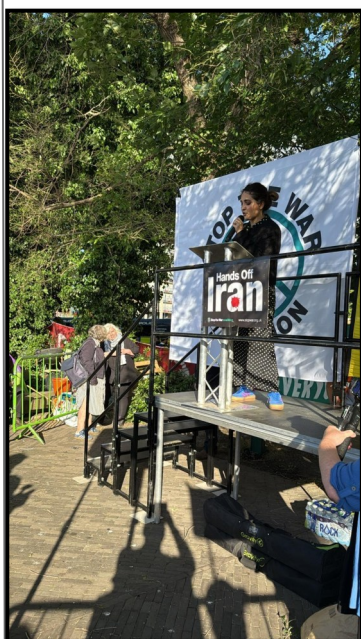


CODIR Bulletin



July—August 2025

Rising Threats and War Crimes



In Gaza, the convicted war criminal Netanyahu has repeatedly attempted to justify the Israeli state genocide with the false claim that Israel is acting in "self-defence". Now with the endorsement of the US and the shameful participation of the British government, he is using the

same lie as cover for the extensive bombing of military and civilian targets in Iran - including in the capital Tehran.

Underlying the 12 days of criminal aggression against Iran, both the Israelis and Trump have demanded the complete capitulation of the Iranian theocratic dictatorship. But neither Tel Aviv nor Washington has the interests of the Iranian people in mind. Through their drive to war and continuing threats, including the war crime of the bombing of the notorious Evin Prison, which holds thousands of political prisoners, they hope to bring about the emergence of a compliant and subservient regime which can assist the West's expansionist and hegemonic designs in the Middle East and West Asia. This military strategy is reminiscent of one employed by Ancient Rome: "they make a desert and calling it peace." **

However, their bombing raids have failed to neutralise the Iranian dictatorial establishment, or the democratic opposition. The Iranian

people have suffered decades of mismanagement of the national economy and the appropriation of its wealth by the clerical elite. Moreover, the dictatorship was seriously underprepared for the Israeli-US attack which contributed to the loss of at least a thousand civilian lives.

Iranian working people, trade unions, progressive women's and student organisations, although weakened will continue their struggle for democracy and human rights. The bloody anti-human record of the regime continues, and the regime remains in the reactionary camp of world politics. The Iranian people's struggle for human rights and self-determination will not be defeated, nor will they fold in the face of Israeli-US diktats.

The shameful involvement of the British government through air support for the Israeli-US aggression, also presents a challenge to those campaigning for solidarity with the Iranian people's struggle for a democratic transition! Moreover, outside intervention risks further escalation and the threat of global war.

CODIR will continue to stand for international solidarity, peace, human and democratic rights, and social justice.

**No more War on Iran!
Oppose Imperialist
Aggression; Support the
Democratic Struggle!**

**The Roman historian Tacitus, in his work Agricola, references the quote attributed to Calgacus, leader of the Caledonians, to describe the Roman approach to conquest and rule.

**AFFILIATE TO
CODIR**



**Solidarity with
the struggle of
the Iranian people
for peace, equality,
human rights**

**STARTS
HERE!**

CODIR supports the campaign for peace, human and democratic rights in Iran. We campaign for release of all political prisoners and for trade unions to have freedom to organise and campaign effectively. We supply news and analysis of events in Iran and related issues from the world.

Affiliation fees:

*Local organisations £20 -£50,
Regional organisations £50,
National Orgs: £100 to £250.*

For information on CODIR

**please write to us at: CODIR–
B.M.CODIR, London, WC1N 3XX,
Britain.**

**Visit us on: www.codir.net or e
-mail us at:**

Iran: regime change masquerading as nuclear prevention

STEVE BISHOP, a senior member of CODIR Executive exposes blatant lies of the warmongers who demand ‘unconditional surrender’ from Iran using the excuse of nuclear weapons, when it is Israel that blatantly disregards international law

FOLLOWING the unprovoked attack upon Iran by the state of Israel last week, US President Donald Trump has called for Iran’s “unconditional surrender,” while preparing to give the green light for overt military intervention by the US.

The US has already been covertly assisting the Israeli assault by providing back-up for its Iron Dome missile defence system, designed to intercept any Iranian missiles fired towards Israel in response. That the US is even contemplating military intervention in Iran, going against all the norms of international law and the so-called international rules-based order, can only be regarded as an international scandal.

Israel has a decades-long record of flouting international conventions and dismissing UN resolutions, but to be backed so overtly in doing so by its major ally and arms supplier would take the threat to world peace that Israeli action represents to a new level.

The pretext for the action against Iran is that the Iranian uranium enrichment programme, being developed for civilian energy generation, is close to the point where it could be weaponised and Iran would have nuclear capability. None of the evidence from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) or the US intelligence services suggests that this is the case.

