



The Cyrus Cylinder استوانه کوروش or Cyrus Charter منشور 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 November 2022 Advocacy Bulletin

- **Drones, Protests, Repression & the Need for Hope**
- **Ongoing Protests in Iran**
- **Music of Protests, Sports and Counter-Protests**
- **US Policy Options**
- **Sanctions**
- **Iranian Drones and Missiles**
- **Iran Nuclear Program**
- **Region and International Views**
- **Advocacy Action**
- **Media**
- **Human Rights**
- **History**

### **Drones, Protests, Repression & the Need for Hope** **Note From the Editor, by Paul Barker**

Perhaps because they are leaderless, the mass demonstrations against the repressive clerical regime in Iran are arguably the greatest threat that the Iranian government has faced in 43 years. The risks that students, musicians, journalists, academics, athletes, and ethnic minorities willfully shoulder to speak and act out against the government continue to be met with violent repression, judicial as well as extra-judicial killings, and mass imprisonment. The music of the protest is as haunting as it is beautiful. The silence of the Iran Melli soccer team while the Iranian national anthem was played in Qatar at the ongoing World Cup competition was a loud statement, as were the words of Iranian soccer stars in support of the anti-government protests.

While almost all diaspora Iranians seem united in their opposition to regime brutality against protesters, sharp divisions are emerging regarding the end game for this uprising. On one side are those who support diplomacy in addressing issues such as the nuclear deal and sanctions even though this requires negotiating with—and implicitly legitimizing-- the current Iranian government. Others (among them Monarchists, MEK supporters, and groups aligned with Israel and Saudi Arabia) want no compromise with the government and would support military action against it. There is cause for concern when pro-diplomacy speech is shouted down and organizations such as the National Iranian American Council, with whom PCIA has collaborated on much of our advocacy, suffer militant attacks from hardline regime opponents. This is an

important time for non-Iranian-Americans to speak up for diplomacy and in defense of Iranian-American journalists and scholars.

Many who support the current leaderless protests want to refer to this uprising as a revolution. This is particularly appealing to those wishing to see a free, democratic, much more secular Iran which fully respects and defends the human rights of women, girls and other oppressed people in the country. These are intense, unstable times and it is worth remembering that a leaderless revolution is also rudderless – there is no telling which way it will go. While our members' Peace Corps service in Iran had ended a few years before the 1979 revolution that ousted the Shah, many PCIA members were doubtless rooting from afar for the victory of forces of liberalism, democracy and human rights. Things did not turn out that way in 1979, nor did most of the "Arab Spring" uprisings and revolutions of a decade ago. The forces best positioned to replace the reign of the clerical class in Iran are probably the military and security forces of the Iranian state. Americans, British and the Russians do not have good records in trying to sway political outcomes in Iran. Iranians inside Iran should decide the future of Iran.

Western governments should take stands and steps against the clerical regime's supply of missiles, drones and technical assistance to Russia to use in its war against Ukraine. The regime's violent crackdown on protesters inside Iran should be denounced. At the same time, we need to ensure that doors remain open for eventual diplomacy with Iran on nuclear issues, as diplomacy remains the only tool capable of reining in Iran's nuclear ambitions. In this regard see the article by Kelsey Davenport on [A "Plan B" to Address Iran's Accelerating Nuclear Program](#).

### **Ongoing Protests in Iran**

#### **The Lifblood of Iranian Democracy,** **Nojang Khatami, 2022/11/2**

From street demonstrations to song, dance, film and poetry, women are advancing a long legacy of struggle against authoritarianism in Iran.

