

February 28, 2006

Dear Honorable Members of the Security Council,

We write today with grave concerns about an apparent move towards war with Iran. We have seen two wars in recent history; we must avoid another. A close examination of the events leading to war already demonstrated by the invasion of Afghanistan and Iraq is warranted. The accusations against Iraq, spearheaded by the United States and a handful of other countries, were made under many of the same pretenses now being directed at Iran. As many predicted, evidence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq have not been unearthed. Instead, the United States and its allies have continually revised the justifications for going to war.

These wars have left Afghanistan and Iraq in shambles, with a ruined infrastructure and thousands dead. Compromised security in the Middle Eastern and Central Asian regions has fueled a wildfire of anger and violence, pitting nations and people against one another across the world.

We are alarmed that the United States is using the same rhetoric and rationale to open the door for war with Iran. In his State of the Union address, President Bush stated, “[t]he Iranian government is defying the world with its nuclear ambitions, and the nations of the world must not permit the Iranian regime to gain nuclear weapons. America will continue to rally the world to confront these threats.” Currently, there are merely unsubstantiated assertions that Iran is seeking to develop nuclear capabilities for other than peaceful purposes.

We urge the United Nations Security Council to resume negotiations with Iran to permit the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to continue its investigation to collect compelling evidence, beyond any reasonable doubt, of Iran’s non-compliance with the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT).

We urgently request that the United Nations Security Council grant the IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei more time to officially inspect and verify the nature of Iran’s nuclear programs and report back to the Security Council and full body of the United Nations. The resolution adopted by the IAEA on February 4th, 2006 entitled *Implementation of the NPT Safeguards Agreement in the Islamic Republic of Iran* clearly states in item (f) that “the Agency is not yet in a position to clarify some important issues relating to Iran’s nuclear programme or to conclude that there are no undeclared nuclear activities in Iran.”

Moreover, under item (k), the IAEA “[reaffirms] the Board’s resolve to continue to work for a diplomatic solution to the Iranian nuclear issue.” We ask the Security Council to follow in the footsteps of the IAEA’s reaffirmation of a resolution through diplomacy.

We request that the United Nations Security Council achieve diplomacy through means other than sanctions on Iran, which would only result in condemning innocent civilians. Rather, we ask that the United Nations Security Council urge the United States, its allies and other nuclear States to resume diplomatic talks with Iran. Through negotiations, appropriate solutions can be achieved.

Taking a global perspective, the importance of a balanced approach to both nuclear and non-nuclear States is paramount. Please also focus your energy on the nuclear weapons States that are currently blurring the line of compliance with the NPT, such as the United States. The United States currently holds an arsenal of 10,000 nuclear warheads. The United States is contradicting its expressed intent to comply with its disarmament obligations under Article VI of the NPT. A new nuclear weapons program, the Reliable Replacement Warhead (RRW) in combination with so-called "life extension" programs, aims to completely redesign and refurbish the existing United States stockpile. Such changes would encourage indefinite preservation and possibly new military missions for nuclear weapons. The other NPT nuclear weapon States are likewise engaged in upgrades to their nuclear weapons systems. This is a violation of the commitment to a diminishing role and eventual elimination of nuclear weapons from national security policy made at the 2000 NPT Review Conference.

An inspection into the nuclear weapons programs of nuclear States is rightfully due at this point in time. We believe that such inspections will subdue the overarching tensions between nuclear and non-nuclear States. We urge the United Nations to fulfill its mission *to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war*.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

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Executive Director

Sadaf Cameron
Public Education and Outreach Director

cc:

H.E. Mr. Javad Zarif, UN Ambassador Islamic Republic of Iran
H.E. Dr. Gunter Pleuger, UN Ambassador Germany
H.E. Dr. Gerhard Pfanzelter, UN Ambassador Austria
H.E. Ms. Kirsti Lintonen, UN Ambassador Finland
H.E. Mr. Orlando Requeijo Gual, UN Ambassador Cuba
H.E. Mr. Rezlan Ishar Jenie, UN Ambassador Indonesia
H.E. Mr. Nirupam Sen, UN Ambassador India
Mr. Reza Najafi, Disarmament Counsellor Islamic Republic of Iran
Mr. Yuri Gala-Lopez, Disarmament Counsellor Cuba
Mr. Mohamed ElBaradei, Director of IAEA

Reports referenced in this letter can be found at:
<http://www.iaea.org/NewsCenter/Focus/laeaIran/index.shtml>

<http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N00/453/64/PDF/N0045364.pdf?OpenElement>