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FREEDOM MOVEMENT OF IRAN  
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## **An Open Letter From secretary general of freedom movement of Iran to the United States Congress**

Honorable Senators and Representatives of the American People,

As you know, the eyes of the world rest on your deliberations pertaining to the nuclear agreement signed in Vienna in July between Iran and six other nations, including the United States. While the words and actions of powerful leaders in Iran and other countries have been the main focus of the discussion so far, I appeal to you to also take note of the views of those of us inside Iran who have struggled for decades against their excesses — and paid a heavy personal price for doing so.

It is clear to us that there is a well-funded and powerful campaign to discredit the path of negotiations and to block America's participation in this international agreement. In Iran, we are following that campaign with great concern. To many Iranians, the rhetoric of this campaign sounds very much like the drumbeat of a new war. The terrible consequences of Americans giving in to such rhetoric in the past, leading a bloody and costly military invasion and occupation, have left deep scars on the collective consciousness of peace loving people around the world, including Iran. The world and America are still paying the terrible price for that mistake.

We are concerned that the discussion so far has also not reflected on the terrible negative impact that continued sanctions will have on the vast majority of Iranians. Your economic blockade of our nation has already caused great hardship, indiscriminately on all of us, opponents and supporters of the rulers alike. In fact, the later are the least effected.

It is true that this nuclear agreement does not address issues of freedom, democracy, and human rights in Iran, for which we and many others strive, inside Iran, at great risk, on a daily basis. But you must know that economic deprivation and the pall of war have never advanced those causes. They only make that struggle so much harder.

On behalf of many like-minded Iranians who see this agreement as not ideal but a positive step towards peace, I urgently appeal to you to support of this agreement.

Respectfully,

Ebrahim Yazdi, PhD

Secretary General, Freedom Movement of Iran Former Minister for Foreign Affairs

Former Member of Parliament (Majlis) Representing the People of Tehran.