#### **Anonymous artist dyes Tehran fountains blood-red during protests,** **Kelsey Ables, 2022/10/8**

Fountains at culturally significant sites around the Iranian capital were transformed into protest art on Friday

#### **Iranians marking Mahsa Amini's death clash with riot police,** **Najmeh Bozorgmehr, 202/10/26**

Thousands march to grave of Kurdish woman while tear gas is fired at demonstrators in Tehran



[Women Led Protests in Iran Evolve: Regime Controlled Industries are the Next Targets](#), Elham Gheytauchi, 2022/11/14

[Iran's security forces reportedly open fire as thousands mourn Mahsa Amini](#), Patrick Wintour, 2-22/10/26

[How Iran's Morality Police Enforces a Strict Interpretation of Islamic Law](#), Sanya Mansoor, 2022/11/10

[A Chilling Crackdown at a Tehran Apartment Complex](#), Farnaz Fassihi, 2022/11/2  
Iran's security forces shot at windows and threw stun grenades in a raid at the Shahrak Ekbatan complex, where a member of the feared Basij militia was killed last week, residents said.

[Iranian Crowds setting fire to Khomeini's House, in Generational Rejection of Islamic Republic](#), Juan Cole, 2022/11/19

[Iran's New Protest Generation](#), Robin Wright, 2022/10/26

Even before the recent round of demonstrations, young Iranians were pushing against the regime's restrictive social norms.

[Iran's Women on the Frontlines](#), Zoe Marks, Fatemeh Haghighatjoo, and Erica Chenoweth, 022/10/31  
Why Female-Led Movements Succeed—but Also Risk a Backlash



An unveiled woman joins a large crowd making its way to Mahsa Amini's grave in Saqqez to mark 40 days since her death in police custody © UGC/AFP/Getty Images

Movements in which women play a prominent role tend to attract much larger numbers of participants. On average, they are about seven times as large as movements that sideline women—and larger movements are more likely to succeed. . .

Movements with large numbers of female participants also tend to be perceived as more legitimate in the eyes of observers, who often respond to the symbolic power of grandmothers and schoolgirls protesting bravely. . .

Women's involvement in mass movements also allows activists to gain access to social levers of change that women influence within their families and communities, where they can draw on different networks and norms than those dominated by men. . . As a result, gender-inclusive protest movements are often better at chipping away at the loyalties of regime elites, empowering reformers, and sidelining hard-liners as a conflict intensifies. . .

Worldwide, movements led by women also tend to be more innovative—particularly in tactics of noncooperation . . .

Women are cutting their hair publicly, invoking an ancient Persian motif of mourning and outrage over injustice and launching a new symbol of international protest. . .

Finally, campaigns with women participating prominently are more resilient in the face of repression, in part because inclusive protests are more likely to remain nonviolent.

. . . the current cries for “Woman, life, freedom!” may have already shifted the social and political landscape. And alliances between constituents as diverse as schoolgirls, oil workers, and Kurdish nationalists have emerged. Moreover, the demands of the movement have resonated around the world—

including in the United States—where renewed restrictions on reproductive autonomy and violence against women in politics have generated a sense of common cause. Going forward, the movement will have to weather organizational obstacles and transcend the information blackout imposed by the Iranian government. International actors could help protesters by providing alternative means of accessing the Internet, enabling them to circumvent government shutdowns to communicate with one another and with the rest of the world. But even without such assistance, the videos and photographs that have made it through Iran’s media blackout demonstrate how women can act as powerful agents of change even—perhaps, particularly—under patriarchal authoritarian politics.

### [Prominent Iranian actor removes mandatory headscarf in defiant protest](#), The Guardian, 2022/11/9

Taraneh Alidoosti posted image on her Instagram account in support of protests sweeping the country

### [Hundreds of Protesters in Iran Blinded by Metal Pellets and Rubber Bullets](#), Cora Engelbrecht, 2022/11/19

Security forces have been firing ammunition that has ruptured the eyes of antigovernment demonstrators in the past two months. “Everything went dark,” one said.

