



Countering Iran's Nuclear, Terrorist Threats

APRIL 25, 2014



Mayor Rudy Giuliani, Honorable Linda Chavez, General George Casey (Top - Right to left)
speaking on Iran's Nuclear and Terrorist Threats - Phoenix, Arizona



Mayor Rudy Giuliani, Honorable Linda Chavez, General George Casey (Center) and Arizona State Representatives



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Sheraton Phoenix Downtown Hotel

Phoenix, Arizona

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APRIL 25, 2014 PHOENIX, AZ



Linda Chavez

Former White House Director of Public Liaison

Those of us I served at one time as the US expert on the United Nations Human Rights Sub-commission from 1992 to 1996 and those of us who follow these issues of human rights at the United Nations looked yesterday at what happened in the Commission on the Status of Women when the newest members were appointed to that commission and the government of the mullahs in Iran was appointed to this commission that is supposed to deal with the status of women. I don't think there could be a bigger irony after seeing Madame Rajavi, who represents democracy, hope, freedom, a pluralistic government, freedom of religion, freedom of expression, and equality for all people in Iran and see that representation and then know that the most misogynistic, antihuman rights regime in the region has now been appointed to this commission. And this is something that has always concerned me as a woman and someone who is interested in human rights, because for those of you who are unfamiliar with what goes on in Iran, and I'm sure there are not many of you here who don't know, but the fact is women in Iran lack the most basic human rights. They do not have the same right to divorce as men do. When women are divorced in Iran, they lack the right of custody of their own children. They can be arrested, beaten, and basically disappeared for not following the rules on veiling that the vice police that roam the streets and the cities of Iran. There are incredible attacks on women in Iran every day. Most recently, just this last year there were attacks of acid throwing, not just on adult women, but on young girls, who were disfigured because the mullah's regime believed that they were somehow acting in a way that they did not approve of. They may not travel, they may not study what they choose, and they may not work at their profession. So this is the regime that the United Nations has decided to place on the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

Now, we're going focus on some very important issues to us as Americans, including the role of Iran in the world and their seeking nuclear weapons and what a threat this poses, not just to the Iranian people or to people in the region, but to all the peoples in the world and we're going to hear more about that. But I think it's also important that we hear about what it is as our responsibility as Americans to a different group of Iranian dissidents. You heard reference in the opening to those who are, those who were attacked at Camp Ashraf, and we see the victims' pictures here, the dozens of people who were killed in that attack, but this is not one attack. This is a series of attacks that has taken place in Iraq. And we're also going to hear in the program from someone who knows the situation on the ground in Iraq for those 3,000 Iranian dissidents who are imprisoned literally in a concentration camp in what is ironically called Camp Liberty.



THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

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Giuliani speaks on dangers from Iran

By Sean Holstege April 26, 2014

Iran poses a serious threat to the United States, whose government is failing to counter it, former New York mayor and presidential candidate Rudy Giuliani told an enthusiastic crowd in Phoenix on Friday.

Giuliani was invited by the Iranian American Community of Arizona to shine a light on the dangers of the Tehran regime. The gathering was titled "Countering Iran's Nuclear, Terrorist Threats."

In a speech before about 250 people packed into a ballroom in the Sheraton Phoenix Downtown Hotel, he denounced the regime and called for its overthrow, to a standing ovation.

"They are going on a killing spree inside Iran. To the world they present themselves as moderate. Internally, they present oppression, murder and suppression to frighten the hell out of (their people)," Giuliani said, citing Amnesty International figures that showed government killings had risen to 680 last year.

It was a theme of the two-hour presentation that also included Linda Chavez, a White House official in the Reagan administration, and Gen. George Casey Jr., who led U.S. forces in the Iraq conflict under President George W. Bush from 2004 to 2007.

All the speakers denounced the treatment of Iranian dissidents held inside an Iraqi prison camp. During the Iraq conflict, the U.S. government pledged to protect them. After the military withdrawal, the Iraqi government, which Giuliani called a puppet of Iran, slaughtered them.

A huge poster hung next to the podium, depicting the faces of each of the 52 Iranian dissidents killed in the most recent of six attacks, last September.

It served, too, as a backdrop to a sharp attack on the Obama administration's handling of the Tehran regime, particularly ongoing negotiations over its nuclear program.

