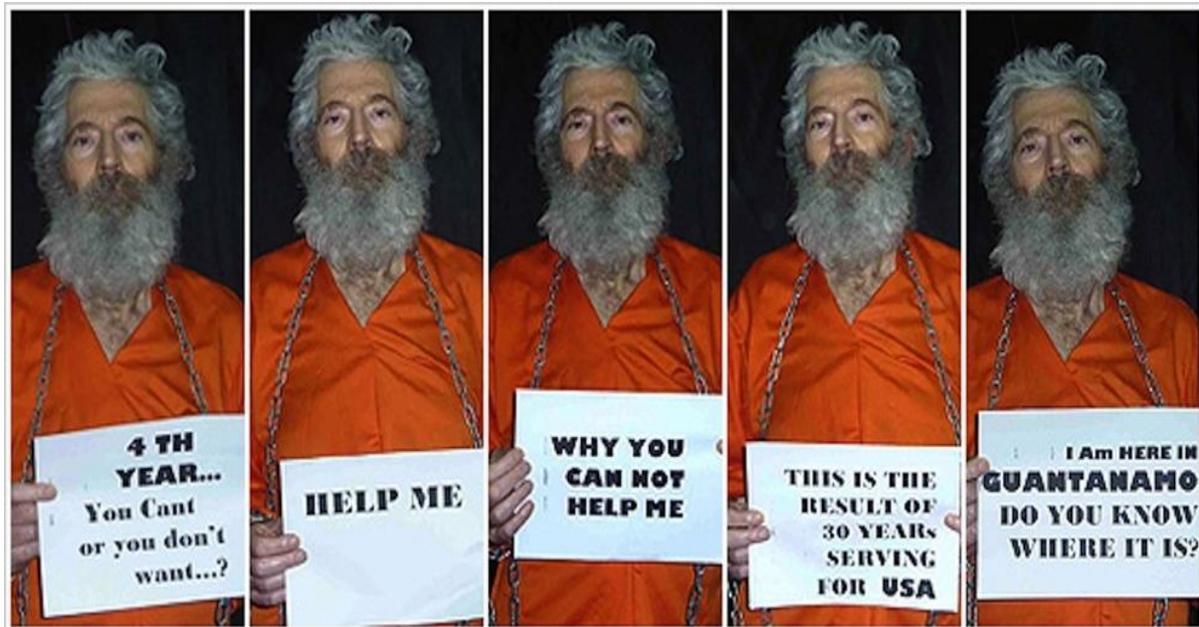


IRAN'S SIGNALS, CALLS, AND MARCHES

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Iran's Signals, Calls and Marches

Signals From Iran

Hassan Rouhani, the recently elected President of Iran may be the architect of a new Iran. President Rouhani's trip to the United States to speak today at the United Nations caps off a week of signals unheard for over thirty years from Iran. The Iranian President has been waging a full court media campaign that included interviews, web articles, twitter feeds, and even an op-ed article signaling a different approach in style and direction for Iran. Not since the early days of the Shah has there been so much hope in the west that Iran has changed course. President Rouhani's speech at the United Nations this afternoon is widely anticipated to echo themes heard from his media blitz this last week. These signals are all part of a calculated strategy that is playing out on the global stage.

On September 18, 2013, NBC journalist, Ann Curry was granted an interview with Rouhani in the President's Compound in Tehran. During the interview, Rouhani spoke of the barriers between leaders and nations and offered what appeared to be an olive branch for leaders of the western world. Rouhani stated that "Leaders must try to remove these walls. The wall which is called mistrust, the wall which is called suspicion, the wall called miscalculation should all be torn down, and an atmosphere of friendship and kindness should be established among all nations." One has to wonder if the Supreme Leader and the Commander of IRGC have pivoted to a new atmosphere of friendship and kindness.

On September 19, 2013, the Washington Post published an op-ed from the newly elected President of Iran entitled "Why Iran Seeks Constructive Engagement." Hassan Rouhani has been waging a media campaign to improve Iran's image in the west ever since he was elected to replace the fiery Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. In a speech on Sunday, Rouhani stated that if the western nations "accept the rights of Iranians, our nation will stand for peace, friendship and cooperation." But this is all part of that calculated media campaign that has been developed to sell the west on the notion that the new President of Iran is a moderate whom the west can engage. Why does Iran want engagement now? The sanctions have had a meaningful impact on the Iranian economy and the Iranian people. Rouhani stated that "I will try to deliver the voice of the oppressed people of Iran to the world, and we should say that sanctions are an illegal and unacceptable path." The Iranians know and understand that the easing of sanctions will take time. This week's media campaign is but a first step on Iran's part to get western nations to ease sanctions.

