



Michael FREILICH

Darya SAFAI

Members of the Belgian Parliament

August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021

**To Mr Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf  
The Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly of Iran**

Dear sir,

It is with disbelief that we read your letter addressed to us, the members of the Belgian parliament, through the speaker of the House. We were particularly appalled by the language you use towards our close friend and ally, the Jewish State of Israel, which you accuse of “massacres” and “war crimes”. You speak of “atrocities”, “complete disregard for the basic principles of human rights”.

Well sir, if there is anything outrageous, then it is your incredible audacity in making these claims that are known to be based on lies, racism and deep-rooted hatred. May I remind you that the regime you represent is listed worldwide as a serial abuser of human rights and exporter of terrorism. The Iranian regime systematically arrests, tortures and murders thousands of its own innocent civilians. In 2019 alone you murdered 1500 protesters in the streets of Teheran who called for needed reform. Your country routinely hangs or throws LGBTQ+ individuals from public buildings, your leaders deny the Holocaust and you fund and export terrorism beyond your borders.

You develop ballistic missiles to hit targets thousands of kilometres away, you conduct cyber warfare operations against European nations and are in systematic violation of your commitments under the Iran nuclear deal. Let’s not forget your recent attempts to kidnap an Iranian dissident journalist in New York or your country’s flagrant involvement in a major terrorist plot on European soil. Iran has murdered over 540 opponents outside of its own borders in the past 43 years and your own diplomat, Mr. Assadollah Assadi, was just sentenced to 20 years jail time by a Belgian court for planning a barbarous terror attack in Paris.

And now, hypocritically, you call for action against Israel, the only real democracy in the Middle-East, a country whose basic right to exist you deny. Israel, through the signing of the recent Abraham Accords, has shown once again that it is open to peace with its Arab neighbours. We don’t always agree with the parties in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, but we voice our criticism in a constructive manner, in conjunction with our international partners. We firmly believe in the two state solution where both Israelis and Palestinians live peacefully side by side with full respect for minority rights. I invite you to convince your *own* government and leaders to acknowledge this fact and to finally accept Israel’s right to exist !

Your request to our Parliament, “*to make every effort to end Israel’s crimes and violations, including prosecution of the perpetrators and accomplices of the Zionist regime’s crimes*” is absurd. You shamelessly speak about freedom of religion while you prosecute the followers of the B’ahai religion and deny Sunni Muslims places of worship and subject them to societal discrimination and economic deprivation. You speak about Israel’s “*outrageous discriminatory policies during the Covid-19 pandemic and the banning of vaccine distribution*”, a blatant lie – while your own leaders deny Iranians US or UK produced vaccines to save lives.

Our quarrel is not with the people of Iran who have suffered through decades of abuse at the hands of its leaders. Our quarrel is with you and your ilk, who sit in an undemocratic parliament thereby blemishing the name of all parliaments around the world. If you would hold any decency, you would resign and repent for the crimes and atrocities that you are a partner to. Know this: the forces of good will always triumph over the forces of evil. It will not be different this time. Justice *shall* prevail!

**Michael FREILICH, MP – Federal Commissioner, Foreign Relations Committee  
Darya SAFAI, MP – Federal Commissioner, Human Rights Council  
at the Federal Parliament, the House of Representatives, Belgium.**