

**Remarks by the Right Honourable Kim Campbell**  
**National Council Resistance of Iran (NCRI) Annual Conference**  
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Good afternoon. This is not the first time I have been with you and all the distinguished guests, Madame Rajavi and the people from all over the world. But there are many people to speak, so I will be brief. I have been asked to join the group of women, and you will know... some of you who have attended the wonderful Women's Day celebrations that I am the only woman to have been prime minister of Canada, and the advancement of women is something very important to me. So I want first of all to say I completely adopt the remarks of Secretary Elaine Chau, what she said about women in Iran. It is very important. And the women of Iran will be an essential part of its future in building democracy and building the society that you will all want to live in. But you may wonder what we Canadians can do to be of help. We wonder this too, because we know that democracy in Iran will be created by you Iranians. But one of the things that we can do is to try to keep the reality of what your struggle is in front of our own populations, so that the Canadian population will support good policies. And in our Parliament, from April 30<sup>th</sup> to May 7<sup>th</sup> of this year there was an Iran Accountability Week where the members of our Parliament all spoke about the reality of Iranian difficulties with human rights, Iranian issues with women, because they wanted to make sure that those issues did not get lost in the bigger conversation that is in the news about a possible nuclear deal.

Canada continues to impose sanctions against Iran. These have escalated over the years. No, we are not as important as perhaps some larger countries, but we are steadfast and there has been no diminution of our devotion to imposing sanctions and being part of that global manifestation of the values that we share in support of democracy. We have also been able to do something interesting. One of your countrymen has created a web site called The Rouhani Meter, and this Rouhani Meter is a fact checking web site that checks the declarations and promises of President Rouhani against what he has actually accomplished. It will not surprise you to know that the score is not very good. However, what interests me is that Iran, first of all, it ranks 148th out of 180 countries under Reporters Without Borders in terms of transparency. So it is very difficult for Iranians to get as much information as they would like. But Iranians are obviously very clever at

contravening blocks to their Internet. Because this Rouhani Meter, which collects very important information and incidentally collects it from outside of Iran... no Iranians in Iran are compromised by this, it is all done outside of Iran to protect the safety of people—but they have had more than 20 million hits on the web site of which 3.6 million individual people, 95% of whom speak Farsi. So there's a very good reason to believe that people in Iran are accessing this web site to learn some truths about their government. And I am very happy to say that in Toronto people have made it possible for this web site to be on the Internet. It's a small contribution but I'm delighted that Canada could help.

Finally, our Canadian prime minister recently said as our members of our government and all of our politicians say, that Iranians live under a tyranny. This was very clear language. Not surprisingly, the government of Iran took exception to this and they accused the Canadian prime minister of having an extremist government and of only saying these things because he wanted to win votes for an election this year. Well, Canada certainly is a democracy and the politics of our elections are fought very strenuously. But this was not a comment made to win votes in an election because frankly, all of our political parties support the same notion. There are many differences between them that make for a good election campaign, but there are no political organizations in Canada who do not agree that Iranians are living under a tyranny, and that human rights and the future of Iranians is something that all Canadians need to support and be aware of and do whatever we can to address. [applause]

So finally, I just want to say that perhaps one of the other things that Canada does, along with France and many other countries, is we provide a safe haven for Iranians who have had to leave their country and are not able to live there now, but like many of you here dream to go back to build a new Iran. And by living in Canada, which is a successful democracy—which means to say it's messy and inconvenient and full of controversy, but that's what democracy is. But in living among us these Iranians learn to live in a successful democracy. And that I think is a treasured understanding that they can take back to their country when, and I hope in the not too distant future they will have a chance to build a new Iran. And for those who do not choose to go back and stay as Canadians, they will be part of the bridge between my country and a new Iran to build a future together in the world. Democracy in Iran will be a great gift not just to the Iranians themselves, but to all the people of the world, when we can freely exchange on culture and trade and in making the world a peaceful place. And I can assure you that Canadians, men and women, will rejoice with all of you when that day comes. Thank you very much.