

Dear readers,

The following is the text of the speech delivered by my lawyer Dr.Lahiji, on my behalf, at the 9th Annual Bruno Kreisky Human Rights Award Ceremony on Jan 22, 1998 in Vienna.

At present, it is accessible at my personal site for the information of those who want to be more acquainted with my political views.

In this speech, you will be able to learn more about the constructive proposals which were offered for the first time ten years ago by a patriot, unjustly in prison in order to rescue his beloved country and people.

Proposals which are to be contemplated on and executed, if valid, so that history can make the right judgment at the right time.

Abbas AmirEntezam
Feb 18, 2007

**TEXT OF SPEECH OF MR. ABBAS AMIR-ENTEZAM AT THE NINETH ANNUAL BRUNO KREISKY HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD
Vienna, January 22, 1998**

Mr. Chairman, Dignitaries, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am deeply touched and honored for having been selected by Dr. Bruno Kreisky Foundation to receive this distinguished human rights award. There are thousands of human rights activists around the world who have given all, and sometimes their lives, in an unending fight against degradation of human dignity who deserve this award more than I do. It is my pleasure and duty to express my deep gratitude to the selection committee and to the Foundation, for having found me worthy of this honor, and to the government and the people of Austria, and to all world human rights organizations whose efforts have contributed to gatherings such as this.

In all my life, I have been engaged in thought and deed in trying to be useful to my fellow countrymen and my fellow human beings. I consider my tenure as deputy Prime Minister in Iran's interim post-revolutionary government, and my subsequent resistance and campaign for the rights of my fellow Iranians during the entire 17 years of my imprisonment been a life victory toward this holy goal.

Twentieth century has been the century of transition, the century of transition from despotic governments of oppression and exploitation to governments of democracy and plurality. An eventful century in which suppression of the individual and social rights of people by autocratic governments have been exposed to the eyes of world opinion through the magic of modern communication media. A century in which rapid travel of news, thoughts and ideas has created a human awareness unparalleled in the history of mankind, and has caused formulation and implementation of international laws in defense of human rights.

However, despite great and commendable efforts and sacrifices made by men and women of free spirit all over the world for recognition and respect of man's fundamental rights as an individual and as a social being, and despite the establishment of Human Rights as an imitational law and the agreement by all the states on the globe to uphold and implement this law, and despite the tremendous progress in means and speed of mass communication over long distances making all members of the human race aware and concerned over the plight of each other, still we have a long way to go in the implementation of such laws and regulations protecting man from man and in establishing this basic law of life that the social man must be free. Free to think, free to choose and free to practice, all in the pursuit of happiness.

In many parts of the world, people are still denied their basic human rights as individuals and as full members of the society, and their lives and livelihood still threatened for expressing their opinions or practicing their beliefs.

Still, millions are in prisons under the condition of the dark ages for wanting to live in freedom and with dignity. Still, millions of children are denied of their basic rights of access to parental love and care, proper food, health care, clothing, housing and education, thus germinating a potential threat to the quality of future human race. Still while poverty, hunger and illiteracy have shadowed over a great part of the world, the wealth of the nations is used to procure means of warfare in order to destroy mankind.

Still, billions of dollars of the world's much needed resources are spent annually on weaponry and means of mass destruction, and still millions of innocent people die as the result of it.

Still, people die or are taken of useful existence as the result of lack of basic healthcare, and as the result of illnesses for which no cure has been found.

Still, despite great scientific and technological progress, man cannot make efficient and just use of the resources available to him, wasting what must be preserved for the generations to come.

I believe that if people all over the world is allowed to freely participate in planning and management of their societies, where their own decisions can guarantee satisfaction of their wants, peace and constructive tranquility will rule the world over.

I believe peace and friendly coexistence for the entire world community can be achieved, especially for the turbulent Middle East, when believers and followers of all religions of God and members of all cultures and races shall live together in peace, harmony, friendship and constructive cooperation.

I believe that the United Nations through certain structural modifications can play a vital role in establishing peace and cooperation throughout the world. UN can play an effective and decisive role in preventing wars of dispute, fear or power-mongering.

The United Nations can play a decisive role in eliminating diseases, poverty, illiteracy, and population growth. The United Nations can decisively promote agriculture for food so that no nation need to beg another for basic needs of survival, and the just distribution

of wealth and resources so no nation is denied access nor equal opportunity for reasons of political non-alliance. The United Nations must have a mandate in all areas of basic human welfare with decisive executive powers.

The United Nations must force adherence to the declaration of Human Rights and all other international laws and agreements.

No government must be allowed to violate the rules international community and treat its people as an entity apart and isolated from others.

The situation in Iran has been a vivid example of how a people's successful struggle for freedom from tyranny and oppression could be misused and misdirected to create a social and political environment unacceptable by the standards of a people-oriented society. If the United Nations had been more responsibly active in Iran as is the essence of my current proposal, we would not have been in the state we have been for the past two decades. And now, it should still be a United Nations mandate to come to the aid of the Iranian people ensuring implementation of the Human Right laws and in protecting the slow transition to democracy which has again been initiated and forced by the people.

Ladies and Gentlemen, in line with my lifetime hope to see democracy en-rooted in Iran, and in order to prevent our people from having to take more drastic actions out of Impatience and despair, I take advantage of this tribune and the opportunity to talk to the world, in **proposing a public referendum in my country** under the supervision of the UN in which the people of Iran shall freely choose the form of democratic government they wish to have.

My people need and ask for the moral support of all the free nations of the world, especially Europe, and of course Austria, in this endeavor. The establishment of democracy and political tranquility in Iran will ensure peace and security in the entire region of West Asia, and this is what all nations concerned with the Middle East and Central Asia desire. My people have been impatiently waiting and hoping for this opportunity for many years, and are prepared to sacrifice all their being to achieve this goal.

The opportunity to speak in this circumstance, in itself, is a promise that peace through implementation of Human Rights cannot be too far off. I hope for the success of Dr. Bruno Kreisky Foundation's efforts in furthering the cause of human rights in the world. It is upon us all, the concerned citizens of the world, to make our best effort so that the twenty first century will be truly the century of peace, the century of democratic governments, and the century of justice for all, under the umbrella of cultural inter-existence and religious brotherhood.

Respectfully,
Abbas AmirEntezam
Jan 22, 1998

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