



Iran180
225 West 34th Street, Suite 1607
New York, NY 10122

October 15, 2013

The Honorable Barack H. Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

As Americans and New Yorkers we are deeply concerned with the very real threat that the Islamic Republic of Iran poses to the world, to the United States and to our New York community. As co-chairs of Iran180, a grassroots community organization advocating that Iran reverse course on its nuclear ambitions and human rights abuses, we want to express our support for your principled position that only clear, serious, and verifiable actions on the part of the Iranian regime will solve the current impasse and end the sanctions that Iran so desperately wants lifted. Until such time, we hope and trust that you and your administration will continue to hold to this position in the face of what will certainly be difficult encounters with representatives of the Iranian regime.

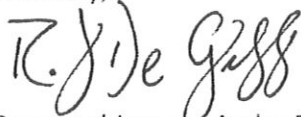
With Secretary of State John Kerry joining with the other members of the P5+1 at the negotiations in Geneva concerning Iran's nuclear program, we are heartened by your and your administration's unambiguous position on Iran. You and Secretary Kerry have repeatedly stressed that, while you are willing to give negotiations a chance, it is actions and not words that are paramount. You have made clear that Iran must prove its sincerity to the world by meeting its responsibilities under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and UN Security Council resolutions.

The election of President Hassan Rouhani in June brought with it a fundamental shift in rhetoric and messaging from the Iranian regime. Despite the change in rhetoric, Iran's continued illicit behavior leaves many of us dubious regarding the regime's sincerity. As you well know, Iran continues to install hundreds of centrifuges each month for uranium enrichment, a key indicator of a nuclear weapons program; it is proceeding with plans to install a heavy water nuclear reactor to produce plutonium, yet another sign of Iran's nuclear weapons ambitions; it is reportedly conducting ballistic missile tests; it continues to support the brutal Assad regime in Syria; and it sponsors global terror through its proxy, Hezbollah. As you recently stated, Iran is only a about a year away from being able to produce nuclear weapons and it is hard to believe that the regime would abandon course when it is so close to fulfilling its objectives.

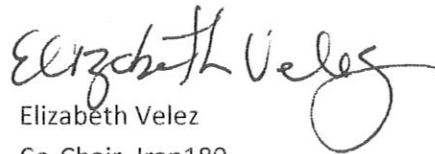
Certainly, the Geneva negotiations are a worthwhile endeavor, and it is not lost on us how momentous it was when you spoke directly to President Rouhani just a few weeks ago. But, as you correctly stated at the United Nations, the roadblocks to achieving a diplomatic solution may ultimately prove to be too great in the end. It is reassuring that you and Secretary Kerry are approaching the Geneva negotiations with this understanding, as the desire to reach a peaceful solution must not supplant the need to see significant and explicit actions by Iran.

Mr. President, we thank you for your leadership concerning Iran's nuclear weapons program and we wish you and Secretary Kerry great success in the negotiations in Geneva.

Sincerely,



Reverend Jacques Andre DeGraff
Co-Chair, Iran180



Elizabeth Velez
Co-Chair, Iran180