

[REDACTED]
New York, NY 10185

April 3, 1997

Mr. M. Wallace
CBS, "60 Minutes"
524 W. 57 St.
New York, NY 10019

o. wallace

Dear. Mr. Wallace,

I was surprised and disappointed to see how time has mellowed you. In contrast to your interviews with the late Shah, you allowed yourself to be defensive and accommodating with Mr. Rafsanjani. All credit to Mr. Rafsanjani.

Allow me to respectfully refresh your memory with the following points:

1. The total number of people executed for criminal activity and those killed in street disturbances in the 37 years of the Shah's reign is far less than those who were summarily tried and executed in the first few months of the clerical rule in Iran.
2. You mentioned how SAVAK was brutal. Savak had its excesses and it is useless to deny it and no excuse is offered. SAVAK was a creation of the CIA and other Western intelligence organizations. In addition the period to which you referred to was the height of the Cold War when Iran shared a long common frontier with the Soviet Union. Pressure was exerted on Iran by the Western alliance in order to resist Soviet influence and subversive acts.

In 37 years the dreaded SAVAK eliminated only one dissident abroad while according to your own figures the Islamic Republic has killed about 300 of its opponents outside Iran.

3. Mr. Rafsanjani questions the apprehension of the United States in regards to the construction of nuclear reactors in present day Iran, versus its' support during the Shah's time. It is necessary to reiterate that prior to the Islamic Revolution Iran did not engage in global terrorism, did not pose a threat to its neighbors, and had no intention of exporting its brand of Islam.
4. The revolutionaries inherited a country which already had a sound infrastructure. This allowed them to complete the existing unfinished projects and further enhance the development of roads, hospitals, etc. during these past 18 years. All that the Islamic regime has done was to implement the schemes set out in the Fifth Five Year Plan which had been drawn up in detail by the previous government.
5. Mr. Rafsanjani's hands are stained with blood. He was, as you recall, a powerful member of the Revolutionary Council during the initial years and bears a direct responsibility for the numerous executions of innocent people. They were all denied legal counsel, fair trial and even rudimentary human rights. In most cases the accused were tortured prior to execution as contemporary photographs and films of the period attest.

Mr. M. Wallace
Page 2

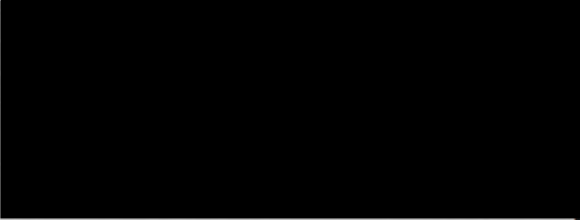
6. Temporary marriage is legalized prostitution, which permits only the man to have as many partners as he wishes thus debasing women. It also shakes the very foundation of the institution of marriage. I fail to see what kind of stability this arrangement brings to the off-spring of such unions?
7. Role of women: You seemed impressed that women serve in the parliament. This is nothing new as there were women ambassadors, member of parliament, senators and cabinet ministers during the Shah's time, one of whom was the Minister of Education, Mrs. Farrokh-rou Parsa, who was summarily tried and executed by the Islamic Republic merely for having advocated greater measures for the liberation of women. Whatever rights the women of Iran are enjoying now is due to the progress and emancipation of the women during the Pahlavi era. Thus, the late Ayatollah and the Islamic Republic were left with very little choice but to allow women a certain amount of freedom.

To compare the present status of the Iranian women with that of their counterparts in Saudi Arabia is ludicrous and merits no praise whatsoever. Considering the history of Iranian women's emancipation the comparison is without any foundation.

8. Human Rights: The abuse of the religious minorities and violent suppression of any internal opposition is well documented and so there is no need to bore you with details. I wish you had researched the reports of Amnesty International and PEN before your interview.

Your good name has been established over the years by your unrelenting and tough questioning of people you have interviewed. We have all mellowed over the years although I had hoped, in your case, it would have been delayed and continued until after the Rafsanjani interview.

Sincerely yours,



cc Mr. Don Hewitt
✓ Mr. Brian Lamb
Mr. Richard Fahle