

STATEMENT

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Earthquake Tragedy Has Not Changed the Depraved Nature of Regime in Tehran, It Just Reaffirmed It

While most media attention has been appropriately focused on the urgent humanitarian crisis in the earthquake-stricken Iranian city Bam, a few commentators have made the sordid suggestion that this tragedy could provide an “opening” for normalizing relations between Washington and Tehran.

The USADI deplores such callous attempts to absolve the reprehensible conduct of Iran’s theocratic regime and considers it contrary to the highest interests of Iranian people. The very regime, which bears huge responsibility for the staggering level of death and destruction in Bam, must not be awarded an “opening” after twenty four years of plunder and corruption.

The theocracy ruling Iran, as the US State Department has stated, is “the most active state sponsor of terrorism.” It was condemned earlier this month by the United Nations for killing, torturing, and arrest of political opponents, student activists, journalists, minorities and women. Tehran has also been involved in export of Islamic fundamentalism, developing weapons of mass destruction, and meddling in the internal affairs of its neighbors, especially in Iraq. This is as true today as it was the day before the earthquake.

Indeed, rather than investing Iran’s vast natural wealth to develop urban infrastructures and eliminate poverty, the clerical regime has spent billions of dollars for the development and expansion of its military and suppressive machine. For any government to be so rich and so negligent of well being of its citizens, is simply depraved indifference and should be recognized by the international community for what it is, criminal.

Direct humanitarian aid to the residents of Bam notwithstanding, the most valuable and urgent assistance for the Iranian people would be to support their movement to replace this government with a secular democracy, and by shutting the door on any deals or negotiations with this regime of terror. For, Iranians would truly thrive only when a secular democracy rules their country. Any talk of dialogue with Iran will send the worst possible signal to Iranian people and compound the Bam tragedy. The United States and the International community should reach out to the people of Bam and to the people of Iran, not to their tormentors ruling in Tehran.

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