests in 2017-2019 centered on unemployment, rising prices, and shortages, problems generated by decades of harsh U.S. sanctions and the onset of austerities.

We note that more recently, veiled women are among the protesters condemning Mahsa's killing and calling for an end to the morality police. Those women rightly point out that at a time when Iran is suffering from the punitive US sanctions, the government's emphasis should be on tackling the economic difficulties, not on policing women's dress.

MAPA stands for the right of Iranians to choose their own system of government, to protest peacefully, and to not face state repression. As a U.S.-based organization, we oppose any efforts by our government to violate popular and state sovereignty through "regime change". The Iranian people are better served by the lifting of U.S. sanctions – which have harmed various strata of Iranian society, including women and girls – and a return to the negotiating table for the revival of the 2015 international nuclear agreement (JCPOA).

The women of Iran have the natural right to live in dignity, without fear of assault, and with their physical security and welfare guaranteed. **We call on the Iranian government to halt the repression; we call on the U.S. government to lift all sanctions on Iran to help ease the people's economic pain.**

Iranian Music of Protest

Iranian Female Composers Speak Indirectly to the Moment, Seth Colter Walls, 2022/10/16

Planned before anti-regime protests broke out in Iran, a concert centered on connectivity finds itself tied to the news of the day.

Iran Protest Song Goes Viral, IranPrimer, 2022/10/4

For dancing in the streets;	For the fear when kissing;	For my sister, your sister, our sisters
For changing rusted minds;	For the shame of poverty;	For yearning for a normal life
For those kids who survive by searching through dumpsters, for their dreams		
For this imposed economy;	For this polluted air;	For Valiasr Street and its worn-out trees
For Piruz [<i>the last Asian cheetah cub in Iran</i>] and his possible extinction		
For dogs, innocent but banned;	For non-stop crying	
For never experiencing this moment [<i>a photo is shown of a young girl who was killed when the Revolutionary Guards mistakenly shot down Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752 over Tehran in 2020</i>]		
For smiling faces;	For students,	For their future;
For this forced "Heaven";	For imprisoned elites	For Afghan children;
For all these countless "for"s;	For all these meaningless chants [<i>e.g. "Death to America"</i>]	
For the collapse of these flimsy houses;	For the feeling serenity and peace;	For the sun after a long night
For anti-anxiety pills and insomnia;	For men, homeland, development;	For girls wishing to be boys
For women, life, freedom;	For freedom;	For freedom;
	For freedom;	For freedom

Political Turmoil in Iran

The Women of Iran Have Had Enough, Anne Armbricht, Susanne Koelbl, Muriel Kalisch, Mina Khani, Leo Klimm, Katrin Kuntz, Steffen Lüdke, Fariba Pajoo, Maximilian Popp, Omid Rezaee, Gilda Sahebi, Fritz Schaap, Anna-Sophie Schneider, Özlem Topçu und Bernhard Zand, 2022/10/21

The death of university student Jina Mahsa Amini has triggered a wave of protests across Iran. For the last five weeks, the women of the country have been leading the way, but people from all walks of life have joined them. Are they the force that could bring down the regime?



[Iran's Protests Are the First Counter-Revolution Led by Women](#), Robin Wright, 2022/10/9

Women are still defying and dying in an uprising that is historically unique for being centered on women's freedom. October 9, 2022

['It's Like a War Out There.' Iran's Women Haven't Been This Angry in a Generation.](#) Azadeh Moaveni, 2022/10/7

Statement by President Biden on the Violent Crackdown in Iran, 2022/10/3

I remain gravely concerned about reports of the intensifying violent crackdown on peaceful protestors in Iran, including students and women, who are demanding their equal rights and basic human dignity. They are calling for just and universal principles, which underpin the UN Charter and Universal Declaration of Human Rights. For decades, Iran's regime has denied fundamental freedoms to its people and suppressed the aspirations of successive generations through intimidation, coercion, and violence. The United States stands with Iranian women and all the citizens of Iran who are inspiring the world with their bravery. The United States is making it easier for Iranians to access the Internet, including through facilitating greater access to secure, outside platforms and services. The United States is also holding accountable Iranian officials and entities, such as the Morality Police, that are responsible for employing violence to suppress civil society. This week, the United States will be imposing further costs on perpetrators of violence against peaceful protestors. We will continue holding Iranian officials accountable and supporting the rights of Iranians to protest freely.

[How Iran's Hijab Protest Movement Became So Powerful](#), Isaac Cotiner, 2022/10/2
Four decades after the Islamic Revolution, simmering tensions have come to a head. What sets the current wave of protests apart from those that came before?

