

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 3, 2008

Dr. Zalmay Khalilzad
Permanent Representative to the United Nations
U.S. Mission, United Nations
140 East 45th Street
8th Floor
New York, NY 10017

Dear Ambassador Khalilzad,

In light of Iranian leader Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's incendiary remarks before the United Nations General Assembly this week, we are writing to ask you to urge your colleagues at the United Nations not to honor Iran's wish to become a member of the UN Security Council.

In repudiation of the UN's intention, as embodied in its Charter, "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war... [and] to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights," the Iranian regime has used the UN as a venue to propagate venom and advocate destruction. In his speech to the UN General Assembly on September 23, 2008, Ahmadinejad stated: "In Palestine, 60 years of carnage and invasion is still ongoing at the hands of some criminal and occupying Zionists. They have forged a regime through collecting people from various parts of the world and bringing them to other people's land by displacing, detaining and killing the true owners of that land... The Security Council cannot do anything and sometimes, under pressure from few bullying powers, even paves the way for supporting these Zionist murderers." This kind of hate-filled, anti-Israel, anti-Semitic rhetoric has no place in the halls of one of the world's largest international bodies, let alone in the Security Council.

Moreover, the regime in Tehran has demonstrated its unfitness for Security Council membership by repeatedly calling for America and Israel's destruction, in violation of Article 2 of the UN Charter, which states that "All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state." Most recently, speaking before the UN General Assembly on September 23, Ahmadinejad stated: "Today, the Zionist regime is on a definite slope to collapse, and there is no way for it to get out of the cesspool created by itself and its supporters... American empire in the world is reaching the end of its road." More plainly, Ahmadinejad said at a conference in Tehran on October 26, 2005 that Israel should be "wiped off the map," and stated "Is it possible for us to witness a world without America and Zionism?... You had best know that this slogan and this goal are attainable, and surely can be achieved."

The Iranian regime has also rendered itself unworthy of membership in the Security Council by violating the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. Iranian leaders have repeatedly denied the Holocaust; most recently, on September 18, 2008, Ahmadinejad called the Holocaust a "fake."

Furthermore, Iran has increased instability in the Middle East and beyond by financing, arming, and training terrorist organizations. Iran has long sponsored the Palestinian terror group Hamas, which took power in Gaza via a coup last year and has conducted countless acts of terror against Israeli civilians. The Iranian regime also backs Hezbollah, which continues to undermine the Government of Lebanon and has carried out terrorist attacks as far away as Buenos Aires, Argentina. Furthermore, the State Department's Report on Terrorism for 2007 stated that Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-Qods Force has provided Iraqi militants with explosively formed projectiles that are tailored specifically to defeat U.S. armored vehicles.

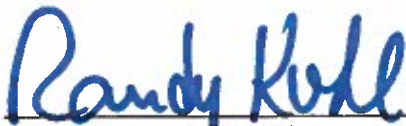
Finally, Iran has relentlessly and deceptively pursued nuclear capabilities for years, and continues to enrich uranium – in violation of UN Security Council Resolutions 1696 (2006), 1737 (2007), 1747 (2007), 1803 (2008), and 1835 (2008). A National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) issued by our intelligence community last fall assessed with high confidence that until the fall of 2003, the Iranian government was working to build a nuclear arsenal. The NIE also judged that, should Iran choose to produce highly enriched uranium for a nuclear weapon in the future, it would likely use covert facilities rather than declared sites.

Indeed, the Iranian nuclear threat is only increasing. Last month, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) warned that Iran was probably engaging in clandestine nuclear activities, and on September 16, the IAEA reportedly showed its members documents and photos indicating that Iran has attempted to refit its long-range Shahab-3 missile to carry a nuclear weapon.

As you know, on October 17, 2008, the General Assembly is expected to hold elections for five two-year terms on the UN Security Council. With this in mind, we strongly urge you to appeal to your colleagues to prevent Iran from ascending to the United Nations Security Council, as not doing so would be an undeniable risk to international security.

We thank you for your consideration and your service to our nation.

Sincerely,



John R. "Randy" Kuhl, Jr.
Member of Congress



Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Ranking Member
Committee on Foreign Affairs



Roy Blunt
Republican Whip



Eric Cantor
Chief Deputy Republican Whip



James T. Walsh
Member of Congress



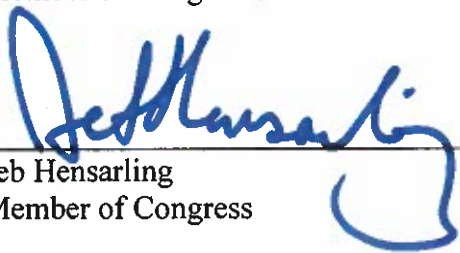
Vito J. Fossella
Member of Congress



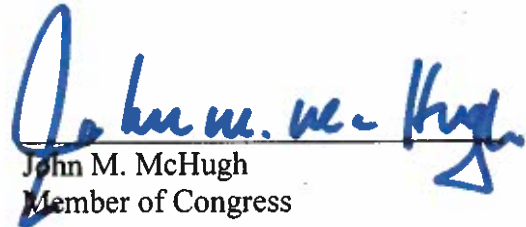
Dan Burton
Member of Congress



Steve Chabot
Member of Congress



Jeb Hensarling
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John M. McHugh
Member of Congress



Todd W. Akin
Member of Congress



Scott Garrett
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Thaddeus G. McCotter
Member of Congress



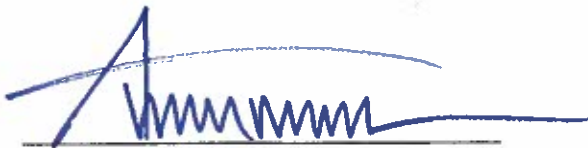
Frank LoBiondo
Member of Congress



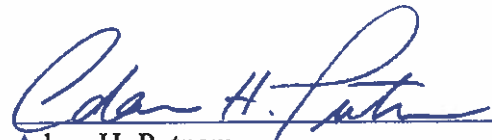
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Elton Gallegly
Member of Congress



Ted Poe
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Adam H. Putnam
Member of Congress



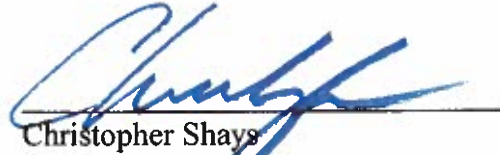
Jim Ramstad
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Paul C. Broun
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Kay Granger
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Doug Lamborn
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