"They can't be trusted. Why? Because they are the biggest state sponsor of terrorism. Because they killed more Americans than any other country. Because they sponsored genocide in Syria. Because they advocate the destruction of Israel. How many more reasons do you need? They shouldn't be allowed to have any nuclear capacity at all," the former mayor said to thunderous applause.

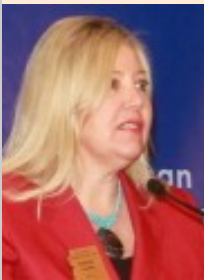
"This is like selling your house, not getting your money and letting the people move in," Giuliani said, after quoting from Iranian president Hassan Rouhani's book, in which he reportedly bragged about pulling the wool over nuclear inspectors' eyes.

Added Casey, "I can think of no other case in which democratic resistance against a regime is more warranted."

The event began with a video featuring Maryam Rajavi, present-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran. In it, she called for a free, democratic and pluralistic government in Iran. Giuliani described her group as a known and trustworthy one to lead Iran. He ridiculed Obama's stance on regime change elsewhere in the Muslim world, noting the president supported the ouster of a U.S. ally in Egypt and a weakened dictator in Libya.

Giuliani recommended reinforcing eastern European NATO allies with U.S. troops and training the Ukrainian military.

"If John McCain or Mitt Romney were there, would any of this have happened? I know if Ronald Reagan was sitting in the White House, it wouldn't."



Representative Debbie Lesko

Arizon Ways and Means Committee Chair

You know, as I listened to Linda earlier talk about the plight of women in Iran, You know, but think of all those people and the women suffering over in Iran. And I am so thankful for all of you here that have educated me and told me more about the subject. We need to do everything that we can do to help. And we can start here at the local level. ... And that's the way that we can change things in our country, and that's the way that we can help these people. Thank you for being here, thank you for having me.



Representative Jeff Dial

Arizona Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee Chair

I have set the goal, and my goal when I'm representing the people of Arizona is trying to make Arizona a great place to live, work and raise a family. We look at the people of Iran, even to set a goal they need to have freedom, prosperity, have jobs that you can work for, and you have to have peace. We are not going to have peace until we get rid of the evil we have there. For the United States, I think Ronald Reagan clearly stated it, there can only be peace through strength. The sanctions must continue there, We must show strength. If we look back at what the president said about change we can believe in, I want to see from this administration the change I can believe in, so we can get rid of this evil in Iran.



Tony Rivero

Arizona Council Member

About two weeks ago a good friend of mine asked me to meet with the Iranian-American community. I said, sure. So when he asked me for my support, I felt that it was going to be my goal to drive as many people as I could from my district to learn about this important topic. Standing here, I was able to invite Hispanic pastors and evangelical leaders and friends. I want to end my comments by saying to Camp Liberty, that as a representative, as a Hispanic leader and as a member of the evangelical community, not only you do have my support, but more importantly you will be part of my prayers every night.



Robert Graham

Arizona Republican Party Chair

When we engage things change. When we increase our numbers that fight for freedom, we win. Our nation, think about our founding fathers, we talk about them all the time but we never really talk about the people of the nation that were encouraging our leaders to be courageous and saying "We're with you." And so when we as a collective free nation stand up for something and we engage in a promise and we stand up as an honorable nation, we give our leaders the courage to do it.



Charles A. Jensen

Politics on the Rocks

In 2009, we saw a major uprising of the youth of Iran that took to the street millions of people. It is amazing the power of millions of people who come together, that millions of people nearly overthrew the brutal regime. I hope the next time people of Iran stand up and go to the streets that our country would stand behind them, get with them and help them.

And I think this has to be a concern of ours, because the United States Government when we went into Iraq got the residents of then Camp Ashraf to lay down their weapons and to turn over their weapons to the US government in return for promise of protection. Well, that promise as soon as the United States left has been violated over and over again. And so I think it is important for us as Americans to recognize that we have a responsibility here as well, and we have a responsibility to do what we can, and we'll talk more about that later, to try to give assistance to those 3,000 persons who are still entrapped in Iraq being persecuted by the Maliki government that really is acting simply as a puppet of the Iranian regime. It is a travesty and I think a stain on the reputation of the United States.

