

January 10, 2024

His Excellency Ignazio Cassis
Head of Switzerland's Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
Federal Palace West Wing
Bern
Switzerland
By email: kommunikation@eda.admin.ch

Re: Hossein Amir-Abdollahian's Participation at the World Economic Forum

Dear Minister Cassis:

As the elected Member of the Swedish Riksdag for the constituency of Stockholms län¹ and in partnership with the CEO of the American non-profit organization, United Against Nuclear Iran ("UANI"²), we are writing to convey our serious concerns regarding media [reports](#) that the Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, will be traveling to Switzerland to participate in the 2024 World Economic Forum at Davos.³ We urge you to deny him a visa.

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.⁴ To allow Abdollahian into Switzerland to attend the World Economic Forum would be a slap in the face 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. 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

¹ Sveriges Riksdag, "[Alireza Akhondi](#)."

² United Against Nuclear Iran, "[About](#)."

³ Aargauer Zeitung, "[In the middle of the Gaza war: Israel's president and iran's foreign minister travel to Switzerland – police strengthen security measures](#)," January 8, 2024.

⁴ IranWire, "[Bi-Sharaf: A Guide to the Slogans Heard at Protests in Iran](#)," September 22, 2022.

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 Abdollahian [participated](#) in planning meetings in Beirut, Lebanon in the leadup to October 7.⁵

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. Swiss nationals were murdered on October 7. 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.”⁶ 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

Switzerland and the World Economic Forum would not dream of inviting Hamas leadership to travel to Davos. By the same token, they should similarly deny a visa and invitation to its major Iranian sponsor, which finances the Gaza-based group by as much as \$350 million annually.⁷ Abdollahian should not be afforded the platform to lie and propagandize on behalf of a regime which has no legitimacy at home and is destabilizing the Middle East through proxy terror attacks against the United States and its allies. The theme of this year’s World Economic Forum meeting at Davos is “rebuilding trust.” There was never and can never be trust with a regime like the Islamic Republic or someone like Abdollahian.

⁵ The Wall Street Journal, “[Iran Helped Plot Attack on Israel Over Several Weeks](#),” October 8, 2023.

⁶ Reuters, “[Iran’s Khamenei Says Tehran Was Not Behind Hamas Attack on Israel](#),” October 10, 2023.

⁷ Reuters, “[How Hamas Secretly Built a “Mini Army” to Fight Israel](#),” October 16, 2023.

Last year, the World Economic Forum rightly did not host the Iranian regime at Davos in 2023, presumably due to its violent suppression of the “Woman, Life, Freedom” revolution.⁸ 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 Switzerland and the World Economic Forum believes that Iran 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 Abdollahian, Bern and the World Economic Forum are signaling 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 deny a visa to Abdollahian at the upcoming World Economic Forum. Thank you for your kind attention. Please let us hear from you at your earliest opportunity.

Very truly yours,



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. (<http://www.unitedagainstnucleariran.com>).

⁸ Iranian journalists took [note](#) on social media of the absence of Iranian officials from WEF 2023.