

Word of the Month:

The Fall of the Assad Regime

In early December 2024, more than five decades of the Assad dynasty's dictatorial rule in Syria came to an abrupt end.

Huge questions remain outstanding as to whether peace, prosperity, territorial integrity and democracy will be achieved in Syria. Coherent answers are likely to take a long time to emerge.

Syria has suffered many years of civil war and sanctions resulting in a shattered economy. Will the country have enough investment to be turned into a viable economy? By whom and with what conditions?

Syria's territorial integrity is being challenged from several sides. Turkey is trying to establish a large buffer zone while the Kurds (in the northeast) desire autonomy. Meanwhile, Israel has occupied a previous buffer zone straddling Syria and Israel, overlooking the occupied Golan Heights.

As long as Israel has not changed (or been forced to change) its course, Israel remains a major source of tension and instability in the Middle East. The change of rule in Syria has provided Israel with some short-term benefits but these are not strategic gains. Israel may come to profoundly understand the meaning of the phrase "better the devil you know than the one you don't". Israel's heavy bombardments of Syrian military sites and her incursion into the ceasefire buffer zone in the Golan Heights reveal Israel's attitude toward Syria's new rulers.


Russia has lost heavily in Syria. Russia's air base and its naval base there are very important to her but most important is the loss of Russian prestige and influence, not only in the Middle East but across the world.

The main winner of this change seems to be Turkey. Not only do they have designs on the Kurdish area in the north; there is suspicion that Turkey may try to turn Syria into a new version of an Ottoman satrapy. This could be bad news for Syria and the Middle East.

Israel's brutal treatment of the Palestinians and total disregard for international law has left an impact on the Arab street that cannot be quantified. It is worth noting that this subjective issue may have a pronounced effect on development

The imminent return of Donald Trump to the US presidency does not bode well. The growing clash between the main powers on the global stage will affect developments in Syria and beyond.

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 **The Fall of Bashar al-Assad's Dictatorship, a Potency of a New Beginning for the Syrian People, a Failure of Khamenei's "Axis of Resistance"!**

The dictatorship of the Assad family in Syria ended after 54 years with the fall of Bashar al-Assad. The regime, sustained through bloodshed and repression since 1970, collapsed after the withdrawal of military aid from the Islamic Republic and Russia.





Following 13 years of civil war and massive human suffering, Assad's forces fell swiftly under the resurgence of opposition groups like "Tahrir al-Sham" and the support of Turkey. Within 12 days, major cities were overtaken, Assad's supporters retreated, and his military declared the regime's end. Syrians celebrated the overthrow, marking the end of an era of dictatorship and devastation. The fall of Assad is a significant blow to the Islamic Republic's regional strategy, signalling the collapse of its "axis of resistance." After years of intervention, massive financial costs, and heavy losses, Iran's influence in Syria has waned, leaving a ruined country with millions displaced and a struggling economy. The Left Party of Iran welcomes Assad's overthrow as a step toward regional progress and calls for dialogue, UN

involvement, and international cooperation to ensure a democratic transition, rebuild Syria, and prevent further conflict or a resurgence of authoritarian rule.

Political-Executive Board of the Left Party of Iran
December 8, 2024

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■ **The Desecration of the Grave of Saedi, one of the Enduring Figures of Our Country's Literature, is a Sign of Hostility with Iranian Culture and Literature!**

■ The desecration of Gholamhossein Saedi's grave in Paris by supporters of the Pahlavi dictatorship reflects the ongoing struggle between forces of repression and advocates of freedom and culture in Iran. Saedi, a towering literary figure, endured torture under the

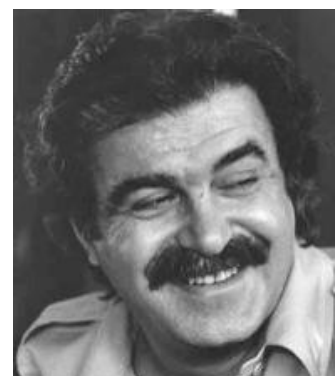
Pahlavi regime and exile under the Islamic Republic, yet his legacy continues to challenge defenders of tyranny. The Left Party of Iran condemns this disgraceful act and calls on all progressive forces to oppose such inhumane behaviour. We support the gathering of cultural and political activists to honour Saedi's memory and reaffirm the fight against repression and fascism.

