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for security, freedom and peace

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December 16, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Three years ago, on behalf of The Israel Project I sent your office a letter along with a petition signed by more than 60,000 people asking for your support in placing sanctions on Iran to peacefully prevent it from obtaining nuclear weapons. Since then, the world has extended an open hand with generous diplomatic offers. Sadly, however, Iran has rejected one proposal after the next. We have lost three years and now time is running out to peacefully stop Iran from achieving its dangerous nuclear ambitions.

The time has come for severe sanctions as a means to convince Iran to stop its nuclear program. The international community must take urgent action now to peacefully stop the threat of a nuclear Iran.

Our petition now has more than 76,000 supporters, which you can see by going to www.theisraelproject.org/petition.

We are asking you again, before it is too late, to do all you can to stop this imminent threat and avoid war. We offer the following concrete steps, from the world's top experts, which you can take to finally put an end to Iran's nuclear weapons program:

- Until Iran halts its nuclear program, cease - and encourage others to cease - doing business with companies that supply refined petroleum to Iran. Due to a lack of oil refinery facilities in Iran, it must import 40% of its refined fuel. Halting such imports into Iran will help discourage Iran's pursuit of a nuclear weapon and its support of terrorism. Iran is currently the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism.
- Ban banks from providing credit, insurance and loan repayment guarantees to foreign oil companies that supply fuel to Iran or help expand the country's domestic refining capacity.

- Prohibit insurance companies from insuring tankers going to Iran. The majority of tankers carrying gasoline to Iran are insured by Lloyds of London, a company that should be forbidden from helping the world's largest state sponsor of terror.
- Freeze more Iranian bank assets. In 2007, Bank Melli, Iran's largest state-owned bank, cashed in its dollar assets for Euros. The Iranian banking strategy depends on the Euro. In June 2008, all of the EU's 27 member states agreed to freeze any assets held by Bank Melli in their jurisdictions. Those EU measures, taken in 2008, signaled growing impatience with Iranian foot-dragging in negotiations over halting uranium enrichment. But as Iran continues to pursue its enrichment program, more must be done. The French and German governments must divest their large holdings in Bank Melli Iran.
- Issue travel bans. All Iranian government employees and their families should have their foreign assets frozen. They should also be subjected to travel bans until Iran is verified to have stopped its nuclear program and support of terrorism.
- Ban arms sales to Iran. In 2006, the United States called on all countries to stop arms exports to Iran, but much more must be done to verify that it has occurred.
- Increase targeted broadcasting into Iran through various communications channels including Radio Free Europe, Voice of America, the BBC and especially private broadcasting entities. Support democracy activists by broadcasting events inside of Iran so that activists can more easily learn what is occurring in the various cities and towns in Iran.
- Ban Iranian commercial airlines from entering European Union and other countries for failure to meet international safety standards.
- Work quickly and effectively with the international community to ensure that Iran does not obtain nuclear weapons. Tough economic sanctions can change Iran's nuclear policy.

Please hear the voices of more than 76,000 people across the globe who have signed our petition to help stop the threat of Iran. Please act now.

I would be happy to speak with you about these issues at any time. Meanwhile, I look forward to your reply.

Thank you in advance for your efforts and leadership to help create peace on earth.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi
www.theisraelproject.org