We’ve heard about the nuclear threat that Iran poses. We’ve heard about the regime and what it does to its people. We’ve heard about the broken promises that have been made by our government, by the United Nations. And as we listen to this, many of us I’m sure are sitting there wondering, “Well, what can I do about that? We’re not going to don arms and become guerrilla warriors and invade Iran and try to overthrow the regime, but what we can do is to give support to the people who are the resistance, the main resistance to that regime, and that includes the people who are here in this room who have been affiliated with the MEK and the National Council of Resistance in Iran and Maryam Rajavi. They are the hope.

But there’s something more than we can do and I think we do not want to forget, not just the people who’ve lost their lives, and it’s not just the people whose picture’s here. We’re talking about hundreds of people who’ve lost their lives in Ashraf and in Camp Liberty. Well, 3,000 of them are still in Camp Liberty and they are living in absolutely abysmal conditions. They do not have sanitation. They don’t have easy access to water. They don’t have proper living conditions. They don’t have medical attention, and they do not have protection from the rocket attacks and from the assaults that have been launched against Camp Liberty. We need to do something about that.

The United States has always been the beacon for freedom for freedom-loving and aspiring people throughout the world. We need to be that now. There are 3,000 people in Camp Liberty. These are well-educated professionals, these are people who would be wonderful contributors to our communities. How is it that the country of Albania has taken more of these refugees than the United States of America? How is that? How can we let that be?

And so if you want to know what you can do, what you can do is become a voice to pressure our government, our elected officials, members of Congress and the White House to do what we have always done as a country and that is to take in refugees. The Iranian community is here to help those people be able to resettle. It is time that we give refuge to those people in Camp Liberty who have our word that we would protect them.





General George W. Casey

Commanding General, Multi-National Force in Iraq 2004 - 2007
36th Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army 2007 - 2011.

I’ve been asked to talk about the role that Iran played in destabilizing Iraq in 2004 to 2007 while I was commander there. Because I have seen firsthand how they operate and how they operate as a destabilizing force in the region, and I believe that it’s critically important for us to have a very clear view of what Iran is capable of as we work to prevent them from acquiring nuclear weapons.

I’ve also been asked to say a few words about my dealings with the MEK, part of the group that you see on the wall there. And the importance of us as a country delivering on our commitments to protect and resettle them from Iraq. And it’s been mentioned here that our country gave its word to protect the members of the MEK that were in Iraq. It was the American military that made that commitment for our country. And I will tell you it galls me every day that I think about it and I realize that we can’t deliver on what we promised. And the American military likes to keep its word. I’d like to back us out a little bit and talk about what the most significant security threats are to the United States of America currently and where Iran plays in those.

When I went into Iraq in the summer of 2004, I knew Iran was going to be a significant player. They share a border with Iraq. They’ve been attacked by Iraq under Saddam Hussein and fought an eight-year war. We believe that they wanted to ensure that there was a friendly Iraqi government put in place there, and they worked very hard to do that. But we also believe that they wanted us to fail in our objective to build a free and democratic Iraq and I will tell you they worked very hard to do that. Over time I came to see the Iranians employing a three-pronged approach. And I’ve seen them do the same thing in other places. First, they worked to gain political influence by providing financial support to political parties and to political leaders. There was common cause here. A lot of the Shia particularly and the Kurdish political leaders had a common enemy with the Iranians under Saddam Hussein, and a lot of them lived and took refuge in Iran and they were known quantities. Iran puts out a lot of money to political leaders. Not just the Shia leaders, but also the Kurdish leaders to buy influence, and they have significant influence and they gain significant influence in Iraq as a result of that.

Secondly, they (got) a softer side. They burnish their image a bit by trying to win Iraqi public support with economic assistance, by providing economic assistance particularly in the southern part of the country. And they did it directly themselves, much like we do sometimes with the Agency for International Development, but they also did it through Iraqi political parties.



Senator Kelli Ward

Arizona Health and Human Services Committee, Vice Chair

I think in the United States we take for granted so many of the rights that we have. The right to free speech. The right to religious freedom. The right to political discourse. The right to have civil disobedience. The equality between our genders, that men and women are going to be treated equally. And coming to events like this with people likes you sets us straight that that's not the case across the world...

I will tell you that one thing I think that we can do is form partnerships, form collaborations, and form friendships so that we can take what we saw in the video earlier today, the dream, and make that a reality. So let's make human rights, freedom, liberty, make that a reality. Not just in the United States, in Iran and across the world.