President Obama took the first step in seeking to improve the almost nonexistent relationship with Iran when he sent the newly elected President of Iran a letter offering congratulations but also seeking a dialogue. President Obama has also signaled that the United States would provide assistance if Iran would give up seeking nuclear weapons and that the United States would help Iran develop nuclear energy. President Rouhani stated that "the relationship between Iran and the United States is a complicated and difficult question. There is a chronic wound, which is difficult to heal. However, it is not impossible provided there is goodwill and mutual respect between the two countries." Actions speak louder than words. Let us see if the Iranian leadership truly wants peace by their actions. If Iranian leaders want to rejoin the world's nations they should free Bob Levinson. President Rouhani should immediately speak out and show just how "cultured and "peace-loving" he and Iran is by reuniting a man with his family.

Calls the Shots and Protects the Revolution

“Pay no attention to that man behind the curtain.”

-Wizard of Oz-

The man behind the curtain who calls the shots and protects the revolution in Iran is the Supreme Leader Sayyid Ali Khamenei. While much is being made whether President Obama will meet President Rouhani at the United Nations, the truth be told it doesn't matter. The true leader of Iran is Ayatollah Khamenei. Ayatollah Khamenei served as the President of Iran from 1981-1989 and with the death of Ayatollah Khomeini was appointed Supreme Leader. The Vali-e Faqih (Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic) is the Commander –in-Chief of Iranian Armed forces, the head of the Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS) and the Army of the Guardians of the Islamic Revolution (IRGC).

Ayatollah Khamenei is not only in charge but sets the tone for Iran. Khamenei was born in 1939 in Mashhad, Iran. In 1958 he moved to Qom and studied under Ayatollah Boroojerdi and Ayatollah Khomeini. Khamenei became more involved in Islamic activities and in 1963 was arrested in Birjand. After his release from prison he returned to Mashhad where he continued to teach in religious schools. He was arrested again in 1974 by SAVAK and imprisoned in Tehran. In 1975, he was released and returned to Mashhad but was not allowed to teach. Two years later Khamenei and clerics from Qom and Tehran formed the Combatant Clerics Association. When Ayatollah Khomeini came to power he was named a member of the Revolutionary Council and later elected to the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majlis). He has served as a Deputy Minister of Defense and a Commander in the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and developed important relationships with the IRGC during the Iraq-Iran War. In 1981, Khamenei was the victim of an Mojahedin Khalq (MEK) assassination attempt on his life when a small bomb hidden in a tape recorder detonated.

But it is not Rouhani who has pivoted but rather Ayatollah Khamenei who is testing how Iran can negotiate its way clear of the sanctions that have long cause problems for Iran. Khamenei approved of Hassan Rouhani to run for the office of President. Now he is using him as a way to buy time, ease the sanctions and maybe open a door. The Supreme Leader stated on his webpage that “an enduring problem of our enemies is that they do not know our nation well and are not familiar with our people. They cannot appropriately discover the way spiritual and Islamic ideas affect people. They cannot understand the element of the clerics, its position and effect and the quality of that effect.” While most in the west don't understand the role of clerics in Iran or how Islam impacts the Iranian people one thing can be certain the Supreme Leader still thinks of us as his enemy.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei is the one who has approved the use of IRGC-Quds Forces and Hezbollah in Syria. Khamenei has been a strong supporter of President Bashar Al-Assad and his Syrian regime. Khamenei stated that “I believe the Americans are making mistakes in Syria and they have felt the impact and will certainly suffer loss.”

IRGC/MOIS Marches to a Different Drum

Ever since the founding of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Army of the Guardians of the Islamic Revolution (IRGC) has been a staple of support for the Iranian Revolution. The IRGC was originally formed to protect the Revolution and marches to its own drum. Anywhere one looks in Iran today, the alumni of the IRGC can be found in charge holding the reins of power. Their ties are vast from businesses, government agencies, and schools all the way up to the Office of the Supreme Leader.

The IRGC has about 125,000 uniformed members who report directly to Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei. It should surprise no one that IRGC forces have been deployed to Syria. Earlier this year General Hassan Shateri, was killed in Syria. It has been reported that General Shateri, was killed in an Israeli airstrike on a shipment of advanced surface-to-air missiles that he was overseeing. The Representative of Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Shirazi, stated that Israel will soon pay for the killing of General Shateri. Recently the Commander of the IRGC Mohammad Ali Jafari stated that "if the United States attacks Syria, the IRGC will do what it needs to do." Obviously, the IRGC is not rolling out the same charm offensive as President Rouhani.

While politicians talk of engagement and friendship the IRGC and the Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS) continue their operations both inside and outside of Iran. The MOIS also known as Vezarat-e Ettela'at va Amniat-e Keshvar) VEVAK has in excess of 15,000 intelligence officers and was founded in 1984. MOIS is part of the hierarchy of the Iranian government that reports to the President. Unlike most intelligence services, the primary function of the MOIS is internal rather than external. They do place a number of intelligence officers in Embassies and overseas but their primary focus is on their domestic responsibilities. MOIS operatives have operated against domestic threats, the Kurds, the Baluch as well as controlling economic markets, black markets and the drug markets. They also monitor dissident groups worldwide and protect all Iranian interests. Throughout the 1980s and 1990s Iranian Intelligence operatives assassinated over 80 people around the world. The MOIS is the intelligence arm that would have monitored any abnormal activities discovered in and around Kish Island.

