

Ep. 33: Will the Iranian People Rise Up?

written by Misgav Institute | 26.03.2026

In this powerful and inspiring episode of *Mideast Horizons*, hosts Asher Fredman and Lahav Harkov are joined by Sana Ebrahimi, a prominent Iranian activist and AI researcher, to discuss the current state of the Islamic Republic, the Iranian opposition, and the growing momentum for regime change.

Sana shares her remarkable personal journey, from growing up in a religiously conservative family in Tehran and wearing the chador from age seven, to becoming an outspoken voice against the ayatollah regime. She explains why so many Iranians reject the regime, why she does not believe the war has produced a true “rally around the flag” phenomenon, and why public anger inside Iran remains intense.

Sana also provides a masterclass on the landscape of the Iranian opposition, from the “reformists” and the MEK to the evolving movement around Crown Prince Reza Pahlavi. She argues that if the American and Israeli operations in Iran succeed in truly weakening the regime’s “killing machine,” a large-scale internal uprising could be on the horizon.

Sana also reveals how AI-generated propaganda, fake videos, and coordinated online campaigns are distorting global perceptions of Iran, and what social media platforms should do about it.

In the opening segment, Asher and Lahav analyze the current state of Operations Epic Fury and Roaring Lion, and the critical questions on the table regarding any potential deal to end the war. They also discuss the return of Hamas displays of power in Gaza and the new roadmap for disarming the terrorist group presented by U.S. and regional mediators.

Key Topics Discussed:

- **Life Inside the Regime:** Sana’s journey from a restricted life under the ayatollah regime to a leading voice in the global opposition.
- **The Uprising Timeline:** Why the Iranian people are outraged and

waiting for the right moment to reclaim their country.

- **Decoding the Opposition:** A breakdown of the different groups vying for Iran's future and why the Pahlavi camp is gaining traction.
- **The First AI War:** How generative AI is being used as a weapon of war, and the need for "Responsible AI" in online discourse.
- **Gaza & Lebanon:** Insights into the ongoing efforts to disarm Hamas and drive Hezbollah back from Israel's border.

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Spotify:

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/0gNfCcZvCLp43dXMSrqfp5?si=A9nQTVn3ScCGxEhaWMMKeA&nd=1&dlsi=cb3d6e6bc17c4565>



Apple:

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/countdown-to-snapback-sanctions-on-iran/id1822734204?i=1000727151332>