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# United States Senate

<http://santorum.senate.gov>

September 18, 2006

Mr. Richard Haas  
President  
Council on Foreign Relations  
1779 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Mr. Haas:

I write today to express my deep concern with your organization's reported invitation to the President of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, to speak at a gathering of the Council on Foreign Relations in New York City this week.

By issuing an invitation to President Ahmadinejad to speak in a public forum in the United States, your organization is demonstrating that it draws no distinction between world leaders who deserve respect and those that undermine the very values of the international system the United States seeks to uphold.

President Ahmadinejad has proven to be a threatening and irresponsible leader. His denial of the Holocaust and anti-Zionist statements that Israel "must be wiped off the map" are offensive. He has routinely issued statements of hate against the United States, Israel, and Jewish peoples. Further, the government of President Ahmadinejad has funded, armed, trained, assisted, and sheltered leading terrorists, including terrorists active in Iraq using Iranian support to kill military personnel of the United States. Last but not least, he continues to defy the free world by insisting upon developing a nuclear capability -- a capability that will undoubtedly be used to develop nuclear weapons. For these reasons, it would be irresponsible to give President Ahmadinejad such a forum in the United States in which to spread his messages of hate and destruction.

President Ahmadinejad does not afford his own people the freedom of speech. By allowing him the opportunity to address a public forum in the United States, you would be sending the wrong message to the people of Iran. I strongly urge you to revoke the Council on Foreign Relations' invitation to President Ahmadinejad to speak at this event.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this serious matter.

Sincerely,



Rick Santorum  
United States Senate

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