■ Political-Executive Board of the Left Party of Iran

December 27, 2024

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The Resounding Voice of Freedom: Parastoo Ahmady Performs in Iran Without Mandatory Hijab to Uphold the "Women, Life, Freedom" Movement

Parastoo Ahmady, an Iranian singer and composer, boldly defied Iran's strict mandatory hijab laws by performing a concert without the hijab. Her performance was broadcast live on YouTube under the title "Caravanserai Concert" on Wednesday night at one of Iran's historic caravanserais. Her bold act drew significant attention

Ahmady performed the classic anthem "From the Blood of the Youth of the Nation," which, after being widely shared on social media, led to her home being searched by security forces and a summons to Tehran's security court. In her opening statement at Wednesday's concert, Ahmady declared.

"I am Parastoo; a girl who wants to sing for the people she loves. This is a right I could not forgo—singing for the land I love passionately. Here, in this part of our beloved Iran, where history and mythology intertwine,

judiciary, labelled the concert "illegal" and announced legal proceedings against the singer and her collaborators.

Ahmady's unveiled performance drew particular attention because, since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, public solo performances by women, even with mandatory hijab, have been banned, and their singing is prohibited from being broadcast on radio or television.

Milad Panahi-Pour, a legal representative, stated that legal cases have been opened



and sparked widespread discussions on social media. Ahmady's act of resistance is seen as a symbolic gesture amidst the ongoing fight for women's rights and freedoms in Iran, amplifying the voices of countless women demanding change.

During the "Woman, Life, Freedom" movement,

hear my voice in this imagined concert, and dream of this beautiful homeland..."

Shortly after the concert, which defied mandatory hijab laws, Iran's judiciary filed charges against Ahmady and the event organizers. The official account of Mizan News Agency, affiliated with the

for all involved in the event, including Ahmady. He added, "Unfortunately, we are unaware of Ms. Ahmady's charges, the detaining authority, or her location, but we will pursue the matter through legal channels."

In response to the concert, Iran's state media announced the sealing of the historic Deir-e Gachin caravanserai in Qom, where the event took place and the dismissal of two cultural heritage officials in Qom for negligence. Reza Salehi Amiri, Minister of Cultural Heritage and Tourism, confirmed the dismissal of the province's heritage and tourism directors and the manager of the Revitalization Fund of Historic Monuments. The caravanserai's manager was referred to court for violating operational regulations.

Ahmady and the musicians involved were summoned to Tehran's moral security court on January 3, charged, and released temporarily on bail.

Watch the concert on YouTube:

https://youtube.com/watch?v=oYcaDHEnhbU%3Fsi%3DRr_pEOBmbC27Fuow

Environment In Iran

The last hope of saving the Iranian cheetah from the abyss of extinction.

The sighting of the Iranian cheetah in Miandasht after about 7 years can be considered the last glimmer of hope to save this valuable cat from extinction. According to Khabar Online, in the boundless plains of Iran, where the wind blows full of the scent of wild plants and the horizon blends with



the sunrise and sunset, the Asiatic cheetah once ran proudly.

This agile hunter, with the highest speed among terrestrial animals, was a symbol of Iran's wildlife; A living legacy from ancient times, but this glorious image is now fading, giving way to a grim narrative of extinction.

According to the latest official statistics provided by the Deputy Natural Environment of the Environmental Protection Organization,

Iran is now home to only 7 adult wolverines and 10 wolverine cubs. These small numbers have sounded a big alarm: the life of the Iranian cheetah, this jewel of the country's nature, has reached the brink of destruction.

However, there is hope in this darkness. One of the last glimmers of hope for the preservation of the Iranian cheetahs was the sighting of a female cheetah with 2 cubs in the Miandasht region of North Khorasan after about 10 years.

Khabar Online

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