Representative Rick Gray

Arizona Majority Whip

As I'm looking and hearing all these things, and I want to thank you too, the Iranian American community of Arizona, I want to applaud you as the senator did, because we need to have this information. We need to be joined together. I think too many times we've got people hat when you look at a country and they're in the news you think of all of those people and you paint them with the brushstroke of what's happening in their country.... So I want to applaud you and thank you for bringing this information to us so that we can realize that you are much like us as a founding country, where we were fighting for our liberty, fighting for our freedom, and I see you in the same situation and thankfully we can work together to help you find that same liberty, that same freedom in your country. And so I want to thank you for that.

..That is the kind of leadership we need to work for so that it will not just be America but every country around the world that desires freedom and desires liberty, we will be able to unite together to make that happen. And I encourage all of you to be involved in America, in the work with our Iranian brothers and sisters, and again I want to thank you all for being here and thank you for the information that you've provided.



Representative David Livingston

Arizona Financial Institutions Committee Chair

It is my honor to stand here with you, with Mayor Giuliani, America's mayor, with General Casey and his 41 years of military service, but especially with you, the Iranian-Americans. Thank you for standing up. Thank you for standing up for human rights. It's about time we all stand up for human rights. I am very sorry about your loss that you suffered at Camp Liberty. I am very, very sorry about your loss at Camp Ashraf. You should not have to go through that, but we are going through that. So we have to stand up together. We have to fight for human rights together. I'm very sorry for the lack of leadership coming from Washington, D.C. and the Obama administration. You deserve better. We deserve better.

But there is something that we can do together. Together we can go out there and we can vote. And we can vote to make a change. Together we can go out and we can win. So I'm just going to keep this very simple. I'm going to ask you if you're an Arizona resident to be registered to vote. In August we have our primaries. Please get out and vote. In November we have the general election. Please get out and vote. Together we can make a difference. Together we must make a difference. Thank you very much, together we will win, thank you and God bless you all.





Secretary Kenneth Bennett

Arizona Secretary of State

I am afraid there's not much that I can add in addition to what the mayor has offered....But I'll just take a couple minutes to make a couple of observations.

One of them is why does this matter to Arizona? And as I watched the video that we all saw just a few minutes ago I couldn't help but notice that I saw a bunch of flags waving for a neighbor that is all the way across the world... I learned my values from three places: my family, our church, and the Boy Scouts. And every Wednesday I'd go to Scout meeting and raise my arm and say the Scout law. And there are 12 things, but the second one is loyal. A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful,

friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent. I don't know how I remembered those all these years, but I do. But focus on loyal.we must be a part of standing with people throughout this country, of every color, of every race, of every religion, of every background, to make sure that we're loyal to the commitments that we have made, and that we do not let this happen in Iran or anywhere else. Arizona cannot live with a nuclear Iran.

Let me just close by reminding all of us, especially in the state of Arizona, we've lost so far 104 Arizonans in the war on terror. Now the two that get most of the attention are probably Lorrie Piestewa, the first female Native American killed in U.S. combat in our nation's history, and Pat Tillman. And tomorrow morning at 7:05, I along with 38,000 people will run the Pat Tillman run, 4.2 miles, ending up crossing the 42 yard line in Arizona State University Sun Devil Stadium. We cannot forget those 145 and we cannot forget the hundreds of thousands that are being slaughtered and have been slaughtered. And if you could stand in a group of 38,000 runners like I will do tomorrow and think about multiplying that by three or four or five or six times, then you begin to understand the magnitude of tens of thousands, now up to hundreds of thousands, that have been killed. It cannot go on. It will not go on. And Arizona needs to be a part of making sure that it never goes on again.



Senator John McComish

Arizona Senate Majority Leader

To tell you the truth, I'm a little intimidated to be on a platform with these three speakers that you have just heard, and considering your service to our country, Linda Chavez, and Rudy Giuliani, and General Casey, it's an honor just to be up here and speaking alongside you.

