

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 29, 2012

His Excellency Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York

Dear Secretary General Ban,

This morning, we learned that you decided to proceed with your visit the Non-Aligned Movement Conference in Tehran.

We are deeply concerned that your presence in Tehran will undermine years of international cooperation on efforts to isolate this Iranian regime. Under your leadership, the United Nations Security Council has passed unprecedented sanctions against Iran's illicit nuclear program, and you have been instrumental in ensuring that UN member countries adhere to Resolution 1929. The UN has spoken out against Iran's leaders' use of hateful rhetoric and incitement toward Israel. Just last week, you condemned threats made against Israel by Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and Supreme Leader Khamenei as "offensive and inflammatory." And on Friday, you took the unprecedented step of establishing a special team of investigators at the International Atomic Energy Agency specifically tasked with investigating the military dimensions of Iran's nuclear program.

It would be a grave mistake to allow the Iranian regime to use your visit to Tehran as evidence that they have successfully defied international efforts to isolate the regime both diplomatically and economically. There is no question that Iran's leaders will attempt to hold up your visit as an endorsement of the regime's behavior to those who still belittle the seriousness of the threat posed by Iran's nuclear ambitions. For these reasons, we join the many prominent leaders who strongly encouraged you to reconsider your decision to attend the NAM conference.

Since you have decided to proceed, it is critical that you use your visit only to deliver a strong message to the regime: the international community does not condone the regime's illicit quest for nuclear weapons and condemns both its ongoing support of terrorists around the world and its use of force to brutally repress the Iranian people. We would also urge you to take time this week to meet with leaders and activists from Iran's pro-democracy movement. Further, the world denounces Iran's continued support for the atrocities committed by Bashar al-Assad against the people of Syria. The Iranian regime has spent billions of dollars aiding its only ally in the region in the slaughter of so many of its own people that even your own United Nations monitors have lost track.

Secretary General Ban, your position with the United Nations gives you a powerful voice in world affairs. We implore you to use it to deliver a crystal clear message to the Iranian regime that it must live up to its international obligations and abide by international law.

Respectfully,



Ted Deutch
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Gregory W. Meeks
MEMBER OF CONGRESS