March 8, 2024

The Honorable Antony J. Blinken
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken:

The Iranian regime has an appalling human rights record. It continues efforts to destabilize the region and fund proxy terrorist groups such as Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthis, who continue to attack U.S. troops in the region and seek to destroy our ally, Israel. We must not offer the Iranian regime the privilege of setting foot on U.S. soil or the validation of speaking at the United Nations. Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi is responsible for the massacre of 30,000 political prisoners when he was a member of the “Death Commissions” and continues those efforts as President with executions of political prisoners and those who speak out against the regime.

We urge the denial of all entry visas to President Raisi and any government officials or organizations connected to the regime. In the 118th Congress, 238 Members of Congress demonstrated significant bipartisan support for H.Res.100, which emphasizes that these murders were conducted by “Death Commissions,” which were established on July 19, 1988, and operated in a manner aimed at eliminating members and supporters of the People’s Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI/MEK).”

The Iranian Regime has continued to support the destabilization of the entire region through funding, training, and supplying their terrorist proxy organizations. The barbaric October 7, 2023, attack on Israel was a stark wake-up call about the threats Iranian-backed terrorist groups pose to both Israelis and Americans. The regime also provides ideology that inculcates in its proxies the determination to kill innocents in the name of the Islamic Revolution. In addition to arming and funding their proxies within the region, the regime continues to expand its illicit oil trade, which has surged in recent years despite international sanctions and efforts in Iran that remain in place.

Iranian-backed groups have also launched attacks on U.S. forces across the Middle East. According to the Department of Defense, there have been more than 150 attacks on U.S. troops in the region since October 17, 2023, resulting in many injuries, including the deaths of three U.S. servicemembers on January 28, 2024. The Yemeni Houthis, funded by the regime, have continued to disrupt commercial shipping routes throughout the region and continue to launch missiles and suicide drones at U.S. ships and communities within southern Israel.

In the past decade, two U.S. Presidents have denied Iranian officials entry visas, including Iran’s UN Ambassador Hamid Aboutalebi in 2014 and its foreign minister Javad Zarif in 2020. Given President Raisi and his regime’s longstanding and egregious misconduct, we strongly urge you to deny all entry visas to the United States for President Raisi and any government officials or organizations connected to the regime.
The General Assembly Session, which usually runs annually from September to December, will host Iranian officials as they are the Vice President of the Assembly General Committee and the Rapporteur on the Assembly’s first committee on Disarmament and International Security. The Summit for the Future will also occur in September, and Iranian officials are expected to attend. We ask that at both the General Assembly and the Summit for the Future, Iranian officials have their visas revoked and denied entry into the United States.

Thank you for the administration’s efforts to fight against the Iranian proxies within the region. We hope the administration will take swift action on this critically important matter.

Sincerely,

Jared Moskowitz  
Member of Congress

Joe Wilson  
Member of Congress

Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress

Ann Wagner  
Member of Congress

Jennifer González-Colón  
Member of Congress

Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress

Ryan K. Zinke  
Member of Congress

Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress
Aaron Bean  
Member of Congress

W. Gregory Steube  
Member of Congress

David Rouzer  
Member of Congress

Donald G. Davis  
Member of Congress

Erin Houchin  
Member of Congress

Alex X. Mooney  
Member of Congress

Lloyd Smucker  
Member of Congress

Darren Soto  
Member of Congress

Angie Craig  
Member of Congress

Neal P. Dunn, M.D.  
Member of Congress
Keith Self
Member of Congress

Michael V. Lawler
Member of Congress

Ashley Hinson
Member of Congress

Mary Sattler Peltola
Member of Congress

Troy E. Nehls
Member of Congress

Lori Chavez-DeRemer
Member of Congress

David G. Valadao
Member of Congress

Rudy Yakym III
Member of Congress

Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress