

IN CONNECTION WITH THE U.S. HOSTAGES OF THE FORMER U.S. EMBASSY, THE LEADER OF THE REVOLUTION ADDRESSED A MESSAGE TO THE IRANIAN NATION AS FOLLOWS:

IN THE NAME OF GOD, THE MERCIFUL, THE COMPASSIONATE. NOBLE AND STRUGGLING NATION OF IRAN. CRIMES COMMITTED BY THE SHAH AND THE UNITED STATES NEED NO PROOF. THE SHAH AND THE UNITED STATES MADE US DEPENDENT IN ALL FIELDS. MURDER, VILIFICATION, IMPRISONMENT AND EXILE WERE COMMON PRACTICE FOR THESE CRIMINALS. WE SHALL FIGHT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO THE END OF OUR LIVES. WE SHALL NOT REST UNTIL WE PUT THE UNITED STATES IN ITS PLACE, CUT OFF ITS HANDS FROM THE REGION, HELP ALL LIBERATION FIGHTERS TO DEFEAT IT AND ENABLE THE IRANIAN PEOPLE TO TAKE OVER THEIR OWN DESTINY.

TO US THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE AGGRESSIVE EAST AND THE CRIMINAL WEST. WE SHALL FIGHT AND, AS JUSTICE SHALL PREVAIL, WE SHALL TRIUMPH. U.S. DOMINATION ENTAILS CALAMITY FOR ALL THE OPPRESSED NATIONS. THE AGGRESSION COMMITTED BY THE AGGRESSIVE EAST HAS DISGRACE HISTORY.

DEAR IRANIAN NATION: BEWARE, AS WE HAVE LONG YEARS OF STRUGGLE AHEAD OF US. TO DESTROY YOU, THE SUPERPOWERS ARE ENGAGED DAILY IN PLOTS. THE DEVIL'S MISCHIEF HARMS THE OPPRESSED. (PREVIOUS SENTENCE IN ARABIC — FBIS) THE QUESTION RAISED NOWADAYS IS THE UNITED STATES AND THE AMERICAN HOSTAGES AND SPIES WHO ARE HELD BY THE MUSLIM AND STRUGGLING STUDENTS

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ONCE AGAIN I DECLARE MY SUPPORT FOR THE REVOLUTION COUNCIL AND HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT AND CALL ON EVERYONE TO HELP THEM AND SPARE NO EFFORTS IN SUPPORTING THEM. I WANT ALL STRATA TO FOLLOW THE PRAISEWORTHY ISLAMIC ETHICS AND SAFEGUARD FRATERNAL RIGHTS.

MY DEAR SISTERS AND BROTHERS: TODAY IS THE DAY OF UNITY AND UNANIMITY; TODAY IS THE DAY WHEN, IF YOU FAIL IN YOUR UNITY, THEN YOU WILL BE TRAPPED EITHER BY THE EAST OR THE WEST. NEVER ADHERE TO A SINGLE IDEA; DO WHATEVER SERVES THE INTEREST OF THIS LAND THE ISLAMIC NATION. THE MOVEMENT OF THE NOBLE NATION OF IRAN CONTINUES TO CUT OFF THE HANDS OF THE ENEMIES. SO LONG AS THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER SUPERPOWERS CONTINUE WITH THEIR OPPRESSION AND CRIMES, OUR NATION TOO WILL CONTINUE ITS CONFRONTATION AND STRUGGLE AGAINST THEM, WHILE SAFEGUARDING ITS COMPREHENSIVE INDEPENDENCE WITH ALL ITS MIGHT.

IT IS UP TO THE INTELLECTUALS TO INCREASE THEIR EFFORTS IN EXPOSING THE SUPERPOWERS AND POWERS. I HOPE THAT KHOMEYNI WILL NEVER DEVIATE FROM THE STRAIGHT PATH OF ISLAM, WHICH IS FIGHTING AGAINST THE OPPRESSIVE POWERS, AND WILL NEVER REST IN REALIZING ISLAMIC GOALS; AS I HOPE OUR

MUSLIMS, ESPECIALLY THE STRUGGLING IRANIAN NATION, WILL ENDEAVOR TOWARD ACHIEVING THIS ISLAMIC GOAL AND CONTINUE THEIR STRUGGLE AGAINST THE OPPRESSORS OF THE EAST AND WEST.

I PRAY TO GOD ALMIGHTY FOR THE VICTORY OF ISLAM AND THE MUSLIMS. GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

(SIGNED) RUHOLLAH MOSAVI KHOMEYNI; 10 MARCH 1980

-Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, "Khomeyni's Message on the Iranian Hostage Situation" (1980) excerpt.