

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

August 16, 2012

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to express our concern over the possible hindrance of humanitarian assistance to the Iranian people. We urge you to instruct the Department of Treasury to expedite consideration of requests by U.S.-based nonprofits to provide emergency relief, and to issue a general license for these charitable organizations to carry out relief assistance in Iran.

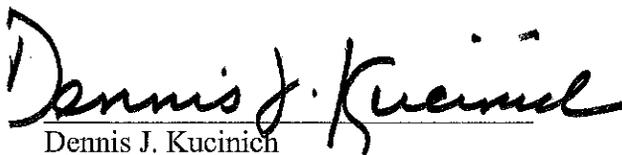
The earthquakes that struck northwest Iran on August 11 killed at least 300 people and injured thousands more. Under current U.S. sanctions, relief organizations require a license from the government to provide humanitarian assistance in Iran. In 2003, President Bush issued such a general license in response to the devastating earthquake in Bam, Iran. The House of Representatives strongly supported this response, and unanimously passed a resolution praising President Bush's actions.

Additionally, news reports indicate that some entities such as banks and drug companies are hesitant to allow individuals or companies to donate food or medicine out of fear of violating U.S. sanctions, even though current law includes certain humanitarian waivers. As such, we urge your administration to provide public guidance that financial institutions are permitted and encouraged to facilitate all legal transactions that have been licensed by the U.S. Government.

The current standstill in negotiations with the Iranian government should not prevent the United States from helping the Iranian people. Aiding them in their time of need would reaffirm U.S. support for the Iranian people and make clear that our sanctions do not represent an attempt to harm the Iranian people.

In order to facilitate the timely and lawful delivery of humanitarian assistance to the Iranian people, we urge the administration to immediately clarify what is permitted and prohibited under U.S. law, and to issue a general license to U.S. humanitarian organizations so they can provide critical assistance to Iranians in need.

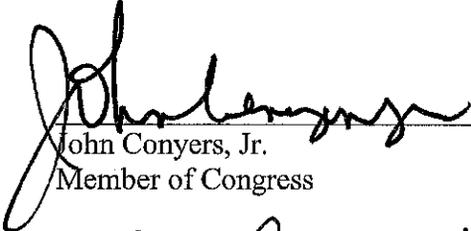
Sincerely,

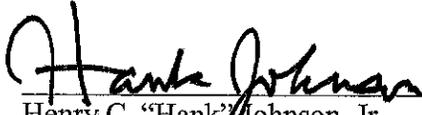


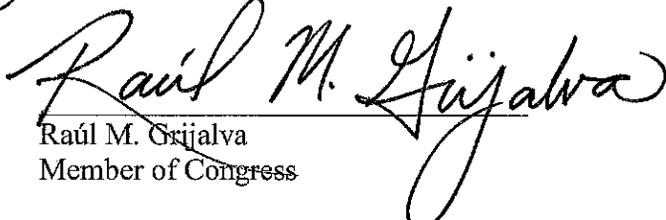
Dennis J. Kucinich  
Member of Congress

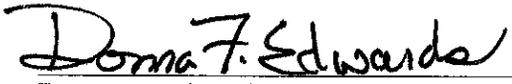


Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress

  
John Conyers, Jr.  
Member of Congress

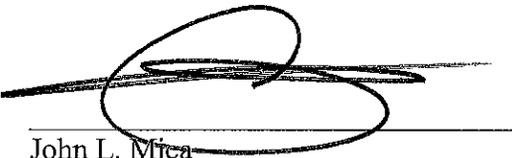
  
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress

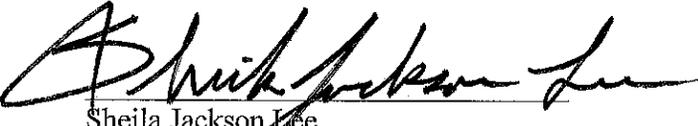
  
Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress

  
Donna F. Edwards  
Member of Congress

  
Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress

  
Michael M. Honda  
Member of Congress

  
John L. Mica  
Member of Congress

  
Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress

  
John W. Olver  
Member of Congress

  
Jim McDermott  
Member of Congress

  
André Carson  
Member of Congress

c.c.: The Honorable Timothy Geithner  
Secretary, U.S. Department of the Treasury

The Honorable Adam Szubin  
Director, Office of Foreign Assets Control  
U.S. Department of the Treasury

*Barbara Lee*

Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress