



Rep. Henry A. Waxman
H.Res. 1457
June 23, 2010

Madam Speaker. It has been one year since Iran's disputed elections brought thousands into the streets to protest the regime's fierce grip on fundamental liberties. Today we pause to pay tribute to the faces of freedom that rose up in peaceful and spontaneous demonstrations across Iran only to be met with brutal violence by the thuggish paramilitaries of the Iranian revolutionary guard.

In the days and weeks following the election, dozens of protestors were killed, hundreds were injured, others were arrested and tortured and some even died while in police custody. In the year since, Iranian authorities have cracked down on numerous other gatherings and severely curtailed the ability for Iranians to gather for national and religious holidays.

Although the 2009 election was not the first subject to serious irregularities, vote tampering and corruption, the obvious vote rigging that led some provinces to report a turnout greater than 100% created a tipping point.

At one point the anti-election momentum fueled a "Twitter revolution," as tech-savvy Iranian youth mobilized gatherings through texting and instant messages. It was a telling sign of the opportunity for technology to surpass censorship and galvanize a freedom movement.

The Iranian people take great pride in their nation's vibrant history as a crossroads of the world, but the dangerous policies of the current government have made them more isolated than ever.

The government's reckless management of the economy has prioritized enriching the mullahs and the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps, while the average Iranian faces an unemployment rate approaching 30%.

The regime's illegal nuclear activities and dogged support for terrorist organizations have made Iran a pariah state in the community of nations. And now, with the recent passage of strict sanctions by the U.N. Security Council, the stagnant Iranian economy only stands to deteriorate further.

While tensions remain high between the United States and Iran, this resolution is a testament to our solidarity with the Iranian people and their courage to stand up for a better future. I am proud to be a cosponsor of the measure and I urge my colleagues to support its passage.