



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

JUN 02 2016

The Honorable  
Michael Pompeo  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Pompeo:

The Department of State has received the attached response from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding your April 12, 2016 letter requesting an Iranian visa.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julia Frifield".

Julia Frifield  
Assistant Secretary  
Legislative Affairs

Enclosure:  
As stated.

Congressmen,

The Foreign Minister has been informed of your letter of April 12, 2016, concerning your purported visa request. In this regard, we draw your attention to the following:

- Despite what you seem to presume, members of the U.S. Congress do not get to dictate the policies of other countries. This clearly applies to Iranian visa policies. Bear in mind that as members of the U.S. Congress you are not a global authority.
- The nuclear agreement known as the JCPOA has clearly specified that the sole body competent for monitoring the implementation of the nuclear provisions is the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). No JCPOA participant, including the United States, and certainly no citizen or official of these countries, can arrogate any such right to monitor the implementation of JCPOA to itself, nor are they authorized by the JCPOA or other provisions of international law to encroach upon Iranian sovereignty by claiming such monitoring authority.
- In the modern era, visits to sites or parliamentary or other delegations to monitor elections are made upon invitations and through bilateral agreements between sovereign states or based on reciprocal arrangements, and not upon unilateral demands by self-arrogating individuals or parliamentarians. It bears reminding that Iran and the United States do not have diplomatic relations, and as such, there are no reciprocal monitoring arrangements between the two countries.
- The U.S. Congress has recently enacted legislation that bars people—ordinarily subject to visa waiver rules—who travel to Iran to enter the United States without obtaining a visa. And, when Secretary Kerry, in fulfilling U.S. obligations emanating from the JCPOA, promised to waive restrictions on the visa waiver program for individuals who have traveled to Iran, some of you are on record as saying that “waiving restrictions for persons who have traveled to Iran or who hold Iranian citizenship would put U.S. citizens at risk.” Surely it is ironic that you believe that going to Iran would “radicalize” and turn citizens of all other countries into “potential security risks” for the United States; but you still seek to visit Iran and believe that such a visit will have no such radicalizing effect on you.

- In spite of your claim, since 1980—when the U.S. broke off diplomatic relations with Iran—Iranian government officials are generally barred from entering the U.S. We are only permitted—on a case-by-case basis and after a very lengthy and unusually difficult and highly selective process—to enter the U.S. to attend meetings of international organizations located on U.S. soil; this while the U.S. is legally required to grant free and unrestricted access as per its international obligations under relevant multilateral agreements. This obligation has never been consistently and faithfully observed. And despite what you seem to believe, Iranian diplomats and nationals who work at the United Nations or come to New York to attend UN meetings, are all restricted to a 25 mile radius of Columbus Circle in Manhattan. That is the extent of the hospitality that you boast about in your letter.
- From the time when the manufactured “nuclear crisis” has been settled through the JCPOA, tens of thousands of tourists, academics, investors, students and businesspeople from around the world—including many Americans—have obtained visas and travelled to Iran without any delay or complication. But they have been able to do so by making requests consistent with the relevant regulations of the host country and in the appropriate respectful manner and not in the completely inappropriate way you have demanded to visit Iran and interfere in what is of no relevance to your official functions. We doubt that any self-respecting country would grant a visa under such circumstances.
- In sum, we consider your visa request to have been a publicity stunt and not an appropriate request to visit a sovereign country; and it has, and will continue to be, treated in that spirit.

Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of

The Islamic Republic of Iran

Tehran, Iran