



House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

May 21, 2010

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
FOREIGN AFFAIRS

BOB INGLIS
4TH DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA

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

We write to bring your attention to the ongoing persecution of Iranian political prisoners arrested in the aftermath of the disputed Presidential election of June 12th, 2009. We urge you to prioritize human rights as part of the US policy toward Iran and use every opportunity to work with the international community to call for the protection of the basic rights of Iranian political prisoners.

The international community must remain vigilant and demand answers as the brutal response to the Iranian democracy movement unfolds and transforms. The crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators, which began last year with the murder of innocent people like Neda Agha Soltan and reached an ugly peak with allegations of rape and murder of protestors in Evin prison, continues today under the guise of judicial procedure.

The hanging of five political prisoners, four of them Kurds, on May 9, 2010 and the 13 year prison sentence of Newsweek reporter Maziar Bahari handed down in absentia the next day show that the regime is not slackening its authoritarian response as the anniversary of the elections approaches. Reports that the five executed activists were tortured or forced to confess must be investigated to the greatest extent possible. We urge you to seek explanations for charges, such as those by Iranian lawyer Khalil Bahramian, that authorities refused to allow access to papers necessary to file appeals and that the initial case lasted "about five minutes."

We urge you to demand answers for this seeming mockery of the judicial process. We hope that by focusing the attention of the world on past violations of due process and individual rights, current political prisoners, including Shiva Nazar Ahari, Badr al Sadat Mofid, Majid Tavakoli, Mahdieh Golroo, Atefeh Nabavi, Kouhyar Goodarzi, and Ahmad Zeidabadi, among others, and individuals who have yet to be charged might have access to fair and open legal processes in which justice and truth determine the verdict in accordance with Iran's own laws, not arbitrary politics and force.

Democratic expression in Iran remains alive despite the repressive steps taken by the government. Student protestors demonstrated against President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad during his visit to Tehran University on May 10. We urge you to vocally support such manifestations of

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Iranian popular will, now and in the coming months as the June 12 anniversary approaches. Top US government officials, including the President, should speak directly and publicly to the dissidents of Iran and stridently protest against the Iranian regime's actions. Independent of that, we also encourage you to work in concert with international partners such as the European Union and its member states to place as much pressure as possible on Iran.

Best Regards,



Bob Inglis
Member of Congress



James Moran
Member of Congress



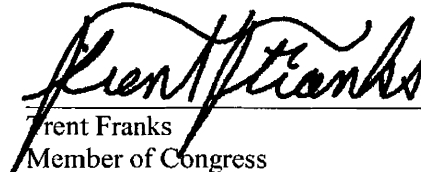
Frank Wolf
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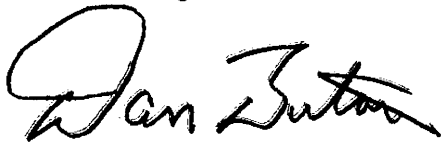
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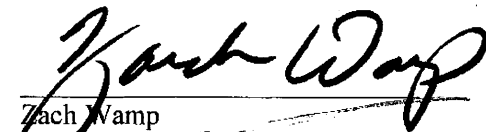
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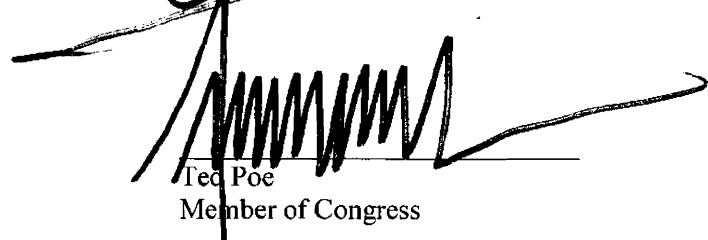
Dan Burton
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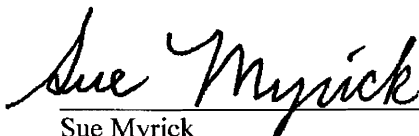
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