

English Translation — Message No. 38 (SHAMA)

Commanders of the Army, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, the Basij, and the Law Enforcement Force

In the heart of Iran's national revolution—where protesting people on the scene expect your solidarity—and on the anniversary of the meeting of 58 IRGC commanders with the removed leader, who unanimously conveyed the view of their forces that: “they regard the people's protests as legitimate and rightful, sympathize with the nation, and refrain from confronting protesters,” and simultaneously with the United States' attack on Venezuela and the arrest of the president and his wife and their transfer to New York, we hereby communicate the following points:

- 1) Pursuant to multiple declared positions—most recently communicated in Message No. 37 of the National Council of Iran's Revolutionary Transition—we asked the national armed forces to join the people, and asked the removed leader to hand over the usurped power to its true owners, namely the nation, by a “peaceful” method.
- 2) In response, the removed leader, by dividing protesting people into “pious bazaaris and non-pious people” under the label of “rioters,” proceeded to create a “polarization” among protesters and also “threatened” the non-pious non-bazaaris; and despite acknowledging the bazaaris' protests, he placed responsibility for the crisis on enemies.
- 3) Ali Khamenei's insistence on denying the nation's rights—reminiscent of Colonel Gaddafi's stance, who, as the capital was falling, declared that he would punish the people “neighborhood by neighborhood, alley by alley, house by house,” yet was forced to take refuge in a “sewer pipe”—this insistence of the removed leader is rooted in his mistaken belief that the armed forces will sacrifice “their honor and lives” for this traitorous leader, at the price of “betraying” the nation and turning Iran into a “Syria, Libya, or Venezuela.”!
- 4) From this moment onward, “full responsibility” for any negative event in the country “directly lies with the commanders of the national armed forces” who, out of “cowardice,” do not shatter this mistaken belief of the removed leader by officially and publicly joining the people, and who do not pay attention to the “dangers” that, through this, threaten beloved Iran.
- 5) What answer will an army—which under Article 144 of the Constitution must be ideological and popular—have for its “deadly silence” in the face of threats against the people and the “collapse” of the country?! And does it not know what “fate” awaits itself?!
- 6) Do the Guards not know that the United States has already definitively placed the IRGC on the list of “terrorist organizations,” and that the U.S. president needs “no authorization” to attack it?! And if the IRGC—whose duty under Article 150 of the Constitution was to safeguard the achievements of the Revolution—by supporting a removed, traitorous, illegitimate leadership causes the “collapse” of the country, what answer will it have?! And does it not know what would then happen to itself?!
- 7) Is the Basij not made up of the “pure children” of these very people?! Until when will they play the role of an instrument for suppressing their own people?! Do they not know that confronting a

people who have risen for “justice,” in addition to being identified and prosecuted after the victory of the national uprising, how can they erase this “eternal shame” from their own brow?!

8) The Law Enforcement Force knows better than anyone that it cannot “defeat” these people, and that in this national uprising “victory will be certain.” Has the time not come for them to officially and publicly join the people?!

9) Do the armed forces know that under Article 9 of the Constitution, all members of the nation—including themselves—are obliged to preserve their freedom, and no authority has the right, in the name of preserving the independence and territorial integrity of the country, to deprive legitimate freedoms, even through laws and regulations; and that under Article 156 of the Penal Code, the people have the right, in defense of life, honor, chastity, property, or personal freedom of themselves or another, against any “actual or imminent danger or aggression,” while observing the stages of defense, to commit any act that is deemed an offense by law, and in that case they shall not be punished?! And do they know that under Article 157 of that same law, defense against danger or aggression by “government forces” is also permissible?! And do they know that legitimate defense is “inherently a pre-emptive action”?! And do they know that under the legal rule that “permission for a thing is permission for its requisites as well,” the people have the right to obtain “means of defense,” including “weapons”?!

10) If commanders of the armed forces are waiting for their subordinates to first join the people, they must know that in such a case these commanders themselves will be the first target of those very subordinates; whereas a declaration of joining the people by the commanders, in addition to removing such danger, creates the grounds for a “peaceful” transfer of power to the nation and for preventing “foreign intervention” and the “collapse” of the country, and the honor of accompanying the people will also be theirs.

11) In advance, in order to preserve the structure of the armed forces and readiness to defend the country and safeguard the homeland, and to show the future policy outlook regarding the national armed forces, we have retained all commanders in their command positions.

12) Now that the traitor Khamenei, from the two options of transferring power through “compromise or trial,” has chosen the latter, we ask the valiant nation of Iran, on the anniversary of the start of the 1357 revolution—Wednesday, 17 Dey—and in memory of the martyrs of Dey 1396, to seize the streets across the country in united ranks with a magnificent display of national solidarity, so that we may inform them of the next stages of the struggle.

13) Just as in Message No. 34 we asked Mr. Trump to refrain from any harm to our national uprising, now, while emphasizing this request, we warn that Iran is not Venezuela.

14) The National Council of Iran’s Revolutionary Transition has devised the necessary measures to prevent a power vacuum, insecurity, chaos, and revenge-taking; and it is evident that the nation’s endorsement and support of it will guarantee not only the successful fulfillment of this Council’s responsibilities, but also the success of the “interim government” under its supervision.

Victorious national armed forces of Iran

Proud nation of Iran Long live Iran National Council of Iran’s Revolutionary Transition
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