I learned more today, I learned a lot today. And I certainly learned more about the Iranian-American community of Arizona. I was aware of their existence, but that was about it. And now I know a whole lot more and I'm glad for that. I thank that organization for being here to inform us and to bring the messages that we just heard. And it should be said thank you to the audience also because you all have busy lives and to come here today I think is a great testament to the issues that we're addressing about Iran and the Middle East. Right before we came out here I was

talking to Mayor Giuliani about the American people. And we have busy lives and we tend to fall asleep sometimes about important issues. And we fall asleep too easy. And we need a wakeup call on occasion.

And that's how I view what we've just heard today is it's a real wakeup call. The current Iranian regime is not only it's certainly a threat to the wellbeing of Iran. It's certainly a threat to the wellbeing of the entire Middle East. And it came home to me certainly, and I think to all of you, the threat that it's not only to Iran and the Middle East but to America, to our country, and really to the world. So I thank you individuals for bringing that message to us, for bringing that wakeup call to us today. And I'm going to be very brief and just wrap up because I know there's some other speakers.. And I think our challenge, those of us who were here to get the wakeup call, our challenge is to bring that wakeup call to others in Arizona and then we need to bring the wakeup call to Congress and finally to our president. And I believe that we can do that, and I'm glad and just so pleased to be here to hear that wakeup call, and I thank you all very, very much.

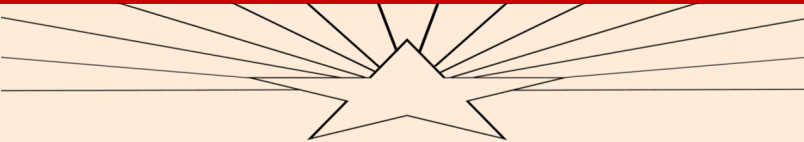
And third and last, they fostered instability in Iraq through the training and equipping of terrorist organizations. And this is the one that had the most impact on me. And I came to see over time a very close connection between the Quds force, which is the extraterritorial arm of the revolutionary guards and the Iraqi militias. And we got our first hint of this really about 30 days after I got there. There was this significant battle against the Shia militia in the town of Najaf, which is the third holiest site in Islam. And the battle went on for about 30 days. We ultimately prevailed and threw the Shia militia out of Najaf. And as we were going back through our reviews lo and behold we found intercepts from a Quds Force operative who was calling back and reporting on events in Najaf directly to Quds Force headquarters in Iran. That piqued my curiosity and we kept a very close eye on it for the rest of the time I was there.

Where we really saw Iran's hand though was after the bombing of the al-Askari Mosque in Samarra, a northern city of Iraq, in February of 2006. The Shia militia took to the street, and the more they operated the more we operated against them, and the more weapon caches we found. And those weapons that we found clearly came from Iran. There was a particularly lethal improvised explosive device that needed a manufacturing and tooling capability that didn't come from Iraq, it could only have come from Iran. There was a state of the art rocket-propelled grenade that would penetrate the armor on our biggest tank. And the boxes we found with ammunition were in Farsi. It was clear.

And by the middle of 2006 there was no doubt that the Iranian regime was training an army, Iraqi militia and terrorist organization. Later in 2006 we began to see a very troubling trend, and it appeared to us that Iraqi militia backed by the Iranians was actively pushing other Iraqis out of parts of Baghdad to expand their control over parts of the city. And we suspected this was going on but we couldn't confirm it. Well, one December evening right before Christmas our Special Operations forces captured six Quds Force operatives in what amounted to a command center with the Shia militia group the Badr Corps. And the Badr Corps was the militia of one of the major Shia political parties. In this command center were weapons receipts that they kept very detailed logs of all the weapons and equipment they got. And there was a map on the wall, a map of Baghdad. And it was color coded. It was color coded by sectarian group. And there were arrows showing the plan, which was to move basically the Sunni and the Christians out of parts of Baghdad so that they could be occupied by the Shia militias. This confirmed everything that we had been thinking and it was immediately clear to me that the Iranian regime was directly and purposefully fomenting sectarian violence to destabilize Iraq. There was no doubt.

So what did I take from all this? Four things about the way Iran operates are crystal clear to me. One, the Iranian regime has and will continue to use terrorism to accomplish their political objectives. That's a given. Now secondly, the Iranian role in training and equipping the Iraqi militias as a major factor in sustaining sectarian violence in Iraq from 2006 to 2008 and frankly it continues today. Third, because of this direct role that they have, they are directly responsible for the deaths of hundreds of coalition forces and thousands of Iraqis. And so I conclude that they richly deserve the label of state sponsor of terrorism that they have so well earned. I believe that an Iran with nuclear weapons would present an unacceptable not only for the region but to the entire international community. And I can think of no other case in which organized democratic resistance against a regime is so warranted and so necessary.