The Supreme Leader has a coordinating office that is referred to as Section 10. This office is suppose to be the controlling unit that oversees and controls all activities of the MOIS and the IRGC. Not long ago Khamenei placed two close associates Mohammad Golpayegani and Ali-Asghar Mirhejazi to oversee this special office.

Actions Speak Louder Than Words

On March 9, 2007, Robert Levinson, an American citizen disappeared after meeting with Dawud Salahuddin about cigarette smuggling on Kish Island. "He was picked up by local authorities who wished to check his papers" according to Salahuddin. Levinson was working with a number of large corporations investigating the smuggling of cigarettes. Levinson had previously checked into the Hotel Maryam and has never been seen since he disappeared. His family received a video proof of life in November 2010 and a series of photos in April 2011.

Bob retired after a career working with the FBI and like most people was working after retirement to provide for his family. Bob has been held against his will now for 2,390 days and is fast approaching the mark set when Terry Anderson was held for 2,454 days by Hezbollah in Lebanon. No one should ever have to be held that long.

Bob has a large loving family that seeks to reunite with him as soon as possible. Forget about a handshake between two Presidents that is meaningless. Thirty four years of mistrust and a proxy war can be set aside by reuniting Bob with his family. I ask each of you to go to the [www.HelpBobLevinson](http://www.HelpBobLevinson.com) .com website and let the family know you care about them.

Hopefully the man behind the curtain will decide that Bob can be reunited with his family.



The Terrorism Research Center Inc. (TRC) is a Virginia company that provides cutting edge research and training into terrorism, insurgency, political instability, geopolitical issues, security and critical infrastructure protection. The TRC was originally founded in 1996 as an independent Institute dedicated to the research of terrorism issues. In 2006, TRC was sold and continued operations until late 2010, when TRC operations ceased due to organizational challenges.

In 2011, TRC returned to continue providing cutting-edge, research and training with the goal of providing additional tools and understanding on the changing role of terrorism, insurgency and geopolitical issues confronting the global world in the 21st century. The TRC conducts field research and utilizes our global network of subject matter experts to provide education, understanding and training so that future generations may enjoy the freedoms that we possess.

The Terrorism Research Center conducts special research projects to include: The Kidnapping Project, Global Suicide Bombings and Attacks, Understanding the Haqqani Network, Evolution of the Boko Haram, The Ghost of Syria: Abu Musab al Suri, Terrorists Targeting Students, Teachers, Schools and a number of other projects.

The TRC continues to conduct one of kind training programs which includes: Mirror Image: Training to Combat Terrorism, Mirror Image: Across the Sahel, Financial Mirror Image, Afghanistan/Pakistan Mirror Image, Persian Mirror Image: Understanding the Islamic Republic, Revolution and Sacrifice, Decision Making During a Suicide Bombing, TRC's (T-4) Terrorism: Threats Training & Tactics, TRCCON, TRCCON 2014, TRC's Suicide Bombings and Attacks, Protecting Critical Infrastructure, Homegrown and Lone Wolf Terrorists as well as other training programs.

See some of our upcoming training events located at the end of this document.

TRC Training

Date	Course	Location	Status	Other
9-25/27, 2013	TRC's T-4 Terrorism Threats, Training & Tactics 2013	Boston, MA	Sold Out	\$595
10-2/4, 2013	Homegrown and Lone Wolf Terrorists	Washington, DC	Register Now*	\$595
10-14/18, 2013	Persian Mirror Image: Understanding the Islamic Republic, Revolution and Sacrifice	Maryland	Register Now*	\$2995
10-21, 2013	Global Terrorism Threat Review	NWC	Closed Event	
10-29/31, 2013	Casing Surveillance & Targeting Through the Eyes of a Terrorists	Northern Virginia	6 Seats Left	\$595
11-6/8, 2013	Homegrown and Lone Wolf Terrorism	Knoxville, TN	Register Now*	\$595
11-11/15, 2013	Mirror Image: Training to Combat Terrorism	San Diego, CA	Register Now*	\$2995
12-2/6, 2013	Mirror Image: Across the Sahel	North Carolina	Register Now	\$2995
12-16/18, 2013	ADV. Decision Making	Northern Virginia	Register Now	\$495
1-8, 2014	Afghanistan/Pakistan 2015	Washington DC	Closed Event	
1-10/12, 2014	TRC CON 2014 Weekend	Hilton Head, SC	Details Coming	\$995

*** For information about TRC Training courses or to receive a Course Description/Registration form or info how you can bring a TRC course to your organization contact us at Purdy@terrorism3.com or call (703) 232-1601.

تصویر ای نه

*Persian Mirror Image: Understanding the Islamic Republic,
Revolution and Sacrifice*

October 14-18, 2013 National Capital Region

Reserve Your Seat Now

Contact Purdy@terrorism3.com