

Subject: Reframing the Iran Question: A Constitutional Strategy for Peace

February 22, 2026

Before the State of Union Speech

Dear Mr. President,

In the State of the Union Address, even a brief reference to the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran could redefine the entire Iran question without a single shot being fired.

The core problem is not merely the behavior of the government, but its legal foundation. Several provisions in that constitution obligate permanent confrontation with the United States and its allies. As long as those provisions remain, every negotiation addresses symptoms while leaving the cause intact.

Inside Iran, the idea of constitutional change has existed since 1979 and has re-emerged openly in recent years through public statements by civil activists, academics, and women's rights leaders such as Nasrin Sotoudeh and Narges Mohammadi. Their principal request is the formation of a Constitutional Assembly chosen by the Iranian people.

Military confrontation unintentionally strengthens the ruling establishment by validating its narrative of external threat. Legal and financial accountability, however, creates the opposite effect. Targeted action against overseas assets of ruling elites would generate internal pressure for reform and open the door to peaceful change.

If the United States publicly frames the issue as support for the Iranian people's right to revise the constitution that governs them, the discussion moves from geopolitics to legitimacy — from war to law.

A President can sometimes change history simply by naming the real issue. A brief acknowledgment in your address could begin that process.

Respectfully,

Sohrab ChamanAra

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