

## Important Announcement

# Statement No. 1: Declaration of the Strategic Council of Republicans Inside Iran

### **Greetings to the proud and grieving people of Iran**

In pursuit of pluralism, freedom, democracy, and a low-cost, peaceful transition away from the dictatorial and bloodthirsty regime of the Islamic Republic — and recognizing the urgent need for a national alternative emerging from within Iran. We hereby formally announce the establishment of the **Strategic Council of Republicans Inside Iran**.

The Council currently comprises 35 prominent and widely recognized Iranian republican figures, including individuals active inside the country and within its prisons, representing diverse currents and nuanced perspectives within this broad political spectrum.

We have united for the people of Iran across all ethnicities, religions, and beliefs, committed to establishing a **secular, decentralized republic** grounded in human rights, democracy, the ballot box, and the decisions of a future Constituent Assembly. Our goal is to realize freedom, human dignity, prosperity, and the flourishing of all Iranians, and to address the deep and widespread concern about the absence of unity, cohesion, and a capable, expert, grassroots, home-grown alternative.

To this end, - We open this Council as a platform for dialogue with other opposition movements both inside and outside Iran, as well as with other political orientations. Hereby introduce our representatives for the dialogue with the international community, neighboring countries, and regional actors, on the basis of independence and mutual national interest.

The names of the Council's members, who are freedom-seekers, democracy advocates, experts, and those who have paid a heavy price inside Iran, along with their role as a **Transitional Council for the period of change**, have been formally communicated to international organizations, the United States Department of State, and the European Union's High Representative for Foreign Affairs.

Given the serious risks facing activists inside Iran, the identities of all Council members (35 core members and 35 second-tier members), all well-known and trusted figures (fighter, freedom-seekers, democracy advocates, experts) within the country will remain confidential for now. Security conditions will allow the organization to make their names public. Official spokespersons based outside Iran will formally introduce themselves in the meantime to represent the Council, and they will convey its positions, resolutions, and decisions to Iranians worldwide through designated liaisons.

All recognized individuals and movements across the broad republican spectrum, both inside and outside Iran, who wish to join or collaborate with this Council are welcome to do so, on the basis of recognition of the Council's general framework and resolutions.

The Council's goals are rooted in Freedom, Democracy, Justice, Human Dignity, independence, and Territorial Integrity and in full equality for all of Iran's inhabitants, under a republican, democratic, secular, and decentralized government. A detailed manifesto and program will follow through official spokespersons.

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**Ms. Shilan Mirzaei** has been unanimously appointed as the Council's interim spokesperson. Official contact information and the Council's official channel will be announced by the spokesperson.

### **Strategic Council of Republicans Inside Iran**

*Long live Iran and the Iranian people* Tehran, Iran Sunday, March 1, 2026

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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY Strategic Council of Republicans Inside Iran**

The Strategic Council of Republicans Inside Iran has been formally established as a **nationally rooted, home-grown alternative** to the Islamic Republic, comprising **70 members** — 35 core and 35 second-tier — all well-known and trusted activists, the majority operating **from within Iran, including from inside its prisons**. Their identities are temporarily withheld for security reasons, underscoring the Council's emergence from the heart of Iranian society, at great personal risk.

The Council's membership reflects Iran's **full social and political diversity** — spanning ethnicities, religions, beliefs, and political currents — embodying a genuine cross-section of the Iranian people rather than a narrow elite or diaspora-driven initiative.

Its founding goal is the peaceful, low-cost transition to a **secular, decentralized republic** grounded in human rights, democracy, gender equality, and the rule of law — with Iran's political future to be determined by a freely elected **Constituent Assembly**.

The Council has formally notified the **U.S. Department of State**, the **EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs**, and international organizations of its formation and its role as a **Transitional Council** for the period of change. It has declared readiness to engage all

opposition forces inside and outside Iran, as well as regional and international actors, on the basis of independence and mutual interest.

**Ms. Shilan Mirzaei** has been unanimously appointed as interim spokesperson.

# Suggested Improvements

## Tone & Credibility

- The phrase "bloodthirsty regime" is emotionally charged and may alienate international audiences or journalists. Consider replacing it with a "violent and authoritarian regime" for broader diplomatic appeal while retaining force.
- Opening with "grieving people" may be powerful domestically but can read as melodramatic in English. Consider "the resilient people of Iran."

## Structure

- Adding a brief **executive summary** or bolded key points at the top would help international readers and media quickly grasp the announcement's significance.
- The paragraph about confidentiality is long — splitting it into two shorter paragraphs would improve readability.

## Transparency Concerns to Address Proactively

- The combination of anonymous membership and outside spokespersons may invite skepticism. A brief sentence acknowledging this tension and reaffirming the security rationale would strengthen credibility.

## Call to Action

- The invitation to join the Council would benefit from a specific placeholder (e.g., "[*contact link to be announced*]") so readers know exactly what to expect next.