

January 30, 2024

Ambassador Dr. Christoph Heusgen  
Chairman  
Munich Security Conference Office,  
Prinzregentenstraße 7  
80538 München, Germany  
By email: [office@securityconference.org](mailto:office@securityconference.org)

**Re: Hossein Amir-Abdollahian's Participation at the Munich Security Conference**

Dear Ambassador Heusgen:

We write to express our deep concerns about the potential involvement of the Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran Hossein Amir-Abdollahian in the upcoming Munich Security Conference. This follows Amir-Abdollahian's recent participation at the World Economic Forum's ("WEF") Davos Conference, which the Iranian regime exploited as a propaganda opportunity to normalize its terrorist activities just 24 hours after it conducted unprovoked ballistic missile attacks, tragically killing civilians in Iraqi Kurdistan and Pakistan. This generated negative press coverage for WEF.<sup>1</sup> We urge you to deny Amir-Abdollahian a platform to do the same at the Munich Security Conference after Iranian regime-backed forces killed three American soldiers in Jordan on January 28.

Hossein Amir-Abdollahian is an active card-carrying member of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' ("IRGC") Basij paramilitary force with the rank of colonel. The IRGC is a U.S.-designated Foreign Terrorist Organization ("FTO"), which has perpetrated beatings, torture, rape, and mass executions against the Iranian people. Iranians routinely describe the IRGC as their ISIS.<sup>2</sup> To invite Amir-Abdollahian to the Munich Security Conference would be an insult to the brave Iranian people who have been fighting for an end to the totalitarian Islamic Republic in the name of "Woman, Life, Freedom" since at least September 2022, following the murder of Mahsa Amini at the hands of Iranian security authorities. Amir-Abdollahian has repeatedly lied to the world about the crimes against humanity the regime has committed against its people.



*Copy of the IRGC's Basij Membership Card of Hossein Amir-Abdollahian*

<sup>1</sup> See: Iran International TV, "[Davos Urged to Revoke Invitation to Iran FM Over IRGC Ties](#)," January 11, 2024; Iran International TV, "[Controversy Erupts Over Iran's Davos Invite](#)," January 15, 2024; and Washington Free Beacon, "[World Economic Forum Invites Iranian Foreign Minister to Elite Confab](#)," January 15, 2024.

<sup>2</sup> IranWire, "[Bi-Sharaf: A Guide to the Slogans Heard at Protests in Iran](#)," September 22, 2022.

Amir-Abdollahian is also an IRGC Quds Force (“IRGC-QF” “Quds Force”) affiliate and has served as the IRGC-QF’s point-man at the Islamic Republic’s Foreign Ministry for years. The Quds Force controls the Iranian regime’s network of terrorist militias and is specifically responsible for the arming, training, and funding of Hamas, which the European Union and the United States have designated as a foreign terrorist organization. As you know, Hamas perpetrated the worst massacre against the Jewish people since the Holocaust on October 7. Public reporting reveals Amir-Abdollahian [participated](#) in planning meetings in Beirut, Lebanon in the leadup to October 7.<sup>3</sup>

As is by now well-documented, victims have recounted how Hamas terrorists mutilated the genitals of Israelis, raped them, sliced women’s breasts off, beheaded innocents, baked babies in ovens, and other horrific crimes. The Islamic Republic has celebrated and applauded these atrocities, with the regime’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei stating publicly that “we kiss the hands of those who planned the attack on the Zionist regime.” Amir-Abdollahian has met with Hamas leadership regularly since October 7, including in Qatar, where he praised their attack.



