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Heshmatollah Tabarzadi  
Gohardasht Prison, Karadj. Iran

Honorable Barak Hussein Obama  
President of the United States of America  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave  
Washington, D.C. United States of America

Dear Mr. President:

Without human rights and democracy there will never be lasting peace and security in the world. Please allow me to speak as a prisoner of conscious and a journalist opposed to Islamic clerical rule over my homeland, Iran.

I was one of the student leaders whom the regime considered to be an architect of the student uprising that began on July 9, 1999. That uprising was a true turning point for the pro-democracy movement in Iran. We wanted regime change because our calls for reform had proven ineffective. And so I spent six years in the notorious Evin prison. Two of those years were in solitary confinement. I was freed but rearrested and imprisoned again, and again.

When the people of Iran asked you to support them against the tyranny of the Shia clerics over five years ago you, the president of the most powerful country on earth, were secretly writing letters to the dictator of Iran.

In June 2009, as Khamenei ruthlessly ordered his paramilitary forces to kill people on the streets and on university campuses, imprisoning and torturing journalists, intellectuals, the young and the old mercilessly, your friendly communications with the tyrant of Iran continued in the name of the people of the United States, ignoring the human rights of the people of Iran. You helped Khamenei to continue his Islamic tyranny in the name of Allah and Islam.

During our 2009 uprising, I saw untold crimes against humanity committed against the people of Iran. I saw a woman in her late 20s get kicked so hard in her spine that she flew through the air. On Ghods Street, near Tehran University, I saw another young woman as her head was pounded into a car by the *basij* paramilitary forces, all the while, the *basijs* screamed disgusting epithets at her like "whore" and worse.

Mr. President; the people of Iran are not backward fascists or religious fanatics like the ruling Islamic clerics. When the day comes that the boot of the tyranny is lifted off our neck, everyone will see that Iranians are capable of handling democracy, secularism and social justice.

Mr. President; all we want is to be a part of the international community. We want to be a free democratic people, masters of our own destiny, to live in peace and prosperity, and be the decision makers for our homeland. We oppose nuclear weapons and the militaristic arrogance of the ruling clerical regime. If the international community wants peace in the Middle East, we ask that you support the People of Iran not the tyrants.

The Islamic clerics have taken our nation hostage to their fanatical Islamic tyranny. In 2009 when the people of Iran loudly and clearly asked for your support for their freedom and sovereignty, you ignored us and empowered the tyrants to imprison, torture and kill us.

Mr. President; I have the honor of being the cellmate of a good American, Pastor Saeed Abedini. I heard that you met with his wife and children, and that his son, little Jacob, asked you to help release his father for his birthday. But we have not heard you demand the release of the hostage Abedini from the tyrant Khamenei.

You claim that the only choice that you have is either to make a deal with Khamenei -- which I believe means surrender -- or war. I dare say this claim is a form of misinformation and intimidation of the people of America.

Mr. President; we Iranian people submit to you and the people of the world that there is another way. **Please sanction and weaken the illegal regime of Khamenei, and empower the people to overthrow this tyranny.** You know that you can support the people in many ways, such as giving us internet access that the Khamenei regime cannot police. This would allow us to organize and rise up against these godless tyrants.

No tyranny will last forever, but nations will always remain. History will be your judge. Help us to overthrow this tyranny and become a free and democratic member of the international community and a friend of the United States.

With Respect

Heshmatollah Tabarzadi  
Journalist, prisoner of conscious