



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-4311

April 20, 2011

Secretary Hillary Clinton  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Secretary Timothy Geithner  
U. S. Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Secretaries Clinton and Geithner:

I write to respectfully urge your departments to open investigations into CMA-CGM's business with Iran. Repeated failures to adhere to international sanctions against Iran demand an American response. In the past two years, French shipping firm CMA-CGM has been involved in three separate incidents of Iranian weapons smuggling. The company's repeated involvement in illicit weapons shipments warrants deeper scrutiny and potential penalties for violating international prohibitions banning weapons shipments to and from Iran.

Israeli naval forces in the Mediterranean on March 15 stopped the CMA-CGM operated vessel *MV Victoria* carrying more than 50 tons of Iranian weapons, including anti-ship missiles, 3,000 mortar shells and 67,000 AK-47 rounds. The Iranian government and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps have become adept at manipulating cargo manifests and mislabeling containers to trick foreign companies into transporting illicit goods. These activities are blatant violations of the International Maritime Organization's Conventions and professional standards, including the Convention on the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) and the International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) code.

Iran's illicit behavior requires CMA-CGM end all services at Iranian ports, institute a full review of its cargo screening policies and increase background checks on its business partners. Failure by the company to do so should result in U.S. sanctions on the company. If the company is found to have knowingly violated U.N. sanctions against Iran or global terrorist organizations, the U.S. should immediately bar the company from doing business in the U.S. or with U.S. persons. The U.S. must send a strong message about the importance of adherence to United Nations Security Council resolutions and CMA-CGM must not be allowed to escape such scrutiny.

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Despite the dramatic impact that sanctions have had on the Iranian economy, the regime appears intent on defying international demands to cease its uranium enrichment program and its support for terrorism. Therefore, we must continue to increase the pressure on the regime by pressuring those who aide and abet them in these efforts. U.S. action against CMA-CGM will remind international businesses that they face inherent risks by continuing to do business with a regime well-known for its weapons proliferation and money laundering. They must understand there will be a price for its illicit actions.

I look forward to your prompt response to my concerns over these continuing actions by CMA-CGM in its business relationship with Iran.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. Michael Conaway". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

K. Michael Conaway  
Member of Congress