

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 17, 2016

The Honorable John Kerry
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry,

We are writing to express our deep concern about Iran's malign behavior in the region. Through its support for terrorist groups' asymmetrical activities, Iran has threatened our partners and now has a foothold in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, the Gaza Strip, and Yemen.

There has been much debate in Congress about the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and its potential effect on Iran's activities in the region. What is clear to all of us is that the United States must use its leadership in the international community to ensure that Iran, a leading sponsor of terrorism, does not use the frozen Iranian funds released in accordance with the agreement to continue destabilizing the Middle East.

Specifically, we urge you to consider how the United States can work toward a new UN Security Council resolution to ban weapons transfers to Hamas and other Palestinian terrorist organizations, by Iran or any other party. According to UN Security Council Resolution 2231, the ban on arms transfers to and from Iran is set to expire five years after Implementation Day of the JCPOA. You have pointed out that other UN Security Council Resolutions are designed to prevent anyone—including Iran, even after 5 years—from transferring weapons to Hezbollah, Shia militias in Iraq and the Houthis in Yemen.

However, there are no UN Security Council resolutions banning the transfer of weapons to Hamas, and we have strong concerns that the expiration of the arms embargo in five years will open the door to greater Iranian support for Hamas and other Palestinian terrorist groups, which in turn could make the region more volatile, less secure, and continue to threaten our ally Israel.

As you said last year, "Any process to resolve the crisis in Gaza in a lasting and meaningful way must lead to the disarmament of Hamas and all terrorist groups." You have also made clear repeatedly that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict will be resolved only through negotiations, rather than by unilateral actions or violence.

We believe that a new UN Security Council resolution banning weapons transfers to Palestinian terrorist groups is consistent with these statements and important to realizing the goals you have articulated.

We look forward to working with you in this effort to reduce Iran's dangerous influence in the region, including with Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad in the Gaza Strip, thereby ensuring Israel's security and helping the people of the Middle East build a more stable and prosperous future.

Sincerely,



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress

Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress



Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



Brad Ashford
Member of Congress



Ryan Zinke
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



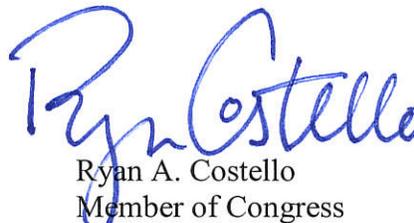
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Cedric Richmond
Member of Congress



John Ratcliffe
Member of Congress



Ryan A. Costello
Member of Congress



Mike Pompeo
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Tom MacArthur
Member of Congress



Randy Weber
Member of Congress



Larry Bucshon, M.D.
Member of Congress



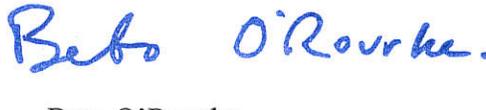
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Kathleen M. Rice
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Bill Johnson
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Gus M. Bilirakis
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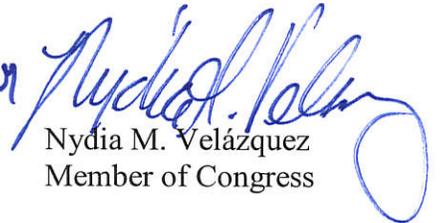
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Dana Rohrabacher
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Nydia M. Velázquez
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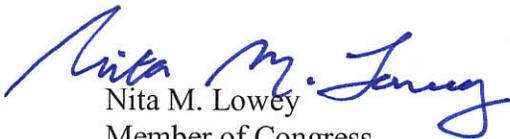
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