

AN OPEN LETTER

TO

PRESIDENT OBAMA, PRESIDENT SARKOZY, PRESIDENT
MEDVEDEV, PRIME MINISTER BROWN, CHANCELLOR MERKEL,
AND
PRESIDENT HU JINTAO

IRAN WARNS PROTESTERS ERA OF “MERCY” IS OVER

(NYTIMES JAN. 16, 2010)

How long can we stand idly by watching this scandal unfold?

We the undersigned urgently appeal to you and the other leaders of the world, to use your prestige and power to put an end to this outrage.

The situation in Iran is not improving; in fact, it is worsening every day. The cruel and oppressive regime of “Supreme Leader” Ali Khamenei and President Ahmadinejad, whose irresponsible and senseless nuclear ambitions threaten the entire world, continues to wage a shameless war against its own people. Human rights violations have now attained new levels of horror. Thousands of the regime’s political adversaries are being arrested, imprisoned, tortured and raped. Many have been killed. Seyed Ali Mousavi, nephew of the opposition leader Mir Hossein Mousavi, has been assassinated. Former Foreign Minister Ibrahim Yazdi is among the detained. Human rights activist Emad Baghi and so many other dissidents are behind bars. The Basij militia and police continue to fire indiscriminately on unarmed, peaceful demonstrators. According to press reports, riot tanks have made their terrifying appearance in the capital.

And yet, overcoming fear and ignoring threats, tens of thousands of freedom-loving men and women, many of them young students, are marching in the streets shouting their faith in democracy and liberty. They must know that we are on their side.

IN THE NAME OF CONSCIENCE AND HONOR, WE APPEAL TO
THE LEADERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO DO
WHAT IS NEEDED TO HELP THESE COURAGEOUS FIGHTERS
WHO RISK THEIR LIVES STANDING UP TO THEIR
GOVERNMENT’S IMMORAL, INHUMAN AND ILLEGAL OFFICIAL
POLICY.

More forceful and unequivocal condemnations of Tehran’s repulsive practices must be heard from Washington and Paris, Moscow, London, Berlin and Beijing, the Security Council and important NGO’s. Harsher sanctions must be imposed. And yes, concrete measures must be taken to protect this new nation of dissidents, so that their sacrifice is not – and will not – be in vain.

All of us who care must offer our full support and solidarity to the brave people of Iran.

They deserve nothing less.

Robert J. Aumann
Nobel Prize, Economics (2005)

Richard Axel
Nobel Prize, Medicine (2004)

Baruj Benacerraf
Nobel Prize, Medicine (1980)

Paul Berg
Nobel Prize, Chemistry (1980)

Günter Blobel
Nobel Prize, Medicine (1999)

Thomas R. Cech
Nobel Prize, Chemistry (1989)

Aaron Ciechanover
Nobel Prize, Chemistry (2004)

Georges Charpak
Nobel Prize, Physics (1992)

Claude Cohen-Tannoudji
Nobel Prize, Physics (1997)

Edmond H. Fischer
Nobel Prize, Medicine (1992)

Val Fitch
Nobel Prize, Physics (1980)

Jerome I. Friedman
Nobel Prize, Physics (1990)

Donald A. Glaser
Nobel Prize, Physics (1960)

Sheldon Glashow
Nobel Prize, Physics (1979)

David J. Gross
Nobel Prize, Physics (2004)

Roger Guillemin
Nobel Prize, Medicine (1977)

James Heckman
Nobel Prize, Economics (2000)

Alan Heeger
Nobel Prize, Chemistry (2000)

Dudley R. Herschbach
Nobel Prize, Chemistry (1986)

Avram Hershko
Nobel Prize, Chemistry (2004)

Roald Hoffman
Nobel Prize, Chemistry (1981)

David H. Hubel
Nobel Prize, Medicine (1981)

Eric R. Kandel
Nobel Prize, Medicine (2000)

Walter Kohn
Nobel Prize, Chemistry (1998)

Harold W. Kroto
Nobel Prize, Chemistry (1996)

Finn E. Kydland
Nobel Prize, Economics (2004)

Leon M. Lederman
Nobel Prize, Physics (1988)

Eric S. Maskin
Nobel Prize, Economics (2007)

Craig C. Mello
Nobel Prize, Medicine (2006)

George A. Olah
Nobel Prize, Chemistry (1994)

Douglas D. Osheroff
Nobel Prize, Physics (1996)

John C. Polanyi
Nobel Prize, Chemistry (1986)

Stanley Prusiner
Nobel Prize, Medicine (1997)

Robert C. Richardson
Nobel Prize, Physics (1996)

Richard J. Roberts
Nobel Prize, Medicine (1993)

Thomas C. Schelling
Nobel Prize, Economics (2005)

Jens C. Skou
Nobel Prize, Chemistry (1997)

Wole Soyinka
Nobel Prize, Literature (1986)

Klaus von Klitzing
Nobel Prize, Physics (1985)

John Walker
Nobel Prize, Chemistry (1997)

Steven Weinberg
Nobel Prize, Physics (1979)

Elie Wiesel
Nobel Prize, Peace (1986)

Betty Williams
Nobel Prize, Peace (1976)