### [Iranian Protesters are Beaten, Imprisoned, and Murdered by Security Forces while Detainees Face Severe Punishment](#), NIAC, 2022/11/7

## **Music of Protest, Sports and Counter-Protest**

### [Shervin Hajipour - Baraye](#) (full version with English lyrics)

### [For Woman, Life, Liberty \(Baraye\)](#) - Shervin Hajipour/Rana Mansour

### [BARAYE](#), Azam Ali & Loga Ramin Torkian- Ft. Hamed Nikpay, Mamak Khadem, Arash Avin, Mahsa Ghassemi, 2022/10

### [Variations of Baraye Sung in Iran, Argentina and places in-between](#)

### [Hello Commander: new pop song aims to steer Iranian youth away from the temptations of American culture](#) , The Conversation, 2022/6/16

### [موزیک ویدیو طناب دار از توماج و بیلقب](#)

### [Iran’s Football Team Has Already Won](#), Golnar Nikpour, 2022/11/24

### [Mandana Zandian on the Power of Words as a Form of Activism in Iran](#), The Wilson Center, 2022/11/8

[A startling split in the Iranian American community](#), Stephen Kinzer, 2021/11/13  
While brave young women are being shot by police in Iran, their compatriots in America are being attacked for even suggesting negotiations with the regime.

### [The international community must start the putting human rights of Iranians first](#), Masih Alinejad, 2022/11/27

⚡ BREAKING: #Iran football team captain defies regime, backs protests: “We have to accept that conditions in our country are not right & our people are not happy. They should know that we are with them. And we support them. And we sympathize with them regarding the conditions.”



## US Policy Options

[Backlash in Iran against President Biden's vow to "Free" the Country](#), Juan Cole, 2022/11/5

I think Obama probably had it right in 2009 when he avoided the appearance of intervening on behalf of the protesters. Biden and his team should just stand firm against the right wing propaganda and express his hope that the Iranian people's will is fulfilled. He cannot actually affect the outcome of the youth protests and should avoid the impression that he can.

[The U.S. Needs a New Strategy to Stop Saudi and Iranian Support for Russia](#), Ellie Geranmayeh, 2022/10/25

[Designation of Iranian Officials and Entities Connected to Ongoing Protest Repression, Censorship, and Prison Abuses](#), Anthony Blinken, 2022/10/26

[The United Nations Human Rights Council Holds Special Session on Iran](#), Anthony Blinken, 2022/11/24

[US Policy on Iran](#), Rob Malley, 2022/11/1

[Biden's 'Free Iran' Blunder](#), Daniel Larison, 2022/11/4

Nothing good will come from the president making off-the-cuff promises about "freeing" another country, especially when it is a country with a long history of U.S. interference in its internal affairs

[Poll Shows Strong Jewish Support for Diplomacy with Iran](#), J-Street, 2022/11/11

['Usual tactics': Euro, US diplomats see Iran dangle to avert IAEA censure as 'too little, too late'](#), Laura Rosen, 2022/11/15

Diplomats from the US, Britain, France and Germany met in Paris to consult ahead of an IAEA board meeting Nov. 16 which would censure Iran for lack of cooperation with probe.

[Iran's streets are ablaze as it foments more trouble abroad](#), WAPO Editorial Board, 2022/11/21

The Tehran regime is providing deadly drones to Russia for use against Ukraine. This dims the prospects for negotiations to brake Iran's nuclear ambitions.

[A "Plan B" to Address Iran's Accelerating Nuclear Program](#), Kelsey Davenport, Arms Control Association, 2022/11/9

The urgency of restraining Iran's nuclear program remains, despite its drone and missile sales to Russia and its violent repression of protesters in Iran. While a restored JCPOA is nowhere on the horizon, reciprocal steps could be taken to re-start full IAEA monitoring of Iran's nuclear sites, coupled with confidence building measures to create an atmosphere for future negotiations.

## Sanctions

[Treasury Sanctions Oil Shipping Network Supporting IRGC-QF and Hizballah](#), State Department, 2022/11/3

[Crypto exchange Binance helped Iranian firms trade \\$8 billion despite sanctions](#), Angus Berwick and Tom Wilson, 2022/11/

## Iranian Drones and Missiles

[Iran Arms Russia in the War in Ukraine](#), Robin Wright, 2022/11/5

Tehran has deepened its alliance with Putin amid widespread protests at home.

