

EXCERPTS FROM IRANIAN POLITICAL PRISONERS WHO WERE WITNESSES TO THE 1988 MASSACRE IN IRAN

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 20, 2020

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following release which includes excerpts from the statement of former Iranian political prisoners, witnesses to the 1988 massacre in Iran.

The Amnesty International report, "Blood-Soaked Secrets: Why Iran's 1988 Prison Massacres are Ongoing Crimes Against Humanity," on the 30th anniversary of the massacre was an important step in accelerating the justice movement and holding the regime's officials to account as those responsible for committing this great crime. The following are the excerpts from the former Iranian political prisoners, witnesses to the 1988 massacre in Iran:

We, political prisoners who personally witnessed the 1988 massacre, as part of the large family of the Mujahedin-e Khalq (MEK), have made a solemn promise to the 30,000 proud martyrs of this massacre that we will spare no effort to shed light on the scope of the horrific and inhumane 1988 massacre and to ensure its perpetrators face justice.

Amnesty International can rely on the support of political prisoners, families of the martyrs, and the Iranian people as it continues to speak the truth and expose this great crime against humanity. The regime's leaders must face the fact that four decades of crime and murder, which continued into the November 2019 massacre and the executions of Mostafa Salehi and Navid Afkari will not go unanswered.

We stress in this regard that insulting and attacking Amnesty International and its researchers and reporters is deplorable and amount to aligning with and accompanying the murderous rulers of Iran. As stated in the statement issued by 1,404 political prisoners, We consider it to be the urgent obligation of all political prisoners and any dignified human being to expose anyone, whether a former prisoner or otherwise, with any political claim, who serves the interests of the clerical regime, and we condemn any silence with respect to such abhorrent actions. Political prisoners, witnesses to the 1988 massacre, October 2020

Three decades after the 1988 massacre of political prisoners in Iran, we are witnessing Amnesty International's efforts to expose the details of this great crime. This is a crime that the former designated heir to Khomeini described at the time as the greatest crime committed by the clerical regime in

its history and called its perpetrators criminals:

This statement was distributed by the Iranian American Community of Texas, member of the Organization of Iranian American Communities-US (OIAC)

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 20, 2020

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, on December 3, 2020, I submitted a personal explanation for having missed votes on December 2 and December 3, 2020 due to being out of town. I wish to correct my explanation for Roll Call No. 229. Although my personal explanation submitted on December 3, 2020 stated that I would have voted "no" on Roll Call no. 229, I in fact would have abstained from that vote and I wish to correct the record to reflect that.

NOMINATION OF RETIRED GENERAL LLOYD AUSTIN AS THE 28TH U.S. SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 20, 2020

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as a senior member of Congress, as a proud citizen of the United States, as an African American woman, and as a member of the Congressional Black Caucus, I rise in strong support of President-elect Joe Biden's nomination of retired General Lloyd Austin as the 28th U.S. Secretary of Defense.

Retired General Lloyd Austin is an accomplished and respected trailblazer in the United States Army. He is a trusted and crisis-tested leader who has broken barriers in his historic ascent to the highest ranks of the military.

With more than 40 years of service, Retired General Lloyd Austin is a deeply experienced and highly decorated commander who has served with distinction in several of the Pentagon's most crucial roles.

Retired General Lloyd Austin is a son of the South. He was born in Mobile, Alabama and grew up in Thomasville, Georgia. He graduated from West Point United States Military Academy and later earned degrees from Auburn University, Webster University, the Army

Command and General Staff College and the Army War College.

Retired General Lloyd Austin was promoted to Lieutenant General in 2006 and assumed command of the XVIII Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg. And in 2009 he handed over his command to become the Director of the Joint Staff.

Retired General Lloyd Austin retired from the U.S. Army in 2016 as the first African American to serve as Commander of CENTCOM, the U.S. Central Command, where he oversaw America's military strategy and joint operations throughout the Middle East and in Afghanistan.

He was the chief architect of the military campaign to defeat the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria and became the second highest ranking commander in Iraq, taking command of the Multi-National Corps—Iraq. As commander, he directed the operations of approximately 152,000 joint and coalition forces in all sectors of Iraq.

He led the transition of the U.S. and Coalition military forces and equipment out of Iraq, the largest logistics operation undertaken by the Army in six decades.

Retired General Lloyd Austin served in the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, Operations Officer for the Army Indianapolis District Recruiting Command, Executive Officer 1st Brigade 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, Executive Officer for the 2nd Battalion 22nd Infantry, Chief of Joint Operations Division J-3, Assistant Division Commander for Maneuver 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, Commander of 2nd Battalion 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, Commanding General of U.S. Forces in Iraq, Army Vice Chief of Staff and as Commander of CENTCOM.

Retired General Lloyd Austin is highly decorated with many awards and decorations including four Defense Distinguished Service Medals, three Army Distinguished Service Medals, a Silver Star, two Defense Superior Service Medals, and two Legion of Merit decorations.

Retired General Lloyd Austin, if confirmed, will become the first African American Secretary of Defense which culminates a barrier-breaking career as the first African American general to command an Army Division in combat, to lead a Corps in combat, to command an entire theater of war, and to serve as Commander of U.S. Central Command.

Secretary-designate Austin has proven and demonstrated extraordinary leadership across a lifetime of distinguished service and is well prepared to lead our nation's military as a strong and dedicated civilian leader.