

ERA OF ACTION: SINKING CRINK INC

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My husband and I were recently rejected by a co-op in New York. We put in a generous offer and hoped for a fresh start. After the Islamic Republic hired an assassin to kill me in my home in Brooklyn, we were forced to sell and have moved from safe house to safe house ever since.

I adored that home. I planted trees in my garden, each one representing family members I can no longer see in person. I made friends with my neighbors through what my husband calls "pickle diplomacy," a deep friendship sparked by a neighbor's gift of pickles.

I am alive today only because on the day the assassin showed up at my door to kill me, I was deeply engrossed in a Zoom call and didn't answer. A different choice, and I wouldn't be here to write this.

In the last three years, my husband and I have moved over 20 times. We have no place to call home, no walls for our pictures, no routine. Another rejection broke my heart, but I understood the co-op board's fear. When they Googled us, they likely saw the truth: assassins carrying AK-47s are sent by the Islamic Republic to silence me because I speak out against their misogyny and brutality. The threat is real.

This isn't just my story—it's a reality for anyone who dares to defy authoritarian regimes like Iran, Russia and North Korea. These dictatorships are united in their efforts to stamp out freedom, from the shores of the United States to the streets of Tehran and Moscow.

We know now that officials within the Islamic Republic's regime ordered my assassination. The U.S. Justice Department uncovered that Ruhollah Bazghandi, a high-ranking officer in Iran's Revolutionary Guard, coordinated with Eastern European

crime networks to carry out this plot. Iran and Russia are collaborating, not just to silence me, but to crush any voice that advocates for democracy.

But here's what's maddening: while my husband and I are turned away from homes, the same city welcomes the very people who have tried to kill me. Iranian officials—men whose regime has attempted to kill American citizens—fly freely into New York, dining in luxurious restaurants. They hire hitmen to murder dissidents like me and are granted platforms and respectability here. This is the height of hypocrisy. If justice were served, these men would face prison—not the red carpet.

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I want people to understand: when terrorists are defeated, it's not a tragedy; it's a victory. Remember the killing of Osama bin Laden in 2011. Was it a day of mourning? No. It was justice for the victims of 9/11, a step toward dismantling terrorism. When ISIS leaders like Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi fell, it weakened those who perpetuate terror.

But why, then, do Western voices hesitate to condemn the likes of Qassem Soleimani or Hassan Nasrallah? The New York Times described Nasrallah—a terrorist whose actions have tortured, raped and enslaved innocent civilians—as a "gifted orator" advocating for "equality." This is not just dishonest; it dishonors the suffering inflicted by Hezbollah.

Millions across the Middle East, who know the violence of these men firsthand, do not mourn their loss. They celebrate it. They understand that when these killers fall, it is justice served—a victory for humanity. These dictators lit the very fire that would

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burn them down.

To those in the West who enjoy the luxury of distance from these regimes: why are you so afraid to see the truth? Why do you hesitate to condemn those who oppress and kill their own people?

Do not ask us, those who have faced death and exile, to negotiate with terrorists. These men are not diplomats; they are hostage-takers who use lives as currency to prop up their power.

There is no middle ground when facing such evil. When terrorists fall, it is a victory for freedom. And if the democracies of the world cannot stand together against these dictatorships, then we have lost our moral compass.

That's why we at the World Liberty Congress have united 60 activists from countries ruled by autocracy to fight back against their oppressors and fight for democracy and freedom. We build networks of political dissidents to share intelligence and strategically grow pro-democracy movements, speak out against abuse and support those suffering injustice. We are building a world of hope, freedom and justice for all. We're bringing people together across the globe to end dictatorship by 2050, and we hope you will join us. There's only one way to defeat these dictators: together.



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