



Weekly magazine

*Sepidar*  
Woman Iranian Party



Friday, March 27, 2026

# Missile Cities; The Graveyard of Iran's National Wealth

By: Azadeh Sharafi

For years, in silence; deep within mountains and beneath layers of stone and granite; projects have advanced that neither the public was informed of nor the environment capable of sustaining. What are described as “missile cities” are no longer merely military installations; they have become symbols of a destructive trajectory; a path that has consumed the resources of a nation and placed its future at risk.



From Yazd to Khorramabad, from Tabriz to Bidgoneh, from Semnan to Hajiabad in Hormozgan, from Lar to Jam in Bushehr, from Karaj to northern Isfahan; alongside at least seventeen other such sites; these developments stand as stark reminders of the costs imposed on a country already grappling with crisis. They are inseparable from the broader realities of conflict, environmental degradation, water scarcity, power shortages, and the repression; even execution; of environmental activists.



In a country like Iran, where rivers are drying up one after another, where land subsidence is accelerating, and where citizens face acute shortages of even the most basic necessity; water vast financial resources and critical national assets have been diverted into tunneling through mountains and constructing concealed facilities. This is not merely a policy choice; it is an imposition; one that forces immense costs onto a population excluded from decision making.

These structures are reportedly built in the deepest geological layers, embedded within hard rock formations; a process that inevitably requires extensive water consumption and leads to severe environmental destruction.

At the same time, rivers such as the Zayandeh Rud run dry, farmers lose their livelihoods, and tensions over water spill into the streets. This is no coincidence; it is the direct consequence of priorities that have systematically marginalized the well-being of the population.

Yet the disaster lies not only in their construction, but in what is ultimately lost. Projects built at such immense cost and in the absence of transparency are inherently vulnerable to shifting conditions and crises. In times of conflict, they can be destroyed; even in less extreme scenarios, they are susceptible to significant damage. What has long been portrayed as a “strategic asset” can, in a short span, become a stark symbol of



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squandered resources; resources that will never be returned to the people.



Meanwhile, those who sought to raise the alarm have been silenced. Environmental activists; individuals who attempted to speak out against ecological destruction—have faced pressure, restrictions, and removal from public life. Reports of arrests and even executions of environmental advocates have further underscored the cost of dissent. This silencing is part of the same cycle that has allowed such projects to proceed without accountability.

Today, the country is left to confront mounting environmental crises and the consequences of decisions made in secrecy. Every drop of water lost, every parcel of land that sinks, and every resource that is depleted stands as evidence of a profound and ongoing catastrophe—one shaped by the policies of the ruling system.



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# Iran's Heritage in the Exchange of Powers; Silence Today, Accountability Tomorrow

By: M.H. Labafbashi

At a moment when Iran stands at a historic crossroads, Crown Prince Reza Pahlavi has called on the nation to rise in defense of its cultural and natural heritage, urging citizens to join the "Iran Heritage Guard" in protecting these irreplaceable assets. This appeal is not merely cultural in nature; it is a warning about the dangers that neglect, opacity, and mismanagement pose to the legacy of a nation.

Within this context, the transfer of two major consignments of Iranian historical artifacts to China; under the pretext of exhibition; has become one of the most controversial actions of recent years. Hundreds of valuable objects, spanning multiple eras of Iran's history, were sent abroad with official authorization and under the supervision of state institutions. Exhibitions bearing titles such as "The Glory of Ancient Iran" and "The Land of Kindness" were held in various Chinese cities, presented outwardly as part of cultural diplomacy.



What makes this episode deeply troubling, however, is not the principle of cultural exchange, but the opacity surrounding its execution. The duration of the artifacts' stay in China was

extended beyond the original schedule, without any transparent explanation to the public. Critical details; including transportation procedures, security arrangements, insurance coverage, and even the full inventory of the objects; were never comprehensively or independently disclosed. Furthermore, no clear accounting has been provided regarding the revenues generated by these exhibitions or the actual benefit accrued to the Iranian people from this so-called cultural diplomacy.



The reported return of these artifacts, while officially announced, has only raised further questions. Where exactly are these objects now housed? Have they been returned to their original locations? Why has public access and independent oversight not been ensured? In the absence of even minimal transparency, public trust is inevitably eroded, giving rise to serious and legitimate concerns.

These concerns are not confined within Iran's borders. They extend directly to the Chinese authorities and cultural institutions that hosted these artifacts. Are they prepared to answer, before the international community and the people of Iran, for the conditions under which these objects were held, secured, and ultimately returned? Are there independent records verifying the integrity and authenticity of these items throughout the exhibition period? Cultural cooperation, absent transparency and accountability, cannot claim lasting legitimacy.

