

Senate
California Legislature

JOEL ANDERSON
SENATOR
THIRTY-EIGHTH SENATE DISTRICT



August 15, 2016

Ambassador Samantha Powers
Permanent Mission to the United Nations
799 UN Plaza
New York, NY 10017-3505

Dear Ambassador Powers,

I am pleased to write this letter of support for Roozbeh Farahanipour for the United Nations position of Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr. Farahanipour is uniquely qualified for this position because he has demonstrated a lifelong passion for the protection of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran through his leadership in the Iranian cultural renaissance movement, as the Chairman of the Marze Por Gohar resistance movement, and as the founder of the National Society of Journalists. Through these roles Mr. Farahanipour has demonstrated his unyielding commitment to raising awareness of the injustices that plague his home country and his ability to overcome immense opposition and retaliation in the battle for Iranian human rights.

In 1999, Roozbeh was granted political asylum in the United States of America where he now resides in the expatriate community of Los Angeles. Roozbeh brought his dedication to civic engagement to Los Angeles from Tehran where he became involved with the Westwood Village Rotary Club. As the International Chair of the Club, he has worked to build connections with other members of the worldwide organization in an effort to mobilize resources for the purpose of advancing international understanding of good will and peace.

For his extraordinary leadership and involvement in the Los Angeles community, he has received over nineteen Certificates of Recognition from the City of Los Angeles, the California State Assembly, the California State Senate, and the United States House of Representatives. These recognitions are a testament of the character that Roozbeh possess and his devotion to civic engagement.

I came to know Roozbeh in 2007 when he worked with me to help pass my Iranian divestment legislation, AB 221. Roozbeh passionately worked alongside me to educate legislators and the public about the human rights abuses perpetrated by the government in the Islamic Republic of Iran, frequently flying to Sacramento to testify in committee hearings completely out of his own pocket. He and I shared the belief that California had to take the strongest position possible, and be a leader in the world by ensuring no California taxpayer dollars make their way into the regime's hands.

It is well known that the United Nations aims to uphold and protect the rights listed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights through measures such as courts, tribunals, and multilateral treaties. Given Roozbeh Farahanipour's outstanding service and qualifications, he would make an excellent candidate for the position of Special Rapporteur. Therefore, I respectfully recommend Roozbeh Farahanipour for Special Rapporteur of the United Nations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joel Anderson".

Joel Anderson
Senator, District 38

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