

July 21, 2011

[NAME]
[ADDRESS LINE 1]
[ADDRESS LINE 2]
[ADDRESS LINE 3]

Re: Hosting President Ahmadinejad in NYC

Dear [NAME]:

United Against Nuclear Iran (UANI) is a non-partisan advocacy and policy group that is committed to preventing Iran from fulfilling its goal of acquiring nuclear weapons. In September, it is our understanding that Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad will once again visit New York to attend the annual United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). President Ahmadinejad is the leader of a criminal regime that flouts international law by pursuing an illegal nuclear weapons program, sponsoring terrorism, and abusing its own citizens. We strongly believe that no American-based venue should host this man. We are calling on you and all other New York-area venues to help isolate and condemn the Iranian regime by refusing to host President Ahmadinejad and his cohorts.

As you will recall during last year's UNGA, Ahmadinejad was isolated to the only hotel that would accept him, the Hilton Manhattan East. For its irresponsible decision, Hilton received a great deal of negative publicity in the media, and its guests were greatly inconvenienced. (*ABC News*. "[Guarding Iran's President Ahmadinejad, the Most Hated Man in New York](#)," September 23, 2010).

It is also worth recalling that in his speech before the General Assembly last year, Ahmadinejad despicably claimed that the U.S. orchestrated the September 11 terrorist attacks against its own citizens. As President Obama remarked at the time, those comments were "offensive," "hateful" and "inexcusable." With the tenth anniversary of 9/11 approaching this September and in light of previously undisclosed information regarding the Iranian regime's complicity in the 9/11 attacks (*The New York Times*. "[Court Filings Assert Iran Had Link to 9/11 Attacks](#)," May 20, 2011), New Yorkers, and by extension all Americans, will not tolerate Ahmadinejad's conspiratorial claims and will not look kindly on any venues that provide him with comfort and accommodation during his stay in New York City.

By refusing to host President Ahmadinejad at your venue, you will be joining many other New York-area hotels, as well as multinational corporations such as General Electric, Huntsman, Caterpillar, Ingersoll Rand, KPMG, Bobcat and Terex, among many others, all of which have recently severed their business ties with the Iranian regime.

The need to isolate the Iranian regime has only grown more urgent since we last wrote to you in 2010. Despite efforts to engage Iran, the regime has continued to rebuff President Obama and the UN's efforts at diplomacy. Recent reports also indicate that the Iranian regime has stepped up efforts to funnel high-tech weaponry to insurgents in Iraq and Afghanistan that target American troops (*The Wall Street Journal*. "[Iran Funnels New Weapons to Iraq and Afghanistan](#)," July 2, 2011). The Iranian government also continues to abuse its own citizens, executing an average of almost two people a day in the first half of 2011 in order to intimidate its own people from seeking greater freedom (*The Guardian*. "[Iran Escalates Use of Capital Punishment](#)," July 7, 2011). Clearly, this regime is not interested in peace; rather, it is fixated on acquiring nuclear weapons and becoming a regional superpower with the ability to dominate the Middle East and threaten global stability.

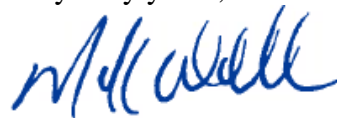
There is increasing evidence, however, that economic sanctions and the actions of responsible corporations are having a significant and painful impact on the Iranian regime and its leadership. A number of U.S. officials, including U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, have increasingly noted that sanctions against Iran are working to slow the development of their nuclear program. And by refusing to host President Ahmadinejad during his visit to New York, you will help isolate the Iranian regime and join the growing number of companies that have severed ties with Iran. American and international companies that do business with Iran for short-term economic gain serve only to legitimize and embolden this thuggish regime.

UANI calls upon your hotel facility and all other venues to refuse to host President Ahmadinejad and his delegation. In so doing, UANI will publicly highlight and applaud those hotels that make the proper and moral decision to refuse accommodation to Ahmadinejad and his delegation.

We appreciate your cooperation in this matter and given the urgent nature of this issue please let us hear from you by August 1, 2011.

I look forward to your response.

Very truly yours,



Ambassador Mark D. Wallace