[The Dark Odds Facing Iran's Brave Protesters](#), Murtaza Hussain, 2022/9/24

The overthrow of the Iranian regime would be just, but if recent history has taught us anything, its collapse is unlikely to be pretty.

[Where Will The Iran Protests Lead? Fate Of Manchin's Backroom Deal w/ Trita Parsi](#), Majority Report Podcast, 2022/9/27

Interview with Trita Parsi starts at Minute 37

[Iran says nine nationals of European countries detained for role in unrest](#), Reuters, 2022/9/30

[Young Unveiled Iranian Women Protesters Keep Mysteriously falling off Buildings, According to Country's Police](#), Juan Cole, 2022/10/8

[Protests in Iran: State-run live TV hacked by protesters](#), BBC, 2022/10/9

[What US policymakers don't get about the Iranian people](#), Daniel Larison, 2022/10/10

According to author Assal Rad, identity has been shaped by opposition to government — and to foreign interference and control.

[Iranians are Done Debating](#), Alireza Eshraghi, 2022/10/199

Iranian Drones

[US: Iran "now directly engaged" in Russian war on Ukraine through drone shipments, military trainers in Crimea](#), Laura Rozen 2022/10/20

The US, EU and UK announced actions today (October 20) targeting Iran's supply of armed drones to Russia being used to attack Ukrainian civilians and civilian infrastructure.

[Drones Embody an Iran-Russia Alliance Built on Hostility to the U.S.](#) Neil

MacFarquhar, 2022/10/17

Authoritarian regimes in Moscow and Tehran have in common international isolation, domestic crisis and conflict with the West.

[Letter by E3 UN reps lays out why the transfers, if verified, would constitute a violation of a 2015 UN Security Council resolution by both Iran and Russia](#). Laura Rozen, 2022/10/21

[Iran Sends Drone Trainers to Crimea to Aid Russian Military](#), Julian Barnes, 2022/10/18

The trainers from Iran's paramilitary wing have been deployed to help Russia overcome mechanical problems with the fleet.

Broader US Policy towards Iran

[How the West should respond to the Iranian uprising](#), Ellie Geranmayeh, 2022/10/2

The US and its partners should stand in solidarity with the protesters while keeping the diplomatic route open on the nuclear front.

[What the West Should Learn from the Protests in Iran](#), Karim Sajadpour, 2022/9/24

[Hawkish senators make moves to take over Biden's Iran policy](#), Ryan Costello, 2022/7/21

Nuclear deal spoilers Bob Menendez and Lindsey Graham are at it again, introducing a bill experts say will undermine negotiations. [As of October they have included it in the Senate version of the NDAA.](#)

[Mar-a-Lago classified papers held U.S. secrets about Iran and China](#), Devlin Barrett, 2022/10/21

Iran's missile program, U.S. intelligence work aimed at China were among the most sensitive material seized by the FBI, people familiar with the matter say

Iranian Leadership Issues

[The Supreme Leader is still alive. But when he does eventually die, how will succession play out?](#) Barbara Slavin, 2022/9/20

[Iran's Islamic Republic faces neutrality, critics within clergy](#), Amwaj, 2022/10/17

Arguments for and against Restored JCPOA

[Getting To Yes: Is a JCPOA Final Agreement Possible?](#), MAPA, PCIA, 2022/9/15

Panel discussion organized by Tom Huf and featuring Barbara Slavin and Ali Vaez

The advocacy page gives you the connection to your senators and congressional rep if you type in your address. It is easy and takes only a few minutes to tell them that you support the US returning to the nuclear deal and undoing the damage done by Trump.

Advocacy Page: - [Let's get to YES on the Iran Nuclear Deal](#)

[Dancing with the 'Devil' in Iran: Why Negotiations with Tehran are Necessary](#), Barbara Slavin, 2022/9/26

['Geniuses' Versus the Guns: A Campus Crackdown Shocks Iran](#), Farnaz Fassihi, 2022/10/6

Universities across Iran have erupted in protests after more than decade of being politically dormant, with students joining the unrest that has convulsed the country for the past three weeks.

[Iran derangement syndrome season is here again](#), Ben Armbruster, 2022/9/8

With the rebirth of the nuclear accord seemingly within reach, those who'd rather have war are turning their hysterics into overdrive.

[Spoiler! Israel may get its fondest wish to see the JCPOA die](#), Daniel Larison, 2022/9/9

Both US and Iran are to blame for the failure to renew the nuclear deal, but Tel Aviv is throwing in any monkey wrench it can to sabotage it.

Economy

[How Iran's biggest steelmaker became nexus of corruption](#), AMWAJ, 2022/9/12

Media

[Administration's Efforts to Advance the Free Flow of Information For the Iranian People](#), 2022/9/23

State Department announced General License D-2 authorizing the export of certain services, software, and hardware related to communications to Iran.