I'd like to talk just for a minute about the MEK that's an important element of this resistance. I was in Iraq in 2004 when we granted them protected status. And over the almost three years I was there we closely monitored the behavior of the MEK at Camp Ashraf. There's a lot written about the MEK and a lot of it is untrue. I had two star generals visiting Camp Ashraf weekly. And they would report to me weekly on what was going on. I can tell you that we never had a problem in the entire time I was there at Camp Ashraf was very, very uneventful. And so I watch with dismay in 2009 and 2011 and in 2013 as the men and women that we vowed to protect were savagely attacked, and savagely attacked after the United Nations, after the Iraqi government, and after the U.S. government had agreed that the MEK must be protected and resettled. We must ensure the protection of the MEK as long as they are in Iraq and until they're resettled. The MEK has consistently upheld their end of the bargain, and we owe them their safety and their future.



Mayor Rudy Giuliani

Excerpts:

We are going to discuss today truly matters of life and death. For the people of Ashraf and Liberty who are stuck behind in Iraq, for the people of Iran, and really for all of us, for the people of the world in what is going on in Iran. What you see to your right is just one example of the slaughter that has gone on inside Iraq. That just happened on September 1st, 2013, 52 Camp Ashraf residents were massacred. Without any warning military officials came in and killed 52 people, injured hundreds and hundreds of people. Those are the faces of the human beings who were destroyed that day. That's not the only attack that has taken place in Iraq. If I have it correct, under the Maliki regime there have been at least six attacks, three on Ashraf, three on Liberty. At Ashraf about 99 people killed, Liberty so far at least 16 killed, seven hostages taken, and hundreds of hundreds of people wounded, some of who die months and months later because of the terrible care that they get in the Iraqi hospital.

And you say to yourself, how can this happen in this day and age? How can this possibly happen? Remember, as Linda pointed out, every single one of these people, every single person who you see there on that wall who was slaughtered, who was massacred, had a letter of protection from our government. They were all given a promise of protection by the United States of America. And every single one of them was slaughtered despite that. If we fail to be outraged by it, if the Obama administration fails to be outraged by it, if we as citizens fail to be outraged by it, we have lost our honor. We no longer are a country of honor. We no longer are a country that can be respected.

This is a group that is in opposition to the mullahs, to the religious theocracy of Iran. They believe it should be replaced by a government—and Madame Rajavi who is the president-elect, outlined those principles very well.

They believe that government should be replaced by a government that is freely elected, a government that guarantees basic human rights, a government that allows for freedom of religion, a secular government, a government that allows respect and dignity for women.

In fact this organization is run by a woman and many of the significant positions in this organization are held by women. This is an organization that practices what it preaches. It would be so, so wonderful for the Middle East if an organization like this was able to play a substantial role in government. What a great example for the rest of the Middle East.

The Obama administration likes to present the narrative, and much of the media does, of an Iran that has become somewhat moderate. Rouhani is a moderate and he is seeking peace and he is seeking an Iran that will not have nuclear weapons. Now, first of all, you should know because it isn't reported adequately in the United States that according to Amnesty International more people have been killed in Iran under Rouhani than under this predecessor. They're going through a killing spree inside Iran. Last year they killed over 700 people. This year they've slaughtered over 200 people. That's inside Iran. So why are they slaughtering people inside Iran? Why are they doing that? Let me read you this. "The United Nations Special Rapporteur on Iran, Ahmed Shaheed, pointed to a sharply rising number of executions, reporting that at least 687 had been executed in Iran in 2013 among them 28 women. Two-thirds of the hangings were carried out under Rouhani's watch. This year the preliminary report shows at least another 200 murders.

So here's what we have, we have an Iran that is presenting a picture to the world, to the American media, to the Obama administration, of moderation. Rouhani is a moderate, whatever that means. But they don't want the people of Iran to ever really get the notion that they are going to be moderate, because you know what happens when a dictatorship starts to liberalize? Then all those forces that desire freedom come forward and bring it down.

