

January 18, 2018 - IRAN

Roger Simon posts on Iran and how Trump's support for Iranian citizen protests humiliates Obama and his support for the government of clerical fascists. *Back in those pre-9/11 days when I identified as a liberal, the one thing I was sure drew all my then cohort together was opposition to fascism, whether secular or religious.*

Boy, was I wrong and never was that more clear than in 2009 when the Green Movement demonstrators were marching through the streets of Tehran and other Iranian cities, demanding freedom from the mullahs. The whole world was watching, as we used to say in the sixties, only their cause was purer than ours was then. The horrifying theocrats who ran the "Islamic Republic" regularly raped women in prison before they killed them, hanged homosexuals in the streets and tortured just about everyone else who didn't comply with the edicts of their Islamofascist regime.

The students and others marching in the streets to overthrow these tyrants desperately wanted America's help, specifically the support of our "oh-so-liberal-progressive" president. They shouted, "Obama, Obama, are you with us or are you with them?"

Obama was silent. ...

John Hinderaker wonders why the Iranian revolt now?

... We remember 2009, when Barack Obama, hell-bent on a fanciful alliance with the mullahs, shamefully betrayed the Iranians who rose up, expecting to be supported by us. The Trump administration's response is of course a welcome contrast. But one wonders: why are Iranians rebelling now? Certainly they have economic grievances, but are these really new? What has happened, recently, to explain the current uprising?

I wonder whether the Iranian rebellion has been incited, at least in part, by a conviction that there finally is an administration in Washington prepared to support them, at least morally and perhaps materially. Why would Iranians think that? No doubt they have paid close attention to President Trump's willingness to stand up to their oppressors. And perhaps Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital sent a signal that there has been a changing of the guard in Washington.

This is pure speculation, but maybe the fact that we now have a president who is pro-United States and pro-freedom, instead of anti-United States and pro-mullahs/Muslim Brotherhood, etc., has inspired Iranians to march for liberation. It will be interesting to see how events play out in the days to come.

Victory Girls Blog with a number of updates on Iranian protests.

... President Trump has been vocal from the beginning of his campaign to now regarding how bad the Iran Deal was for the U.S. and the world.

The recently unveiled National Security Strategy goes even further. Given the timing of the Iranian protests just 10 days after the NSS report was unveiled, I have to wonder if some of the

leaders of the protest read it and realized that once again the United States will be a genuine champion for freedom instead of being pro-mullah/pro-oppression/pro-terror.

The Tablet knows why American media cannot cover the protests in Iran.

... It nearly goes without saying that only regime-friendly Western journalists are allowed to report from Iran, which is an authoritarian police state that routinely tortures and murders its political foes. The arrest and nearly two-year detention of Washington Post reporter Jason Rezaian drove this point home to American newsrooms and editors who might not have been paying attention. The fact that Rezaian was not an entirely hostile voice who showed “the human side” of the country only made the regime’s message more terrifying and effective: We can find you guilty of anything at any time, so watch your step.

The Post has understandably been reluctant to send someone back to Iran. But that’s hardly an excuse for virtually ignoring a story that threatens to turn the past eight years of conventional wisdom about Iran on its head. If the people who donned pink pussy hats to resist Donald Trump are one of the year’s big stories, surely people who are shot dead in the streets in Iran for resisting an actual murderous theocracy might also be deserving of a shout-out for their bravery.

Yet the Post’s virtual news blackout on Iran was still more honorable than The New York Times, whose man in Tehran Thomas Erdbrink is a veteran regime mouthpiece whose official government tour guide-style dispatches recall the shameful low-point of Western media truckling to dictators: The systematic white-washing of Joseph Stalin’s monstrous crimes by Times Moscow correspondent Walter Duranty.

Here’s the opening of Erdbrink’s latest dispatch regarding the protests:

Protests over the Iranian government’s handling of the economy spread to several cities on Friday, including Tehran, in what appeared to be a sign of unrest.

“Appeared”? Protests are by definition signs of unrest.

Pajamas Media

[Liberal Humiliation: Trump vs. Obama on Iran](#)

by Roger L. Simon

Back in those pre-9/11 days when I identified as a liberal, the one thing I was sure drew all my then cohort together was opposition to fascism, whether secular or religious.

Boy, was I wrong and never was that more clear than in 2009 when the Green Movement demonstrators were marching through the streets of Tehran and other Iranian cities, demanding freedom from the mullahs. The whole world was watching, as we used to say in the sixties, only their cause was purer than ours was then. The horrifying theocrats who ran the "Islamic Republic" regularly raped women in prison before they killed them, hanged homosexuals in the streets and tortured just about everyone else who didn't comply with the edicts of their Islamofascist regime.