*Hamas Leader Ismail Haniyeh Meets with Hossein Amir-Abdollahian in Qatar on December 20, 2023*

Today, the threat to global security posed by the IRGC is more pronounced than ever, extending far beyond the Middle East. In particular, the IRGC is now operating as the “top military backer” of Vladimir Putin’s war in Ukraine, as confirmed by both U.S. and U.K. intelligence.<sup>4</sup> This lethal Iranian support, which includes the provision of “Shahed” suicide drones, has played a major role in Russian attacks on Ukrainian cities and infrastructure, resulting in the deaths of thousands of civilians. The Shahed series drone also killed American soldiers in Jordan on January 28.<sup>5</sup>

Beyond Ukraine, there has been a significant and alarming increase in IRGC terrorist activity on European soil in recent years. In the United Kingdom, British security services have confirmed that in 2022 alone, they foiled more than 15 Iranian regime assassination and kidnapping plots on U.K. soil. In recent years, IRGC terrorism in Europe has focused on targeting both Jewish and Iranian communities, not least in Germany. In 2018, German authorities revealed IRGC Quds Force operatives were actively

<sup>3</sup> The Wall Street Journal, “[Iran Helped Plot Attack on Israel Over Several Weeks](#),” October 8, 2023.

<sup>4</sup> BBC, “[Ukraine war: US says Iran nor Russia’s top military backer](#),” December 10, 2022.

<sup>5</sup> BBC, “[Three US soldiers killed in Jordan](#),” January 29, 2024.

conducting surveillance against Israeli and Jewish targets in Germany, including Jewish kindergartens.<sup>6</sup> Likewise, in March 2023, German intelligence officials revealed the IRGC was responsible for the shooting of a synagogue in Essen.<sup>7</sup> It is simply unacceptable for Amir-Abdollahian – a IRGC member – to be invited to participate at Munich Security Conference at a time when the IRGC is developing terrorist plots in Germany. The presence of an Amir-Abdollahian-led Iranian delegation in Munich not only risks enabling Tehran’s propaganda operations, but also constitutes a threat to conference participants as evidenced during last year’s United Nations General Assembly when the Iranian delegation assaulted and harassed journalists critical of the regime in New York.<sup>8</sup>



*Member of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi delegation (left) in New York assaulting and threatening a correspondent for the London-based Iran International news channel (right), September 21, 2023*

Last year – in step with the decision of WEF organizers – the Munich Security Conference organizers rightly chose not to host representatives from the Iranian regime, citing “the current political situation” in reference to the brutal and violent suppression of Iranian civilians.<sup>9</sup> In the past 12 months, domestic repression has only worsened, while Iran has likewise escalated its terrorist operations regionally and worldwide. It would be utterly wrong to now send a message that the Munich Security Conference believes that the Iranian regime has served its temporary “time-out” and may be welcomed back into the fold at a major conference that confers a great deal of legitimacy and prestige to participants. By inviting Amir-Abdollahian, the Munich Security Conference would signal that it is now back to a “business as usual” paradigm with Iran. To the contrary, the world should be isolating the regime rather than emboldening and legitimizing it.

In view of the foregoing and out of respect for the regime’s victims in Iran and on October 7, we urge you to reaffirm the Munich Security Conference’s commitment to global security by denying Amir-Abdollahian entry to the conference. We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to your prompt response.

<sup>6</sup> Times of Israel, [“Iranian spies in Germany targeted Israel embassy, Jewish kindergartens,”](#) January 17, 2018.

<sup>7</sup> Times of Israel, [“Iran’s Revolutionary Guard Responsible for German Synagogue Shooting,”](#) March 15, 2023.

<sup>8</sup> CNN, [“News Channel says Iranian official attacked its journalist in New York,”](#) September 22, 2023.

<sup>9</sup> Iran International, [“Iranian dissident Representatives to Attend Munich Security Conference,”](#) February 17, 2022.

Very truly yours,



Senator Joseph I. Lieberman  
Chairman, United Against Nuclear Iran



Alireza Akhondi  
Member of the Swedish Riksdag



Ambassador Mark D. Wallace  
CEO, United Against Nuclear Iran

United Against Nuclear Iran ("UANI") is a nonprofit and non-partisan policy organization formed to combat the threats posed by the Islamic Republic of Iran. UANI's diverse Advisory Board includes policy experts and distinguished former government officials.  
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