- The Biden administration is fixing the issues created for Iranians' internet access during the Trump presidency. The vaguely-written and outdated GLD1 coupled with the avalanche of sanctions imposed during the Trump era pushed most U.S. companies to withdraw their services for Iranians from 2018 onwards.
- GLD2 now puts the ball in the court of U.S. technology companies when it comes to providing their services for Iranians. This General License removes the excuses that companies such as Google, Amazon, Apple, Digital Ocean and many more gave to deny access to Iranians.
- Iranian developer Ali Borhani previously [documented](#) at least 300 technology companies that have blocked their services to Iran-based IP addresses. Among the most damaging for Iranians has been loss of access to cloud and hosting infrastructure, such as [Google's](#) cloud services and Apps Engine.
- However, GLD1 is not a short-term solution that will help with the current internet shutdowns faced by Iranians, much less protestors in the streets. It will not prevent

the Islamic Republic's national internet or shutdown policies, but can help Iranian civil society down the road.

- If this revision had been made earlier, such as during the previous internet shutdown in Nov. 2019, or if the original GLD1 was more expansive and specific in scope, Iranian civil society would have been more strongly positioned amid this current protest movement.
- Another issue is that many of the most important services that Iranians have lost access require payment. While GLD2 technically covers fee-based services, there are still big questions about Iranians being able to find payment channels. Whenever possible firms like Google and others should make services free inside Iran to avoid these issues.

[IRGC warns Saudi Arabia it must 'control' media 'provoking our youth'](#), Amwaj, 2022/10/18

Human Rights

[Death Count Rises in Iran as Authorities Continue to Terrorize Protesters](#), NIAC, 2022/9/27

[Mahsa Amini's Killing Puts Raisi On The Spot In New York](#), Barbara Slavin, 2022/9/22

In a closed-door meeting in New York, the Iranian president pushed back on the cause of Amini's death.

[Protests Erupt After Death in Detention](#), Garrett Nada, 2022/9/19

[Iranian Teachers' Union charges Gov't with Dishonoring Nation's Girls, Recalling Theme of Constitutional Revolution of 1905-1911](#), Juan Cole, 2022/9/27

[Iran's Ferocious Return to the Belligerent Policies of the Revolution's Early Days](#), Robin Wright, 2022/9/25

The country's new President, Ebrahim Raisi, is cracking down on women, arming Russia, and playing hardball with the U.S. on nuclear diplomacy.

[Baqer Nemazi allowed to leave Iran; Siamak Namazi released from detention](#), Stéphane Dujarric, Spokesman for the Secretary-General, 2022/10/1

History

[Iranian Teachers' Union charges Gov't with Dishonoring Nation's Girls, Recalling Theme of Constitutional Revolution of 1905-1911](#), Juan Cole, 2022/9/27

[Ex-empires Iran and Russia forge new bonds as both blame their woes on the West](#), Barbara Slavin, 2022/10/17

ADVOCACY MISSION STATEMENT

Peace Corps Iran Association advances peace and understanding between Americans and Iranians through education, outreach and advocacy, and upholds the legacy of the Peace Corps in Iran.

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE PURPOSE STATEMENT

Peace Corps Iran Association advocates for peace and understanding through education, outreach, and cultural diplomacy.

PRINCIPLES: The Board of Peace Corps Iran Association has adopted the following Guiding Principles for our advocacy efforts toward improving relationships between Iran and the United States, and their peoples.

1. Understanding and acceptance of other people and cultures are the building blocks of friendship, inclusiveness and world peace. As citizens of a world power, Americans bear a special responsibility.
2. Tolerance and mutual respect form the foundation for peaceful interactions between countries and their citizens.
3. Bringing countries and their citizens into the global community through cultural and economic ties reinforces international cooperation and reduces the likelihood of armed conflict. .
4. Negotiation and diplomacy are essential to resolving international issues.
5. Force is rarely justified in dealing with conflicts. Peace is built and sustained through voluntary agreement and consent.

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2. PCIA members are invited to share articles for publication. The editor decides which articles are selected for publication. Some pieces, particularly when not aligned with PCIA's Mission, Values, and Guiding Principles, or which do not relate to the current state of Iran advocacy issues, may be posted in PCIA's Facebook group.
3. Articles should be addressed to AdvocacyBulletin@peacecorpsiran.org and the release question answered, "I consent/do not consent to the release of my writing beyond the Advocacy Bulletin distribution and PCIA archives." If consent is given, statements issued to the public will be identified as coming from the author, and not PCIA, the Advocacy Committee, or Board.
4. Writers are encouraged to include action recommendations and reference information to help readers understand issues.
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