In fact, it is Israel that is widely known to have a nuclear capability, though, in line with its official policy of “nuclear ambiguity,” it refuses to confirm or deny the existence of a nuclear arsenal.

While the IAEA has raised “concerns” about the level of uranium enrichment in Iran’s nuclear facilities, it has not suggested that this is at a weapons-grade level. This assessment is shared by US intelligence sources who came to the same conclusion as recently as March of this year. The fact that Iran only increased its enrichment programme because the US, in



Trump’s first term as president, pulled out of the nuclear programme deal agreed in 2015 is conveniently overlooked by the media and politicians in the West.

In spite of the evidence to the contrary, the narrative around the justification for supporting Israeli action has been the mantra that Iran must never have nuclear weapons, a position reinforced by Labour deputy leader, Angela Rayner, in the House of Commons this week. This is usually closely followed by the time-worn assertion that Israel has the right to defend itself, a platitude which, since October 2023, has been used to justify Israeli genocide in Gaza.

European governments hung on the coat-tails of the US, confining themselves to calls for “restraint” or having “expressed concern” over rising tensions in the region, but they have not condemned Israel’s violation of Iranian territory or its blatant ignoring of international law.

Just as there can be no justification for Israel’s genocide in Gaza, the attack upon Iran, especially while the Islamic Republic was in negotiations with the US, has no legal or moral basis. The attack upon Iran does, however, have a clear political objective, and that is one which has been asserted more prominently in the past few days: regime change.

We must be clear that it is not for Israel, Britain, the US or anyone else to bring regime change to Iran. The future of Iran must be for the Iranian people themselves to determine.

We don't want Israel and the US's 'regime change' playbook inflicted on Iran

STEVE BISHOP looks at how the 1979 revolution's aims are obfuscated to create a picture where the monarchists are the opposition to the theocracy, not the burgeoning workers' and women's movement on the streets of Iran

IN THE context of Israel and the US's unprovoked attack on Iran, it is worth understanding the motivations of some of those pushing regime change in Iran, and the truth of their relationship to the Iranian people.

The Western media has been adept for many years in its obfuscation of the real objectives of the Iranian revolution in 1979, which overthrew the dictatorship of the Shah of Iran.

The revolution was one to establish a national democratic republic and mobilised forces from across the social spectrum, from the organised working class, academics, and the clergy. External attempts to subvert the revolution were always a danger, not least the Western-backed attack upon Iran by Iraq, which led to eight years of war from 1980-88, and had a devastating impact upon both nations.

However, the internal dynamics of Iran, with the clergy gaining control of the state apparatus, establishing a theocratic dictatorship, and conducting waves of arrests and executions of the progressive opposition, was the fatal blow to the progress of the revolution and the signal for Iran's retreat into a reactionary medievalism. In defence of women's rights, the rights of trade unions to organise, the rights of opposition political parties to freely operate, the Committee for the Defence of the Iranian People's Rights has been the leading British campaign in solidarity with the Iranian people against the dictatorship in Tehran for over 40 years.

On this basis, in line with the wishes of the Iranian people as expressed in their opposition to the dictatorship of the former shah in 1979 and, as increasingly expressed in their opposition to the theocratic dictatorship today, popular democratic transition in Iran is vital to secure peace, democracy and social justice for the people of Iran. This, however, is not the regime change which Trump in the White House or Netanyahu in Tel Aviv are seeking. On the contrary, a progressive and democratic Iran is the furthest from their minds as support for monarchist opposition in the form of Reza Pahlavi, son of the former Shah, based in the US, is given greater prominence by Western politicians and media.

Netanyahu's call for Iranians to rise up against the present regime in Iran has been echoed by Pahlavi,



who met Netanyahu on a visit to Israel in 2023. The likelihood of Pahlavi being able to mobilise mass popular support inside Iran is slim, however, given his distance from the country and the perception of many Iranians that he is collaborating with the aggressor Israel.

Any return to Iran for Pahlavi would need the significant backing of US or Israeli military forces to suppress the opposition which such a reactionary move would provoke. The danger of Iran becoming a state dismembered by Western imperialism, such as has been the case with Iraq, Libya, Afghanistan, and Syria, would be all too real in such a scenario.

An alternative for the West could be backing the Mujahedin-e Khalq, an exiled group that enjoys support in the US from hawks such as veteran Republican John Bolton. During the 1980s, the MEK backed Iraq in its war with Iran, and the Islamic regime often accuses it of collaborating with Israel. Like Pahlavi, the MEK does not enjoy popular support inside Iran and would require significant external backing in order to maintain any grip on power. Recent years have seen increasingly popular opposition movements inside Iran.