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I can't think of a moment I was more disgusted by the acts (inaction actually) of an American president. What did he stand for? What did we stand for?

Well, who knows? What we do know is he wanted to deal with Iran *his way* — whether to get the glory for himself or for other even less attractive reasons we will never know. He was secretly communicating with Ahmadinejad and Khamenei even before he took office, hinting at accommodation.

He wanted an Iran deal and he got it, the Iranian people and the U.S. Constitution be damned. (I have met several of the student demonstrators from that period who spent years being tortured in Tehran's Evin Prison. Their faces resembled Picassos of the Cubist Period. They were the lucky ones. Their brothers and sisters just disappeared.)

Obama was silent for those students and millions of other decent Iranians. He wanted his deal so much that, as we know, he sent still more millions to the mullahs in cash, so they could use those dollars in any untraceable manner they wished — such as funding Hezbollah and the Houthis.

And speaking of Hezbollah, we all know now, due to reporting about Project Cassandra by Josh Meyer at *Politico*, that Obama was so determined to make his creepy deal that he acceded to the mullahs' demand to pull the FBI off a detailed investigation of the Hezbollah thugs' extensive involvement in the U.S. drug trade. Are we sick yet?

Now, it is being widely reported, the demonstrators are back in the streets of various cities in Iran. We don't know the extent of the protests or where they are going. I'm a bit skeptical. The time was probably more ripe in 2009, but we can be hopeful. What we do know is that these demonstrators are complaining that money garnered from the Iran nuclear deal is not going to them, the Iranian people, to make their lives better, as promised, but to carry out the mullahs' murderous military adventures across the Middle East. Was anything ever more predictable? (For ongoing updates, I recommend the [Islamic State of Iran Crime Research Center](#).)

Power Line

Iranians Revolt. Why Now?

by John Hinderaker

Demonstrations against that country's regime have broken out across Iran. [Radio Farda](#) reports:

[P]rotests against high unemployment, a stagnant economy with inflationary prices and expensive overseas military interventions are spreading unpredictably fast in several cities in Iran....

On Friday, protests spread to Kermanshah in the west, Tehran, Esfahan in central Iran, Rasht in the north, Ahvaz in the southwest and even Qom, the religious capital of Shiite clergy in Iran.

Some of the protesters, at least, chanted for a return of "Reza Shah," the dynasty that was overthrown by the mullahs in 1979.

Senator Tom Cotton urged support for the protesters:

Referring to the "billions in sanctions relief the Islamic republic secured through the nuclear deal", Arkansas Republican senator Tom Cotton wrote on his Twitter account, the ayatollahs still can't provide for the basic needs of their own people-perhaps because they've funneled so much of that money into their campaign of regional aggression in Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, and Yemen".

Senator Cotton has also insisted, "The protests in Mashhad show that a regime driven by such a hateful ideology cannot maintain broad popular support forever, and we should support the Iranian people who are willing to risk their lives to speak out against it."

We certainly should, and the Trump administration has. Via [InstaPundit](#), this is the strong statement released by the State Department's spokeswoman:



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Office of the Spokesperson

For Immediate Release

STATEMENT BY HEATHER NAUERT, SPOKESPERSON

December 29, 2017

Peaceful Protests in Iran

We are following reports of multiple peaceful protests by Iranian citizens in cities across the country. Iran's leaders have turned a wealthy country with a rich history and culture into an economically depleted rogue state whose chief exports are violence, bloodshed, and chaos. As President Trump has said, the longest-suffering victims of Iran's leaders are Iran's own people.

The United States strongly condemns the arrest of peaceful protesters. We urge all nations to publicly support the Iranian people and their demands for basic rights and an end to corruption.

On June 14, 2017, Secretary Tillerson testified to Congress that he supports "those elements inside of Iran that would lead to a peaceful transition of government. Those elements are there, certainly as we know." The Secretary today repeats his deep support for the Iranian people.

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We remember 2009, when Barack Obama, hell-bent on a fanciful alliance with the mullahs, shamefully betrayed the Iranians who rose up, expecting to be supported by us. The Trump administration's response is of course a welcome contrast. But one wonders: why are Iranians rebelling now? Certainly they have economic grievances, but are these really new? What has happened, recently, to explain the current uprising?

