

September 12, 2013

Paul Wong
General Manager
ONE UN New York
One United Nations Plaza
New York, New York, 10017

Wong Hong Ren
CEO
Millennium & Copthorne Hotels
Scarsdale Place
Kensington
London, England W8 5SR

Re: Hosting Iranian President Hassan Rouhani in NYC

Dear Messrs. Wong and Wong:

On behalf of United Against Nuclear Iran (“UANI”) I am writing to express our concern about the decision of ONE UN New York (formerly known as the Millennium UN Plaza Hotel, of Millennium & Copthorne Hotels) to host Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and the Iranian regime delegation during this month’s annual meeting of the United Nations General Assembly (“UNGA”). The reasons for our concern are as follows. Certainly the ONE UN is aware that President Rouhani is the public face of a brutal regime that is a sworn enemy of the United States, and which is under strict sanctions by the U.S. government and the international community. As stated in our previous letter to you of August 19, 2013, we believe that no venue or entity in the United States should be doing business with the Iranian regime and its delegation, until the regime has seriously and verifiably altered its dangerous and threatening behavior.

Notwithstanding the optimism in some circles about the prospects for change under President Rouhani, his track record and clear commitment to advancing the interests of the regime, including its nuclear program, raise doubt about the prospect for significant and lasting change in the regime’s policies absent continued economic and diplomatic pressure from the international community and private businesses. While Rouhani’s rhetoric may be more tempered than that of his predecessor, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, he is still a loyal regime insider who enjoys a close personal relationship with Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei. ([Rouhani: The Ultimate Regime Insider](#))

During his thirty-year long career, Rouhani has served at the heart of the political decision-making process in the Iranian regime and held numerous top-level positions. In these

roles, Rouhani has been instrumental in advancing Iran's illegal nuclear program, establishing Iran as the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism and repressing the human rights and democratic aspirations of the Iranian people.

As you know, Iranian regime officials have in the past routinely misused UN events as a platform to broadcast their radical ideology, hateful rhetoric, offensive theories and slurs. Ahmadinejad routinely made objectionable remarks that spurred walkouts from members of the U.S., European, Israeli, Canadian and other Western delegations. (*The Washington Post*, "[Ahmadinejad's U.N. Speech Sparks Walkout](#)," 9/22/2011)

Such hateful and inciting rhetoric has not been limited to Ahmadinejad. For example, during a May 2013 campaign speech, Rouhani declared to the audience, "Saying 'Death to America' is easy. We need to express 'Death to America' with action. Saying it is easy." (*The Wall Street Journal*, "[About That New 'Moderate' Iranian Cabinet...](#)", 8/7/2013) Rouhani also referred to Israel as "the great Zionist Satan," in a 2012 address, and as a "wound on the body of the Muslim world" in an August 2013 speech. (*Huffington Post*, "[The Iranian Election: Have the People Really Won?](#)," 6/16/2013; *Reuters*, "[Iran's Rouhani Misquoted in Remarks on Israel: State TV](#)," 8/2/2013)

Even if President Rouhani's *rhetoric* at UNGA turns out to be different from his predecessor's, we nevertheless have yet to witness substantive action by the regime to alter the very policies that have led to Iran's international isolation. For example, Iran continues to provide the Assad regime with weapons and billions of dollars in credit in order to ensure the survival of his brutal dictatorship. (*AFP*, "[West Demands Tougher Action Against Iran Arms to Syria](#)," 7/15/2013; *AFP*, "[Iran Offers Syria \\$4 Bn Credit Line](#)," 5/27/2013) At his inauguration, Rouhani affirmed to Syrian Prime Minister Wael al-Halqi that "Iran aims to strengthen its relations with Syria and will stand by it in facing all challenges. The deep, strategic and historic relations between the people of Syria and Iran... will not be shaken by any force in the world." (*AP*, "[New Iranian President Vows for Support for Assad](#)," 8/4/2013)

President Rouhani has also so far continued the regime's effort to develop its nuclear program in contravention of its international legal obligations and the demands of the international community. As Iran's chief nuclear negotiator in 2004 Rouhani himself misled the international community into believing that Iran had fully suspended its nuclear enrichment activities in order to stave off sanctions. Rouhani proudly declares that Iran in fact "completed the program" during the supposed suspension period. (*The Wall Street Journal*, "[Behind Iran's 'Moderate' New Leader](#)," 6/16/2013) Diplomatic overtures by Rouhani to the international community, including at UNGA, must therefore be realistically viewed in the context of this previous deceptive behavior.

In order to prevent Iran from attaining nuclear weapons capability, the pressure imposed on the Iranian regime by stringent international sanctions must continue. By refusing to host President Rouhani during his visit to New York, you will join the growing international campaign of governments and responsible companies to sever ties with Iran. American and international companies that do business with Iran for short-term economic gain serve only to legitimize and embolden this regime.

The goal of UANI's campaign is not to harm legitimate businesses. However, because of the threat presented by the Iranian regime, UANI will publicly highlight ONE UN New York and Millennium & Copthorne Hotels's irresponsible decision if you do not take action to refuse accommodation to the Iranian delegation.

Please confirm that your venue will deny accommodation to President Rouhani and his delegation by September 16, 2013.

Thank you for your attention to his matter. I look forward to your response.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mark Wallace', written in a cursive style.

Ambassador Mark D. Wallace

The Honorable Ed Royce
Chairman, United States House Committee on Foreign Affairs

H.E. Samantha Power
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations

H.E. Mohammad Khazaee
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Iran to the United Nations

The Honorable Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor of New York City, Office of the Mayor, City of New York

Marjorie B. Tiven
Comissioner, New York City Commission for the United Nations, Consular Corps and Protocol

The Honorable Christine C. Quinn
Speaker, New York City Council

The Honorable Sheldon Silver
Speaker, New York State Assembly