[Iran will help Russia build drones for Ukraine war](#), Joby Warrick, Souad Mekhennet, Ellen Nakashima, 2022/11/19

Moscow and Tehran are said to agree on a plan to assemble Iranian-designed weapons on Russian soil

[A BRP ROTAX engine on a Russian drone in Ukraine?](#) CNN, 2022/10/19

[Zelenskyy Warns Israel: Putin Will Help Iran Go Nuclear in Exchange for Drones](#), Sam Sokol, 2022/10/24

Ukraine's president tells Haaretz Democracy Conference that Tehran's sale of suicide drones to Moscow happened partly because Israel decided to remain neutral in the conflict

[Seizures of Iranian Weapons at Sea](#), USIP, 2022/11/15

[Declassified doc reportedly proves Trump tweeted classified image](#), Steve, Benen, 2022/11/18

## Iran Nuclear Program

[Iran starts enriching uranium to 60% purity at Fordow plant](#), Parisa Hafezi, and Francois Murphy

[IAEA: Iran continues to block nuclear probe, scales up its nuclear program](#), Stephanie Liechtenstein, 2022/11/10/2

Diplomats say its 'likely' Iran could face a fresh resolution at the IAEA Board of Governors next week in Vienna.

[Iran's atomic energy organisation emails hacked, in solidarity with protests](#), Middle East Eye, 2022/10/23

Hacking group releases information on Bushehr power plant, declaring support for demonstrations sparked by death of Mahsa Amini

[Iran is seeking Russia's help to bolster its nuclear program](#), Natasha Bertrand, 2022/11/4

## Region and International Views

[G7 Foreign Ministers Statement](#), 2022/11/4

[The global pressure on Iran is mounting](#), Jason Rezia, 2022/11/8

Here's what the international community is saying as protests continue

[Why Saudi Arabia Is So Quiet About Iran's Protests](#), Kim Ghattas, 2022/11/24

The kingdom's rulers may have managed their own social pressures better, but they're wary of the tumult that's shaking their neighbor.

Looking at events in Iran, the Saudi crown prince may be congratulating himself for defusing the social discontent that had been building inside the kingdom for years. But he will likely continue

to do so quietly—notwithstanding Iran International’s coverage—because the ultimate lesson from 1979 is that geopolitical fallout from the coming changes within Iran will wash over the region. And any interregnum will be messy.

**[Iran diplomat summoned by UK Foreign Office after 'credible and significant' threats to journalists](#), Sky News, 2022/11/11**

Foreign Secretary James Cleverly said he summoned the Iranian representative "to make clear that we do not tolerate threats to life and intimidation of any kind towards journalists, or any individual, living in the UK".

**[Iran and Russia find common ground through Syrian and Ukraine wars](#), Martin Chulov, 2022/11/11**

Tehran’s supply of drones to Moscow deepens a collaboration between two unlikely allies

**[The Islamic State Attacks the Islamic Republic](#), Aaron Yelin, 2022/10/31**

On October 26, the Islamic State (IS) conducted an attack in Iran for the first time since September 2018. Unfolding at the Shah Cheragh shrine in Shiraz, the shooting reportedly killed fifteen people and injured at least forty.

**[Warning of 'imminent' Iranian attack in Saudi Arabia raises eyebrows](#), Daniel Larison, 2022/11/4**

The Biden administration must be on guard against being manipulated by Riyadh to extract more US military support.

**[The Killing of Mahsa Amini Speaks to Women’s Struggles in the Middle East and North Africa](#), Merissa Khurma, 2022/10/27**

**[The United States, China, and great power competition in the Middle East](#), Chas Freeman, 2022/11/12**

The world’s leading powers, including Washington, have lost their grip on the Middle East. So what will come next in the ever-changing region?