I wonder whether the Iranian rebellion has been incited, at least in part, by a conviction that there finally is an administration in Washington prepared to support them, at least morally and perhaps materially. Why would Iranians think that? No doubt they have paid close attention to President Trump's willingness to stand up to their oppressors. And perhaps Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital sent a signal that there has been a changing of the guard in Washington.

This is pure speculation, but maybe the fact that we now have a president who is pro-United States and pro-freedom, instead of anti-United States and pro-mullahs/Muslim Brotherhood, etc., has inspired Iranians to march for liberation. It will be interesting to see how events play out in the days to come.

Victory Girls

[Iranian Protestors Rally for Regime Change And Freedom, Trump Calls For Support](#)

by Nina Bookout

Iran will be ringing in the New Year soon, but it won't be a party with fireworks and confetti. Instead many will be on the streets protesting the brutality of the Iranian regime.



The anti-government protests, as [noted here](#) while discussing the new U.S./Israel agreement, broke out on Thursday in Iran's second largest city, Mashhad.

Initially the protests were slated to be demonstrations in support of the Iranian government. However, what the world is seeing is something entirely different, and it mirrors the Green Revolution in 2009 when protestors were brutally mowed down and killed because they dared to call for Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's ouster after a blatantly rigged election. In spite of brutal crackdowns, those protests went on for nearly three more years.

Folks on Twitter and other social media platforms picked up on the escalating anti-government protests and sent out news, information, and support. The [Iranian government's response](#) is as expected:

First Vice-President Eshaq Jahangiri has suggested that government opponents are behind the protests, according to comments reported by state broadcaster IRIB.

He said: "Some incidents in the country these days are on the pretext of economic problems, but it seems there is something else behind them. They think by doing this they harm the government, but it will be others who ride the wave."

The governor-general of Tehran said that any such gatherings would be firmly dealt with by the police, who are out in force on the main roads.

Meanwhile, the U.S. government has responded.

Many reports of peaceful protests by Iranian citizens fed up with regime's corruption & its squandering of the nation's wealth to fund terrorism abroad. Iranian govt should respect their people's rights, including right to express themselves. The world is watching! [#IranProtests](#)

— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) [December 30, 2017](#)

U.S. strongly condemns arrest of peaceful protestors in [#Iran](#), urges all nations to publicly support Iranian people. As [@POTUS](#) said, longest-suffering victims of Iran's leaders are Iran's own people. [#Iranprotests](#) pic.twitter.com/mUObTeHft

— Heather Nauert (@statedeptspox) [December 29, 2017](#)

What's interesting about President Trump's tweet is that it mirrors WH Press Secretary Sarah Sanders tweet. Which tells me that the U.S. government is on the same page. Peaceful protests should not be met with government force. But does that matter to many in the media? NOPE.

Nearly 3 hours apart. pic.twitter.com/kNuTNX8ABW

— Kyle Griffin (@kylegriffin1) [December 30, 2017](#)

Oh give it a rest. Who cares if the tweets are similar or were posted three hours apart. The much BIGGER story is that Iranians are protesting a regime that is one of the largest terror sponsors in the world.

[#Update7](#) :protesters attacked the governor office of [#Hamedan](#), chanting: " Death to the Islamic Republic", "We don't want Islamic Republic".[#Qom](#) chanting "Death to the Islamic Republic ", "Death to Hezbollah", we don't want an Islamic Republic"[#Iranprotests](#) [#RegimeChange](#) pic.twitter.com/GIsovMmygg

— Raman Ghavami (@Raman_Ghavami) [December 29, 2017](#)

What many don't want to admit is that these new protests have been brewing for quite some time. Why? Several reasons, including inaction by President Obama in 2009. Instead of admitting the election was rigged, he provided this [weak sauce quote](#).

“The world is watching and inspired by their participation, regardless of what the ultimate outcome of the election was.”

In other words, Iranians were on their own with zero support from the U.S. in fact, as WSJ's Jay Solomon found out, [Obama ordered everyone to stand down](#) including the CIA, yet another move to try and turn the Iranian mullahs from foes to friends. In 2012, we found out why he let [Iranians seeking freedom wither on the vine](#).

President Obama's Nuclear Deal allowed Iran [access to assets](#) frozen in the US to the tune of \$100 billion. The Obama administration even shipped \$1.7 billion in cash to the regime, [described](#) as 'settlement of old legal claim.'

As many have attempted to argue, all that cash was Iran's to begin with. Yeah, no. [To heck with that](#). As we now know, Iran took that windfall and used it to ramp up their military, build more missiles, ramp up their production of nuke plants, and fund terror in Syria, Lebanon, Yemen, Hamas, and likely Hezbollah. Helping Iranian citizens, not on the government's radar whatsoever.



