

July 30, 2012

Mr. Richard Chiu
President
Warwick International Hotels
1776 Grant Street, 14F
Denver, Colorado 80203

Mr. G. Paul LeBlanc
General Manager
Warwick New York Hotel
65 West 54th Street
New York, New York 10019

Re: Hosting President Ahmadinejad in NYC

Dear Mr. Chiu and Mr. LeBlanc:

United Against Nuclear Iran (UANI) is writing to inform you that Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad will once again visit New York in September to attend the annual meeting of the 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. For these reasons, we strongly believe that no American-based venue should host President Ahmadinejad and his delegation. We are calling on you and all other New York-area venues to help isolate and condemn the Iranian regime by responsibly refusing to host President Ahmadinejad and his cohorts. Simply put, you should not offer the regime accommodation nor meeting/banquet facilities to spew their propaganda.

As you will surely recall during the UNGA in 2011, UANI launched a campaign against Warwick International Hotels for hosting Ahmadinejad at the Warwick New York Hotel. UANI remains disappointed that Warwick irresponsibly decided to go forward with that decision, though Warwick clearly paid for its decision to host Ahmadinejad with negative publicity and lost business. (*CBS New York*, "[Protestors Let Warwick Hotel Have It For Choosing To Host Ahmadinejad](#)," 9/22/2011) For the 2010 UNGA, the Warwick New York Hotel also chose to irresponsibly host Ahmadinejad for a "monster's ball," an event featuring extremists such as Louis Farrakhan and members of the New Black Panther Party. (*New York Post*, "[A'jad Monster's Ball](#)," 9/26/2010)

In the past, Ahmadinejad has routinely misused UN events as a pulpit to promote his hateful rhetoric, radical ideology and offensive theories. For example, 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, condemned the U.S. for killing Osama bin Laden and once again denied the Holocaust. Ahmadinejad's remarks were so objectionable that they caused members of the U.S., EU, Canadian and other Western delegations to walk-out of the meeting. (*The Washington Post*, "[Ahmadinejad's U.N. speech sparks walkout](#)," 9/22/2011) More recently, during a recent UN-sponsored anti-narcotics conference in Tehran, Iranian Vice-President Mohammad-Reza Rahimi blamed a Jewish religious text for the spread of illegal drugs around the world. (*AFP*, "[Iran VP says Jewish law book to blame for drugs trade](#)," 6/27/2012) 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 including General Electric, Caterpillar, Ingersoll Rand, Bobcat, Hyundai and Porsche, 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 2011. Despite efforts to engage Iran, the regime has continued to rebuff President Obama and the international community's efforts at diplomacy over its illegal nuclear weapons program. Iran's continued defiance of the international community and its own multilateral treaty obligations are threatening international peace and stability and the viability of the entire non-proliferation regime.

Furthermore, in addition to regularly disseminating anti-American, anti-Semitic and anti-Western rhetoric, the Iranian regime also continues to abuse its own citizens. In 2011, Iran reportedly executed 670 people, including quadrupling its rate of public executions in an effort to inject fear into a society seeking greater freedom. (*Reuters*, "[Iran executed 670 in 2011, says U.N. investigator](#)," 3/12/2012; *Associated Press*, "[Amnesty: Iran Quadrupled Rate of Public Executions](#)," 2/27/2012) Equally disturbing is a report by the UN Security Council's Iran sanctions committee which confirms that Iran is providing the Assad regime with weapons for the brutal slaughter of innocent Syrians. (*Reuters*, "[U.N. publishes report on Iran arms trade with Syria](#)," 6/29/2012) Clearly, the Iranian 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 that economic sanctions and the actions of responsible corporations are having a significant and painful impact on the Iranian regime and its leadership. In a recent speech, President Ahmadinejad himself acknowledged that the current sanctions are the toughest yet. (*The New York Times*, "[Iran's President Says New Sanctions Are Toughest Yet](#)," 7/3/2012) In addition, a number of U.S. officials, including U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, have increasingly noted that the economic pressure caused by sanctions have had an impact on their decision-making. (*USA Today*, "[Clinton says U.S. moving on Iran sanctions](#)," 2/29/2012) It is clear that sanctions have been successful in bringing Iran back to the negotiating table, and by refusing to host President Ahmadinejad during his visit to New York you will join the growing number of responsible 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.

Please confirm that that your venue will not host President Ahmadinejad and his delegation. The goal of UANI's campaign is not to harm legitimate businesses. However, because of the grave threat presented by the Iranian regime, be advised that UANI will publicly highlight and condemn those hotels and venues that do not make the proper and moral decision to refuse accommodation to Ahmadinejad and his delegation. Given your company's irresponsible choice to previously accommodate Ahmadinejad, it is essential that the Warwick Hotel now take a moral stand to correct its past errors and prove itself a responsible corporate actor.

We appreciate your cooperation in this matter and given the urgent nature of this issue please let us hear from you by August 6, 2012.

I look forward to your response.

Very truly yours,



Ambassador Mark D. Wallace