Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

November 4, 2005

H.E. Kofi Annan
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York, New York 10017

Dear Mr. Secretary-General:

We commend you for swiftly rejecting Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's virulent and unprovoked threats against Israel. We urge you to also work for strong U.N. action to hold Iran accountable for its disregard of international law.

During his October 26, 2005 speech at the "World without Zionism" conference in Tehran, President Ahmadinejad called for Israel to be 'wiped off the map' and led group chants of 'death to Israel.' His deplorable comments were a blatant violation of Article 2 of the United Nations Charter, which maintains the sovereign equality of all U.N. Members, and a further escalation of previous Iranian threats to use nuclear weapons against the Jewish State.

At the conference, President Ahmadinejad also appeared beside Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, leader of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah terrorist organization that operates out of Lebanon. Together they called for violence against Israel and threatened those in the international community working to achieve a two state solution and a peaceful end to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The event coincided with a terrorist attack in Northern Israel by Islamic Jihad, another Iranian-sponsored terrorist organization.

The danger of Iran's rhetoric and its terrorist clients are only underscored by its efforts to obtain long-range missiles and to develop a nuclear weapon in violation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). The Iranian leadership's open belligerence is a grave matter that must be dealt with decisively by the U.N.leadership.

While the U.N. Security Council has issued a press statement condemning the Iranian President's comments, it is necessary for the U.N. to formally respond as an institution and consider all appropriate recourses to rebuke Iran for its actions. Iran must recognize that there are consequences for its hostile behavior and the U.N., which has a long history of unfair treatment of Israel, must speak out loudly and clearly in support of its existence.

Sincerely,

Henry A. Waxman
Member of Congress

Allyson Y. Schwartz
Member of Congress

Rahm Emanuel
Member of Congress

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