Instead the Iranian government would rather make the U.S. the bad guy (as usual) and call President Trump's support 'deceitful.' Yet it's not just the economic situation many are protesting. They are also protesting the regime's brutality against women.

THIS is feminism.

A woman in Iran appears in public without a headscarf, holding her compulsory hijab up on a stick in a courageous act of defiance.

Meanwhile clueless 'feminists' in America have taken to wearing hijabs.

pic.twitter.com/7rLmKyK7fG

— Philip Schuyler (@FiveRights) [December 30, 2017](#)

President Trump has been vocal from the beginning of his campaign to now regarding how bad the Iran Deal was for the U.S. and the world.

The recently unveiled [National Security Strategy](#) goes even further. Given the timing of the Iranian protests just 10 days after the NSS report was unveiled, I have to wonder if some of the leaders of the protest read it and realized that once again the United States will be a genuine champion for freedom instead of being pro-mullah/pro-oppression/pro-terror.

The Tablet

[Why Can't the American Media Cover the Protests in Iran?](#)

Because they have lost the ability to cover real news when it happens

by Lee Smith

As widespread anti-regime protests in Iran continue on into their third day, American news audiences are starting to wonder why the US media has devoted so little coverage to such dramatic—and possibly history-making—events. Ordinary people are taking their lives in their hands to voice their outrage at the crimes of an obscurantist regime that has repressed them since 1979, and which attacks and shoots dead them in the streets. So why aren't the protests in Iran making headlines?

The short answer is that the American media is incapable of covering the story, because its resources and available story-lines for Iran reporting and expertise were shaped by two powerful official forces—the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the Obama White House. Without government minders providing them with story-lines and experts, American reporters are simply lost—and it shows.

It nearly goes without saying that only regime-friendly Western journalists are allowed to report from Iran, which is an authoritarian police state that routinely tortures and murders its political foes. The [arrest and nearly two-year detention](#) of *Washington Post* reporter Jason Rezaian drove this point home to American newsrooms and editors who might not have been paying attention. The fact that Rezaian was not an entirely hostile voice who showed “the human side” of the country only made the regime's message more terrifying and effective: We can find you guilty of anything at any time, so watch your step.

The *Post* has understandably been reluctant to send someone back to Iran. But that's hardly an excuse for virtually ignoring a story that threatens to turn the past eight years of [conventional wisdom about Iran on its head](#). If the people who donned pink pussy hats to resist Donald Trump are one of the year's big stories, surely people who are shot dead in the streets in Iran for resisting an actual murderous theocracy might also be deserving of a shout-out for their bravery.

Yet the *Post's* virtual news blackout on Iran was still more honorable than *The New York Times*, whose man in Tehran Thomas Erdbrink is a [veteran regime mouthpiece](#) whose official government tour guide-style dispatches recall the shameful low-point of Western media truckling to dictators: The systematic white-washing of Joseph Stalin's monstrous crimes by *Times* Moscow correspondent Walter Duranty.

Here's the [opening](#) of Erdbrink's latest dispatch regarding the protests:

Protests over the Iranian government's handling of the economy spread to several cities on Friday, including Tehran, in what appeared to be a sign of unrest.

“Appeared”? Protests are by definition signs of unrest. The fact that Erdbrink appears to have ripped off the Iran’s government news agency Fars official coverage of the protests is depressing enough—but the function that these dispatches serve is even worse. What Iranians are really upset about, the messaging goes, isn’t the daily grind of living in a repressive theocratic police state run by a criminal elite that robs them blind, but a normal human desire for better living standards. Hey, let’s encourage European industry to invest more money in Iran! Didn’t the US overthrow the elected leader of Iran 70 years ago? Hands off—and let’s put more money in the regime’s pocket, so they can send the protesters home in time for a hearty dinner, and build more ballistic missiles, of course. Erdbrink is pimping for the regime, and requesting the West to wire more money, fast.

Selling the protesters short is a mistake. For 38 years Iranian crowds have been gathered by regime minders to chant “Death to America, Death to Israel.” When their chant spontaneously changes to “Down with Hezbollah” and “Death to the Dictator” as it has now, something big is happening. The protests are fundamentally political in nature, even when the slogans are about bread. But Erdbrink can hardly bring himself to report the regime’s history of depredations since his job is to obscure them. He may have been a journalist at one point in time, but now he manages the *Times* portfolio in Tehran. The *Times*, as *Tablet* colleague James Kirchik [reported](#) for *Foreign Policy* in 2015, runs a travel business that sends Western tourists to Iran. “Travels to Persia,” the *Times* calls it. If you’re cynical, you probably believe that the *Times* has an interest in the protests subsiding and the regime surviving—because, after all, anyone can package tours to Paris or Rome.

