



November 22, 2013

**VIA EMAIL**

The Honorable John F. Kerry  
Secretary of State  
United State Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry:

As I pen this letter to you, you are positioned across the table from the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran negotiating a plan concerning the Islamic Republic of Iran's nuclear production. Your position is one of historical importance for many reasons, including the life of Saeed Abedini, a U.S. citizen imprisoned in Iran for his faith.

On Sunday, November 3, 2014, the Iranian authorities transferred Mr. Abedini from Evin Prison, a notorious prison for political prisoners in Tehran, to the even more notorious and brutal Rajai Shahr Prison in Karaj, a prison where the most violent criminals are incarcerated. Surrounded by Iran's most violent criminals, Mr. Abedini life is threatened daily by fellow inmates. His sole alleged crime was that the act of gathering with fellow Christian believers threatened the security of Iran. In this violent prison, Mr. Abedini's life hangs in the balance.

The actions of the Iranian regime have utterly ignored President Obama's demand for Mr. Abedini's release. Failure to secure Mr. Abedini's freedom and return to the United States while executing an agreement with the Islamic Republic of Iran sends the unmistakable message that the United States will not protect its own citizens even when dealing directly with the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Despite repeated requests for Mr. Abedini's release, Iran responded by taking action against Mr. Abedini and placing him in further peril. These actions were certainly not confidence building measures. During current negotiations, which will likely result in relaxed sanctions against Iran, the failure to secure the release and return of Mr. Abedini and the other Americans would be reprehensible.

The United States is in a unique position to leverage the freedom of these Americans; to fail to use such leverage sends a message to the Iranian government that these Americans are expendable. We urge you to send an unequivocal message to the Iranian government



that the United States values human dignity and that Iran's imprisonment of an American simply for exercising a fundamental freedom will not go unnoticed. With due respect Mr. Secretary, do not execute any agreement or promise any reduction in sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran until Mr. Abedini and other Americans wrongfully held in Iran are released and returned to the United States. To do otherwise would constitute a dereliction of office. Mr. Secretary, time is of the essence in this matter. Mr. Abedini needs your help today, before it is too late.

Respectfully,



Jay Alan Sekulow  
Chief Counsel

