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Media Release

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Parliamentary Secretary Obhrai calls on Iran to allow peaceful protests and permit political expression

(Ottawa) Deepak Obhrai, M.P. for Calgary East and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, today made the following statement in the House of Commons:

“On Monday, Iranians in Tehran gathered in thousands in support of pro-democracy protests in Egypt. Regrettably, approximately 10,000 Iranian security forces used tear gas, batons and pepper spray against those assembled.

What is hypocritical is the support the Iran regime gave to the democratic movement in Egypt, yet the same regime used violence to suppress the same demands in Iran.

Canada calls upon the Iranian authorities to allow for peaceful protests and to set free any protestors who may have been imprisoned. We are also deeply disturbed by calls from Iranian officials for the execution of protestors.

Canada believes that freedom of expression and freedom of assembly are universal rights. Iranian citizens should be free to express their political views and affiliations without fear of punishment or imprisonment.”

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