

September 30, 2009

The Honorable Ara Najarian
Glendale City Hall
613 E. Broadway
Glendale, CA 91206

Re: AnsaldoBreda Contract and Applause for Choosing Not to Do Business with Siemens

Dear Mayor Najarian:

United Against Nuclear Iran (“UANI”) has learned that The Los Angeles Metro Transit Authority (“LA MTA”) has voted to award a contract for new light rail cars to AnsaldoBreda rather than to its competitor Siemens.

By this letter, UANI writes to applaud the LA MTA for choosing not to do business with Siemens. UANI also requests the LA MTA to take further steps and to require AnsaldoBreda, as a part of its contract, to declare that it does not conduct business in Iran. As you know, AnsaldoBreda was reported to have done business in Iran in the past. AnsaldoBreda should choose between doing business with the United States and Iran. The LA MTA can send a clear message that U.S. taxpayers refuse to do business with corporations that do business in Iran.

Simply put, were AnsaldoBreda to do business with the Iranian government, it would be accepting blood money from a regime that brutally suppresses its own people and that is a danger to global security.

Events currently unfolding in Iran underscore the brutality of the Iranian regime. In the past few days, the international community has learned about Iran’s construction of a secret nuclear enrichment facility near Qum that can only have a military use. We have seen Iran test launch short and long-range missiles that could reach U.S. bases in the Middle East, our European allies and Israel. President Ahmadinejad has even gone so far as to call President Obama’s promise to extend a diplomatic hand to the Iranians a lie.

Iran has been a major state sponsor of terrorism, including providing support for Hamas and Hezbollah – two groups that have perpetrated murder on a vast scale and whose violent actions have resulted in the deaths of hundreds of American citizens. Iran has defied the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency to pursue an illegal nuclear program that, by all reasonable accounts, is for the purpose of developing a nuclear weapon. Iran has repeatedly called for the extermination of Israel, and denied the occurrence of the Holocaust.

UNITED AGAINST NUCLEAR IRAN

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Reports state that Iran may obtain a nuclear weapon by as early as the end of 2009. If Iran obtains a nuclear weapon, the already volatile Middle East will likely see the start of a regional nuclear arms race. Needless to say, a nuclear arms race in the Middle East is a clear threat to American national security.

At the same time that Iran's government diverts billions of dollars from its yearly budget to support an illegal nuclear program, Iran's oil-based economy has suffered. Already weakened by U.S. and EU sanctions, Iran's economy now stands on the brink of economic collapse. Fluctuating but lower oil prices and the effects of continued sanctions have made Iran uniquely susceptible to financial pressure. Further economic pressure will have a significant, if not a decisive, impact on Iran's ability to successfully develop the technology to obtain a nuclear weapon.

American and international companies that do business with Iran for short-term economic gain legitimize Ayatollah Khomeini's theocracy, provide the last crutch for the faltering Iranian economy, and facilitate the regime's diversion of funds to its illicit nuclear program. Now, more than ever, Iran relies on corporations like Siemens to support its fragile economy, to fund its nuclear program and to perpetuate a brutal dictatorial theocracy.

General Electric recently partnered with UANI and signed the Iran Business Declaration. In doing so, it declares that it does not and will not do business in Iran until Iran gives up its illegal nuclear weapons program. We urge the LA MTA to require AnsaldoBreda, as a part of its contract to declare that it does not do business in Iran. By doing so, the LA MTA can join the international community in condemning Iran's illegal nuclear weapons program and its disregard for human rights.

Thank you for your interest in this important matter.

Very Truly Yours,



Ambassador Mark D. Wallace

cc: The Honorable Don Knabe
First Vice Chair, Los Angeles County Supervisor, Fourth Supervisorial District

The Honorable Antonio R. Villaraigosa
Second Vice Chair, LACMTA

Ambassador Mark D. Wallace | President & CEO | MWallace@uani.com

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Los Angeles County Supervisor, Fifth Supervisorial District

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City of Los Angeles, Mayor Appointee

Mr. Doug Failing
Non-voting member, Gubernatorial Appointee

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