



## COMMITTEE IN SUPPORT OF REFERENDUM IN IRAN

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December 31, 2003

The Honorable President George W. Bush

The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

### **Re: Referendum in Iran**

The Honorable President George W. Bush,

In light of the recent earthquake in Bam and loss of thousands of lives, the need for change in Iran is forever more urgent. The time has come to call for internationally monitored referendum in Iran. Today, a powerful and widespread movement by the majority of the Iranian people is calling for the very last chance of peaceful change in Iran. Iranian people are calling for the establishment of a democratic system through a United Nation's supervised referendum.

Last month, thousands in Tehran braved harsh crackdown and chanted "referendum, referendum, is the demand of the people." Young people across the nation have been posting signs and messages calling for a United Nations supervised referendum in Iran.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights stipulated that "the will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote..." That has not been the case for Iran.

The Iranian regime has announced that Majlis (parliament) elections would be held in Iran on February 20, 2004. It has also declared that only those candidates who "believe in, and have practical commitment to...sacred Islamic republic" and have proven their "allegiance to the constitution and the rule of the Supreme Leader" can participate.

The theocratic dictatorship in Iran has made a mockery of the electoral process and showed again and again that an unelected few control the destiny of the millions. As you said so eloquently last July, Iranians under the clerical rule are living in "a society that is totalitarian in nature".

The 24-year, iron-fisted clerical rule, however, has failed to quash the Iranian people's yearning for freedom and prosperity. Apart from tens of thousands of brave Iranian men and women who gave their lives in the struggle for freedom, Iranians, in millions, have consistently boycotted the sham elections in the past.

Dear Mr. President:

We are committed to advance change in Iran through an internationally monitored referendum as the only peaceful means to bring democracy and establish a secular and representative government in Iran.

Your relentless efforts in combating global terrorism and commitment to the spread of democracy in the world are appreciated by all freedom loving people around the world, especially Iranians. We ask you to join us by supporting an internationally monitored referendum in Iran. Your speech at the National Endowment for Democracy touched the heart of millions of Iranians. As you correctly highlighted, "the regime in Teheran must heed the democratic demands of the Iranian people, or lose its last claim to legitimacy".

An internationally monitored referendum is an important step for a popular sovereignty in Iran. People of Iran deserve democracy, so let us work together to realize their dream of freedom, justice and all the values that are cherished by the people of the United States. We need to be clear about the undemocratic nature of terror-supporting regimes like Iran while encouraging the forces of freedom that oppose them. The Iranian regime is not to be trusted, so let us support the just cause for internationally monitored referendum.

Sincerely,

Masoud Dolati  
President

CC: The Honorable President Jimmy Carter – The Carter Center  
The Honorable Richard Cheney-Vice President of the United States of America  
The Honorable Condoleezza Rice-Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs  
The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld- Secretary of Defense  
The Honorable Kofi Anan - Secretary General of the United Nations