Networks like CNN and MSNBC which have gambled their remaining resources and prestige on a #Resist business model are in even deeper trouble. Providing media therapy for a relatively large audience apparently keen to waste hours staring at a white truck obscuring the country club where Donald Trump is playing golf is their entire business model—a Hail Mary pass from a business that had nearly been eaten alive by Facebook and Google. First down! So it doesn’t matter how many dumb Trump-Russia stories the networks, or the *Washington Post*, or the *New Yorker* get wrong, as long as viewership and subscriptions are up—right?

The problem, of course, is that the places that have obsessively run those stories for the past year aren’t really news outfits—not anymore. They are in the aromatherapy business. And the karmic sooth-sayers and yogic flyers and mid-level political operators they employ as “experts” and “reporters” simply aren’t capable of covering actual news stories, because that is not part of their skill-set.

The current media landscape was shaped by years of an Obama administration that made the nuclear deal its second-term priority. Talking points on Iran were fed to reporters by the White House—and those who veered outside government-approved lines could expect to be cut off by the administration’s ace press handlers, like active CIA officer Ned Price. It’s totally normal for American reporters to print talking points fed to them daily by a CIA officer who works for a guy with an MA in creative writing, right? But no one ever balked. The hive-mind of today’s media is fed by minders and validated by Twitter in a process that is entirely self-enclosed and circular; a “story” means that someone gave you “sources” who “validate” the agreed upon “story-line.” Someone has to feed these guys so they can write—which is tough to do when real events are unfolding hour by hour on the ground.

The United States has plenty of real expertise about Iran—not just inside think-tanks but throughout the country. The Los Angeles area alone hosts some 800,000 people of Iranian heritage, none of whom are among the “Iran experts” who are regularly featured in the press. Most of the “experts” tapped by the media to comment on Iranian matters have been credentialed and funded by pro-Iran deal organizations like Trita Parsi’s National Iranian American Council. They are propagandists for the regime. Others, like [Hooman Majd](#) and [Hussein Moussavian](#), were actually regime functionaries, who now distribute a more sophisticated brand of pro-regime propaganda inside the US.

The election of Rouhani represents a moderate trend in Iranian politics that the United States should encourage. The cash windfall that will come to the regime as a result of sanctions relief will be spent to repair the economy and address the needs of the Iranian people. Etc Etc.

Americans were systematically bombarded by craven regime “talking points” on mainstream and elite media throughout the Obama presidency—because the president had his eye on making a historic deal with Iran that would secure his “legacy.” Anyone who suggested that there was no real difference between Iranian moderates and hardliners, that the regime will spend its money on its foreign wars, not its own people, was shouted down. Anyone who also belonged to the pro-Israel community—meaning that they cared, among other things, about democratic governance in the Middle East—was denounced as a deceitful dual loyalist who thirsted to send innocent American boys off to war. You know, like those hook-nosed banker cartoons that once enlivened the pages of German newspapers.

Of course it’s difficult to understand what’s happening in Iran now—the Obama White House and the press sidelined anyone who was not on board with the president’s main political goal. To sell the public on the Iran Deal, the Obama administration promoted hack “reporters” and “experts” who would peddle its fairy-tale story-lines, while setting social media mobs on whoever was brave or stupid or naïve or well-informed enough to cast doubt on its cock-eyed picture of Iran—including independent reporters like David Sanger of the *Times*, as well as the president’s entire first-term foreign policy cabinet.

The current coverage of the protests sweeping across Iran is bad by design. The Obama administration used the press to mislead the American public in order to win the president’s signature foreign policy initiative. The bill for that program of systematic misinformation is still coming in, and the price is much higher than anyone could have imagined, including more than 500,000 dead in Syria and an American press incapable of understanding, never mind reporting, that this death toll was part of Obama’s quid pro quo for the nuclear deal.

And what was gained? America enriched and strengthened a soon-to-be nuclear regime that murders its neighbors abroad while torturing, oppressing, and impoverishing its own citizens. Whether the current wave of protests is successful or not, they show that the Iranian people are heartily sick of the regime that Obama and his servants spent eight years of his Presidency praising and propping up.

She Is Not Apologizing
For America



"WE'RE TAKING NAMES."
Nikki Haley



SANTA AFTER EATING COOKIES THAT WERE LEFT OUT FOR HIM IN COLORADO.