Millions protested disputed elections in 2009 in what became known as the Green Movement. In 2022, the Women, Life, Freedom Movement mobilised millions across Iranian cities, calling for an end to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's rule following the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini in police custody after she was arrested for allegedly not properly wearing her hijab. Workers in the transport, oil, public services and teaching sectors have taken action to improve wages and conditions in spite of trade unions being effectively outlawed in Iran.

These are the potential movers of change that Trump and Netanyahu do not want to see — those who are opposed to the theocratic dictatorship but equally do not want to see Iran's future shaped by the outside interests of Israel or US imperialism. Change in Iran has been coming for a long time, but it must be change for the people, by the people, not change shaped by foreign intervention and an imperialist agenda, imposed upon the people of Iran.

Iran's Imperilled Political Prisoners: A Cry for Justice Amid Deafening Official Silence

The recent bombing of Evin Prison by the criminal Israeli regime has cast a chilling shadow over the lives of Iran's political prisoners. Yet days later, its exact toll remains shrouded in official secrecy. This devastating attack, perpetrated in broad daylight as families visited, was not merely an act of aggression against Iranian territory; it was an inhumane act and a brazen violation of international law, amounting to a war crime. There is no justification for an attack upon a facility housing defenceless individuals.

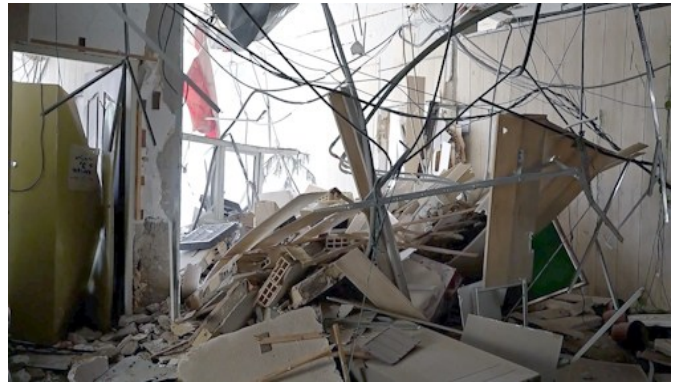
At least 71 people - including prisoners, visitors, and prison staff - were killed in the Israeli assault and hundreds more injured.

Even those who miraculously survived this barbaric act now face further grave threats. Human rights activists and concerned families had repeatedly warned of the dangers confronting political prisoners. It was expected that authorities would take preventative measures, utilising existing legal mechanisms such as emergency leave, conditional release, or safe transfers. Tragically, official indifference and negligence contributed to this foreseeable catastrophe.

Negligence and Further Endangerment

In the aftermath of the attack and the widespread destruction within the prison's walls, officials moved to hastily transfer prisoners to facilities like Qarchak Prison and Greater Tehran Prison rather than offer them immediate aid and proper sanctuary. These facilities are notoriously inadequate, lacking basic amenities and minimum health standards, and have long been the subject of protests by human rights advocates. The sudden influx of scores of new inmates into these already dire centres will only worsen the suffering for all prisoners, political and regular alike.

The conditions imposed on political prisoners constitute a flagrant violation of human rights standards, domestic laws, and fundamental ethical principles. Many of these individuals are imprisoned on fabricated charges, often for merely expressing their opinions or engaging in peaceful dissent. Yet even from behind bars, they have bravely condemned the Israeli



regime's aggression, honourably standing in solidarity with their fellow countrymen and women.

A Call for Accountability and Release

Beyond the serious criticisms levelled against the sentences and maltreatment imposed upon these prisoners, a fundamental question remains: Why are their basic rights ignored, despite existing legal provisions for emergency leave or conditional release? Can national security truly be upheld by imposing inhumane conditions on these defenceless individuals?

Reports from lawyers and families confirm that many of these prisoners were eligible for conditional release even before the Israeli aggression. These eligibility criteria include having served more than one-third of their sentence, suffering from chronic illnesses requiring urgent medical treatment, or having had their request for judicial review accepted by the Supreme Court, among other stipulated provisions.

The release of these prisoners - or at the very least, granting them emergency leave until humane and legal conditions for their incarceration can be provided - is not a threat to national security. On the contrary, it is a necessary step to preserve it. The awakened conscience of Iranian society while pitted against foreign aggression, will nonetheless demand accountability for abuses and irresponsibility at home.

A Plea for Humane Action

It is hoped that in these critical moments, the voices of those who care for Iran and her people will resonate loudly.

Their cry is clear: Amid the rubble, ruins, and unjustly spilled blood, political prisoners are victimised twice - once by the foreign enemy and once by the callous indifference of Islamic Republic officialdom. Their lives and wellbeing are in serious danger. We demand their immediate release or granting of emergency leave in accordance with Iranian law.