**[Nuclear Diplomacy with Iran and Regional Perceptions](#), Darya Dolzikova and Tobias Borck, 2022/11/17**

**[In Iraq’s Mountains, Iranian Opposition Fighters Feel the Squeeze](#), Jane Arraf and Sangar Khaleel, 2022/11/20**

**[Israel-Iran Conflict at Sea](#), USIP, 2022/11/15**

**Advocacy Action**

**[Statement in Support of Negar Mortazavi](#)**

As the Iranian people, bravely led by women and girls, protest against the brutality of the Iranian state chanting “Woman, Life, Liberty”, Iranian-American journalists and analysts, particularly women, who are chronicling and analyzing this moment have come under sharply increased attacks online. These online smear and harassment campaigns falsely accuse female journalists of being agents or mouthpieces of the Iranian government, are often misogynistic and sexist in nature, and increasingly threaten physical harm or call for violence against these women. Human rights groups

have [documented](#) some of the online harassment endured by women journalists in the Iranian diaspora.

This month, amid a massive uptick in this disinformation and harassment campaign, a panel at a prominent American institution, the University of Chicago Institute of Politics, featuring Iranian-American journalist and analyst Negar Mortazavi, had to be moved online following [a violent threat](#) emailed to the organizers due to her participation.

We unequivocally denounce and condemn this and other threats of violence made against Negar, as well as the smears and false accusations of agency on behalf of the Iranian regime.

Negar is a skilled journalist and analyst who has worked for Voice of America, BBC, and The Independent, among other outlets. As a result of her work, she has had to live in exile in the United States since 2009, where she is also a citizen, and her family in Iran has been repeatedly harassed by the regime. Attempts to silence or delegitimize Negar by generating or promoting disinformation are not only morally reprehensible, they are a form of incitement that has already manifested into a very real and outrageous threat of violence, and must be rejected by all.

Signed,\*  
NIAC, PCIA and 100 others

**Woman Life Freedom [Sign-On Letter Calling for UN to Remove Iran from the body's Commission on the Status of Women](#), PAAIA, 2022/11/4**

## **Media**

**[Iran's Secret Manual For Tracking And Controlling Protesters' Mobile Phones](#), Sam Biddle, Murtaza Hussain, 2022/10/27**

The documents provide an inside look at an Iranian government program that lets authorities monitor and manipulate people's phones.

**[Did the Oscar-Winning Director Asghar Farhadi Steal Ideas?](#) Rachel Aviv, 2022/10/31**

At a dangerous moment in Iran, the filmmaker stands accused by one of his former students.

**[The Iranian Diaspora's Extremism Portends a Bleak Future](#), Khouroush Zibari, 2022/11/3**

People living within the boundaries of Iran are the ones who should determine its future.

**[Reza Aslan's Book Event That Wasn't \(The Book Is Fantastic\)](#), Shana Nys Dambrot, 2022/11/2**

**[Diaspora Iranians plagued by online harassment campaign](#), Alex MacDonald, 2022/11/1**

Accused of being agents of the Islamic Republic, Iranians in exile increasingly fear for their safety

## **Human Rights**

**[Human Rights Tracker](#), NIAC, 2022/11**

## [A look inside Iran's notorious Evin prison](#), Niloofar Gholami, 2022/10/20

A deadly fire at Tehran's Evin prison amid ongoing social upheaval has drawn focus to human rights abuses behind its walls. DW spoke to two former prisoners about their time in Iran's most notorious jail.

## [Execution Sentence for Protester as Iranian Parliament Pushes Capital Punishment](#), NIAC, 2022/11/9

## [Iranian Feminism and “All These Different Kinds of Veils”](#), Isaac Chotiner, 2022/11/2

The scholar Homa Hoodfar discusses the current protests and the complicated politics behind the hijab.

## History

## [A Jewish diplomat tells his story in PBS documentary about the Iran hostage crisis](#), Julia Gergely, 2022/11/4

## [Muted Tongues: A Timeline of Suppressed Languages](#), Olga Olina, Hallie Ayres, and Anton Vidokle, 2022/11/

1837: In India, the British East India company forgoes Persian as the official language of government offices and the courts and replaces it with local vernaculars, primarily Hindi. In northern India, Urdu replaces Persian.

### **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.*

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

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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.
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