



May 10, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
The White House

Dear Mr. President,

We commend you for putting the Iranian regime “on notice” early in your Presidency, and write to draw your attention to outrageous actions by the Islamic regime taking place right here in the United States, in open violation of U.S. laws.

On May 19 – just nine days from today – the Iranian regime will hold “elections” for president. A broad array of Iranian opposition groups and leaders have called on Iranians to boycott the balloting, which we believe is a state-sponsored masquerade of democracy.

In an attempt to bolster the legitimacy of these sham elections, the regime has announced it plans to open at least sixteen polling places across the United States that will be manned by Iranian regime officials in direct violation of U.S. law.

We are appealing to you to instruct the Attorney General, the FBI, and other law enforcement officials across the country to shut down these illegal polling stations and to take all appropriate legal action against those involved in renting, providing, manning or otherwise servicing these facilities.

Under the Algiers accord that ended the 1979-1981 Tehran hostage crisis, the Iranian regime is allowed to maintain two diplomatic facilities in the United States: a Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Manhattan, and an Interests section in Washington, DC.

The laws of the Islamic Republic require that representatives of the Guardians Council and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs supervise overseas balloting locations. Those laws also stipulate that ballot boxes in overseas locations be placed “only on sovereign soil.”

Iranian diplomats in the United States must apply to the State Department for permits to travel beyond a 25-mile radius from their diplomatic post. To our understanding, the State Department has granted no such permits that would allow these diplomats – or any other legal representatives of the Iranian regime - to man these polling stations, as required by Iranian law.

Furthermore, 13 CFR 560.512 prohibits Iranian diplomats in the U.S. from carrying out real estate transactions and requires that any financial transaction conducted for official business be run through an account specifically licensed for that purpose by the Treasury Department’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC).

To our knowledge, OFAC has not licensed any Iranian-government controlled account to be used to rent these 16 facilities, making all transactions relating to these facilities illegal. We would ask that you instruct the Attorney General to take legal action here as well.

We are appending to this letter a listing of the sixteen addresses identified by the Islamic Republic Interests section as of May 9, 2017. (A 17th polling station is to be set up in the Interests section and would thus appear to be legal).

As of this morning, the Interests section removed those addresses, and placed “pins” for an additional 32 polling station locations identified in our appendix.

This practice is consistent with behavior by the Interests Section in 2009, when fear of demonstrations and other action against the balloting by opposition groups in the United States led it to mask specific polling addresses until just hours before they opened.

We thank you in advance for looking into this matter and feel confident that millions of Iranians who reject the tyranny of the Islamic regime are looking up to you with hope that you will support their quest for freedom.

Sincerely yours,

Kenneth R. Timmerman, President
Foundation for Democracy in Iran
www.iran.org

Bahman Maalizadeh, President,
Islamic State of Iran Crime Research Center
www.isicrc.org