



Hon. Kerry-Lynne D. Findlay, P.C., Q.C., M.P.
South Surrey—White Rock

The Hon. François-Philippe Champagne
Minister of Foreign Affairs
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

October 15, 2020

Dear Minister Champagne,

As Canada prepares the annual United Nations resolution on the situation of human rights in Iran, I would like to draw your attention to a dark chapter in the country's not-so-distant past, and ask that you address this tragic event with the United Nations.

I understand from meeting with the Iran Democratic Association (IDA), that in the summer of 1988, thousands of imprisoned political dissidents, many of them young adults and students, were tortured and extrajudicially executed in Iran. According to the IDA, some were killed by firing squad, others were hung.

I have also been advised that because these executions were conducted in secrecy, and the deceased buried in mass, unmarked graves, the exact number of individuals killed remains unknown. A report published by Amnesty International in 2018 notes minimum estimates of lives lost are around 5,000. But the report also indicates other estimates are much higher.

I am also told by residents in my riding that some individuals responsible for this unthinkable genocide of thousands of people are still holding government positions in Iran. That is why I am asking you today to raise the 1988 massacre in this year's United Nations resolution on the situation of human rights in Iran, and push for accountability for its perpetrators. It will not bring any of the lives back, but it is one way we can pay due respect to their souls.

In 2013, the House of Commons voted unanimously to “condemn the mass murder of political prisoners in Iran in the summer of 1988 as a crime against humanity.” Today, I am asking you to bring this crime to the attention of the United Nations.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kerry-Lynne D. Findlay". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Honourable Kerry-Lynne D. Findlay, P.C., Q.C.
Member of Parliament for South Surrey—White Rock

CC: Hon. Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance

Hon. Bob Rae, Canada’s Ambassador to the United Nations

Hon. Michelle Bachelet, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

Hon. Javaid Rehman, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran