



Den Haag, 24 april 2012

Voortouwcommissie **vaste commissie voor Buitenlandse Zaken**

Activiteit: **bijzondere procedure**
Datum: donderdag 31 mei 2012
Tijd: 10.00 - 11.00 uur
Openbaar/besloten besloten

Onderwerp: ontvangst heer Pahlavi inzake de huidige politieke situatie van Iran

Agendapunt: **Het lid Kortenoeven ontvangt in het kader van de bijzondere procedure de heer Reza Pahlavi inzake de huidige politieke situatie van Iran. (zie bijgevoegde informatie)**

Het lid Kortenoeven nodigt u van harte uit hierbij aanwezig te zijn.


Zaak: Brief derden - D. Madjlessi te Middelburg - 12 april 2012
Verzoek, namens dhr R. Pahlavi, om gesprek met vaste commissie voor Buitenlandse Zaken
- 2012Z07861

Griffier: T.J.E. van Toor

Activiteitsnummer: 2012A01747

Biography



 Reza Pahlavi in 1973 as Crown Prince of Iran

Reza Pahlavi was born in Tehran, Iran, as eldest son of Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, the last Shah of Iran, and Empress Farah Pahlavi. Reza Pahlavi's siblings include his sister Princess Farahnaz Pahlavi (12 March 1963), brother Prince Ali-Reza Pahlavi (28 April 1966 – 4 January 2011), and sister Princess Leila Pahlavi (27 March 1970 – 10 June 2001), as well as a half-sister, Princess Shahnaz Pahlavi (27 October 1961).

He left Iran at the age of 17 for air force training. He spent a year at Williams College, but was forced to leave because of the turmoil in Iran. With the monarchy overthrown and an Islamic Republic established, Reza Pahlavi did not return to Iran. He received a BSc degree by correspondence in political science from the University of Southern California, because Williams did not offer that option.^[1] A jet fighter pilot, Reza Pahlavi completed the United States Air Force Training Program at the former Reese Air Force Base in Lubbock, Texas. In 1980, at the start of the Iran–Iraq War, Pahlavi, a highly-trained fighter pilot, wrote to General Valiollah Fallahi, Chief Commander of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic, offering to fight in the air force for Iran in the war. The offer was rebuffed.^[2]

With the death of his father on 27 July 1980, Reza Pahlavi became the Head of the House of Pahlavi.

Reza Pahlavi has written three books on the state of Iran.

According to Iranian writer Reza Bayegan, Prince Reza Pahlavi is deeply attached to his Shi'ite Muslim faith. He has named one of his daughters Iman (meaning faith in Arabic), and has performed the Hajj (pilgrimage) to Mecca.^[3]

Family


Reza married Yasmine Etemad Amini on June 12, 1986. Yasmine, a graduate of the George Washington University School of Law, worked for ten years as a lawyer for the Children's Law Center as a legal advocate for at-risk youth. Yasmine also founded the Foundation for

the Children of Iran in 1991, a non-profit foundation that provides health care services to Iranian children or children of Iranian origin.

Reza Pahlavi and his wife Yasmine have three daughters: Noor (born April 3, 1992), Iman (born September 12, 1993), and Farah (born January 17, 2004).

In 2004, Reza Pahlavi was named as the "unofficial godfather"^[4] of Princess Louise of Belgium the eighth granddaughter of King Albert II of Belgium. The decision to choose him was criticized by the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran.



 Reza Pahlavi sworn in as Head of Pahlavi Dynasty in 1980.

Reza Pahlavi has used his high profile status as an Iranian abroad to campaign politically for human rights, democracy, and unity among Iranians in Iran and outside it.^[5] On his website he calls for a separation of religion and state in Iran and for free and fair elections "for all freedom-loving individuals and political ideologies". He exhorts all groups dedicated to a democratic agenda to work together for a democratic and secular Iranian government.^[6]

According to Reza Bayegan, Prince Pahlavi believes in the separation of religion from politics. However, Pahlavi avoids the "Islam bashing" that Bayegan writes occurs in some circles of the Iranian opposition. Rather, he believes that religion has a humanizing and ethical role in shaping individual character and infusing society with greater purpose.^[3]

Pahlavi wrote in his book, *Winds of Change*:^[7]

“ Since the advent of Islam, our clergymen have served as a moral compass. Spirituality has been an inseparable part of our culture...Today, moral guidance has been replaced by clerical censorship and dictatorial fiat. ”

Pahlavi has used media appearances to urge Iran's theocratic government to accept a referendum that uses independently verifiable international standards and observation mechanisms.^{[8][9][10]} He has also urged Iranians to engage in a campaign of non-violent civil disobedience, starting with non-participation in elections of the Islamic republic (elections he views as undemocratic), followed by peaceful demonstrations and strikes. He is, however, an outspoken opponent of any foreign military intervention for regime change in Iran,^[11] believing that the people of Iran alone have the power to bring about change in their governmental system and society.

Human rights

On March 27, 2010, Reza Pahlavi was invited by the International Society of Human Rights in Bonn, Germany, to speak on the challenge of implementing democracy and human rights in Iran; a sample excerpt from this speech follows:^[12]

“ ...democracy and human rights for Iran is not just a slogan; it is our unique hope for salvation and the fundamental element which will bring long term political stability as well as put our nation back on the track of modernity, progress and prosperity. Iranians have come a long way, particularly in this last century. We have paid a heavy price while learning valuable lessons. As such, we are stronger as a society and perhaps clearer in our collective vision of a better future.