



May 10, 2017

Hon. Rex Tillerson
Secretary of State

Dear Mr. Secretary

We write to draw your attention to outrageous actions by the Islamic regime in Iran that are 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.

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.

We ask that you would confirm that the State Department has granted no such permits that would allow Iranian diplomats – or any other legal representatives of the Iranian regime - to man these polling stations.

In the event permits were granted by holdover employees from the previous administration, we would ask that you discipline them appropriately for actions contrary to the interests of the United States and contrary to the policies of this administration.

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 the polls 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

Bahman Maalizadeh, President,
Islamic State of Iran Crime Research Center

Attachment: Illegal Iranian Regime Balloting Locations in the United States – May 9, 2017 list