Ultimately, a fundamental principle must be underscored: no government, and no foreign partner, is exempt from accountability to the people of Iran. These questions may remain unanswered today, but the future of Iran; when national sovereignty and the will of the people prevail; will be a time of reckoning. From domestic officials to international counterparts, including Chinese partners, all will be expected to account for every decision, every transfer, and every action taken concerning the heritage of this land. Iran's heritage is a red line for its people; and no ambiguity in this domain will go unanswered.



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# A Generation in Line Before the Gallows; Melika Azizi and the Nightmare of State Killing

By: Leila Kharazi



In today's Iran, the gallows are no longer instruments of "justice," but tools of survival for a system under strain. The name Melika Azizi—a young woman ensnared in the machinery of the judiciary—has become an alarm bell. Silence in the face of her case amounts to signing the death warrant of a generation whose only "crime" is the pursuit of life.

Disturbing reports about Melika Azizi and countless unnamed young detainees point to a grim and recurring pattern: arbitrary arrests, coercion and torture to extract forced confessions, and the issuance of severe sentences that bear no resemblance to justice. By placing young individuals like Melika on execution lists, the Islamic Republic is effectively gambling with the fear of society.

A judicial system built on intimidation seeks symbols to project power. Melika Azizi represents a young woman determined to assert her identity—and for that very reason, her life has become a bargaining chip for a system that fears the presence of aware, independent, and demanding young women. Sentencing this generation to death is not a display of strength; it is an admission of deep moral and political failure.

We at *Sepidar – Women's Party of Iran Weekly* warn that every hour of delay in raising awareness and applying international pressure brings the noose closer to Melika and to the many "Melikas" whose names remain unknown.

To human rights organizations: do not turn a blind eye to closed-door trials and systemic injustice. To the conscience of society: Melika is the daughter of us all. Raise the cost of execution for the regime's machinery of death.

Execution is nothing less than premeditated state killing. We will not allow Melika Azizi's smile to be erased in the darkness of prison cells and beneath the shadow of the gallows.

Today, the name Melika Azizi marks a boundary—the line between humanity and brutality. At *Sepidar Weekly*, we are committed to amplifying her voice, and the voices of all those behind bars whose only "crime" is youth and the dream of freedom, until these inhumane sentences are abolished. Before another dawn is stained with blood, we must stand.

Victory belongs to life.



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# Crown Prince Reza Pahlavi at CPAC 2026

By: Ali Soltani

The presence of **Crown Prince Reza Pahlavi** at the 2026 Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in Texas is not merely a speech at a political event; it signals a more assertive entry of Iran's opposition into international political dynamics and reflects a strategic effort to redefine leadership in a potential transition beyond the Islamic Republic.

CPAC, widely regarded as one of the most influential gatherings of conservative movements in the United States, annually hosts prominent political figures from across the country and beyond. The 2026 conference, held from March 25 to 28 in Texas, serves not only as a political forum but also as a platform for coalition-building and the introduction of influential global actors.



beyond a routine invitation. The formal announcement of his participation by the organizers reflects his growing position in political discussions surrounding Iran's future; a position that, particularly among segments of the Iranian diaspora, is increasingly associated with the concept of a transitional era beyond the current system.

Importantly, his presence at CPAC is not confined to conservative American audiences. Its impact can extend across the broader political spectrum in the United States, including progressive circles. For these groups, engagement with a figure who presents himself as a viable option for managing a post-Islamic Republic transition may create space for a reassessment of prevailing views on Iran's opposition.

At a broader level, this appearance also sends a clear message to Europe. European governments, which have long oscillated between diplomacy and political pressure in their approach to Iran, are now faced with a figure actively positioning himself as a political alternative for the country's future. Participation in a high-profile international forum allows **Crown Prince Reza Pahlavi** to communicate his vision not only to policymakers but also to global media and public opinion.

Moreover, the presence of Iranian political and civil society figures among the speakers at this year's CPAC indicates that Iran has become a subject of growing attention within the conference agenda. This development may reflect the increasing importance of Iran in the foreign policy considerations of various Western political currents.

In this context, the participation of **Crown Prince Reza Pahlavi** at CPAC goes beyond symbolism; it represents a calculated effort to consolidate his position as the leading figure of Iran's opposition abroad. For some observers, this presence may even be interpreted as a step toward presenting him as a leader for a transitional period.

Ultimately, his participation in CPAC should be analyzed within the broader evolution of international politics and the shifting role of Iran's opposition. Whether as an opportunity to articulate a political vision or as an effort to strengthen his standing, this moment demonstrates that the question of Iran's future is increasingly entering formal global discourse.