

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 29, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to you to draw your attention to the plight of American citizens being held by the Iranian regime. Iran currently holds three Americans hostage for unjustifiable reasons – former U.S. Marine Amir Hekmati, Pastor Saeed Abedini, and Washington Post correspondent Jason Rezaian – and a fourth, former FBI agent Robert Levinson, was last seen in Iran in 2007. These Americans are the most recent victims of an Iranian regime that has used the hostage-taking of U.S. citizens since the 1979 American Embassy takeover as a negotiation ploy. Iran must not think it can continue to use kidnapped U.S. citizens as a legitimate negotiation tool.

Decisions made by Iranian courts on the status of detained Americans often appear connected to negotiations over Iran's illicit nuclear program. In 2010, the *New York Times* reported that an American business executive, Reza Taghavi, imprisoned in Iran for two years without charge, was released the same day as Europe's top foreign policy official proposed a date for resuming stalled nuclear talks. Recently, the *Washington Post* editorialized that "placing Mr. Rezaian on trial just 35 days before the deadline for completing the [nuclear] accord looks like yet another attempt at intimidation."

Preventing a nuclear-armed Iran and Iran's imprisonment of American citizens are not mutually exclusive issues, as your Administration has previously stated. However, failure by Iran to release imprisoned Americans only further erodes the ability to consider Iran a faithful negotiator. That is why we call on your Administration to grant no further sanctions relief to Iran until the Americans Iran is holding hostage are safely returned home. We must stand strong in our determination to prevent Iran from achieving nuclear weapon capability and we must ensure that Iran releases all detained Americans. The U.S. will never serve the best interests of her citizens by succumbing to the blatant intimidation of a hostile regime.

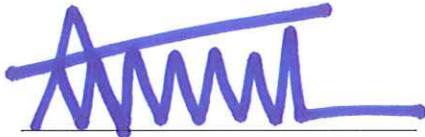
Sincerely,



MATT SALMON
Member of Congress



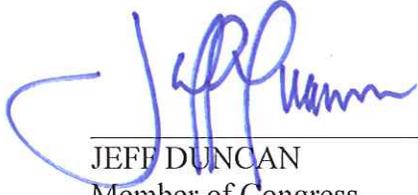
MARK MEADOWS
Member of Congress



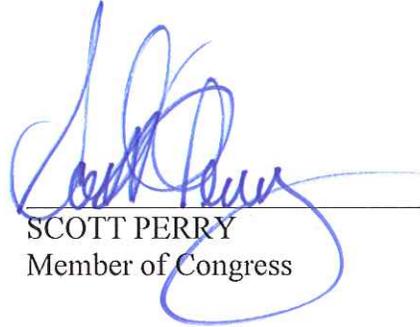
TED POE
Member of Congress



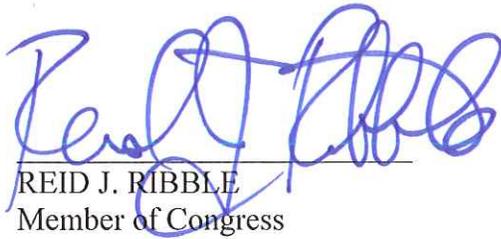
TRENT FRANKS
Member of Congress



JEFF DUNCAN
Member of Congress



SCOTT PERRY
Member of Congress



REID J. RIBBLE
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ROBERT J. WITTMAN
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