



PRESS RELEASE

SECOND ICPS PARIS CONFERENCE

15 JULY 2023



The second ICPS Paris conference held in Paris on 15 July 2023 entitled, “A realistic view of transitioning to a future Iran” was devoted to giving prominence to an essential need for the adoption of ‘a common language and strategy’ on the part of all democratic forces opposed to the Islamic Republic. At the same time, it also examined closely certain avoidable weaknesses and shortcomings that had been exhibited in the course of the 2022-23 ‘Women-Life-Freedom’ movement in Iran.

Participants in the conference, projected views from a diverse combination of political tendencies ranging from republicans and constitutionalists to leftists, nationalists, national-religious, liberals, social democrat, as well as other ethnic and social groupings. The main focus of the participants was to assess the recent experiences in order to be better aware and prepared for future mass protests that lie inevitably ahead.

In the course of the conference, some 16 speakers - men and women each presented their own perspectives based on their own areas of specialties in identifying areas of weakness spotted as a result of their various examination of the unprecedented events which had seriously shaken the very foundation of the Islamic regime.

In the course of the conference, the following factors were highlighted:

1. Some speakers emphasized the subject of organization and leadership. In this regard, serious worries were raised concerning the performance of certain political actors, Iranian media and

news outlets. They emphasized the importance of the relationship that must exist between political forces 'inside and outside' the country – with particular emphasis on the primary role that must be assigned to political actors inside Iran.

2. The same speakers were critical of certain deluded tendencies that sought to give greater credence to actors operating in exile. They were particularly mindful that all parties needed to plan their actions based on a correct reading and understanding of the realities 'on the ground', especially in light of the the superior edge in terms of resources that was uniquely available to the Deep State in wanting to neutralize their actions.
3. Some speakers also took note and criticized certain political affiliations for having resorted to irresponsible and provocative actions along with extremist rhetoric in conjunction to other protesting political groups.
4. There was general agreement amongst all participants that such behaviour and sloganeering was detrimental to the kind of convergence that was badly needed for any kind of a meaningful and durable united action in the future.
5. It was also emphasized that in a society plagued by a worsening economic crisis, all protest movements should be able to attract and secure the response of a much wider spectrum of the population by attaching pertinent focus to 'livelihood issues and problems' using popular 'economic slogans'.

The Conference concluded with the promise of meeting again in late September 2023 (exact date to be announced – around the anniversary of the death of Mahsa Amini at the hands of the regime's Morality Police) in order to continue its discussions for exploring new ideas and tactics that can practically support the peaceful struggle of ordinary people for freedom and liberation from the yoke of religious tyranny and despotism

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A complete account of conference proceedings is available on the Centre's Telegram Channel :  (<https://t.me/icpsnews>)

