

Ladies & Gentlemen,

I send to you my greetings and pay respect to my dear homeland that is currently subjected to the harshest of discriminations, untold violence and death from inside Evin prison.

As you are aware, throughout history the interference of religion into the affairs of the state has ended in a clash of religions, fired the flames of extremism, violently gave birth to autocracies and flew open the gates to crime in the name of religion. Unjust laws against minorities, whether ethnic, religious or gender discrimination and inhumane punishment such as execution by hanging and stoning are consequences of the interference of religion into state affairs.

The Islamic Republic is a notable example of a theocracy. It has no respect for freedom of thought, speech, and expression. As such religious minorities of Sunni, Christian, and Zoroastrian, Baha'i and Jewish faith as well as Sufis and even Shiites who adhere to progressive interpretation of the Koran suffer repression.

With the interference of religion into politics, the beast of deceit and crime replaces Lord of purity, goodness and joy. Oh Lord, how witnessing such abominable misery and humiliation is worse than death.

My question to the regime in Tehran is how can you allow yourselves to interfere in the affairs of other countries when you silence and repress all independent voices? The Iranian citizen is neither free to hold a private view nor allowed to vote freely. Humans have to be sovereign and allowed the freedom of thought. I know of no limits and boundaries in the search for God. All religious thoughts are sacred and no individual should suffer because of converting from one religion to the other. I respect every religion and faith that allows human beings to engage and reach understanding and unity. I have always encouraged engagement and understanding between all faiths as a stepping stone towards unity.

Loving and respecting all human beings equally is a sign of a free spirit and deserves our respect.

I believe that a free and fair referendum under the auspices of the UN is the only way forward for us Iranians and I call upon all freedom loving citizens of the world to support our people's quest to become masters of their own destiny. The international community is inter-connected and only through unity of purpose, fellowship can peace, stability and democracy flourish.

Once again I call for a distinguished panel of legal and international experts to review the consequences of the interference of religion into state affairs and assess how best to ask the UNGA to pass a resolution in support of separation of religion from state.

Seyyed Hossein Kazemeini Boroujerdi, Evin Prison