

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 22, 2024

The Honorable Antony Blinken  
United States Secretary of State  
The State Department  
2201 C Street Northwest  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken,

We are disappointed and dismayed by the Biden administration's decision to express condolences for the passing of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi. It is highly inappropriate for the United States to express condolences for an individual that was sanctioned by the U.S. Treasury Department and has extensive connections to terrorism.

President Raisi, also known as the "Butcher of Tehran", had been involved in the execution of thousands of Iranian dissidents and political opponents of the regime. In 1988, Raisi served on the four-man commission, often called the "Death Committee", that sentenced thousands of anti-regime Iranians to death, and many others to torture, imprisonment, and other inhumane punishments, including gouging out the eyes of young men and women who opposed the regime.

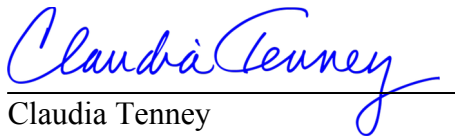
From 2004 until 2014, Raisi served as Iran's First Deputy Head of the Judiciary, during which time he was heavily involved in the regime's brutal crackdown of the Green Movement, an anti-regime protest movement that broke out after the 2009 election. During his tenure as President of Iran, Raisi supported violent crackdowns in the wake of protests after the tragic murder of Mahsa Amini, who was killed for not complying with the draconian Iranian dress codes.

In 2019, under Executive Order 13876, President Raisi was listed under the Office of Foreign Assets Control Specially Designated Nationals (SDN) List. As you know, the SDN List is reserved for U.S.-designated terrorists, totalitarian regimes, and transnational criminals whose actions warrant extensive sanctions, including the blocking of U.S. assets and a prohibition from engaging in any commercial activities with U.S. persons or businesses. Under the Biden administration, President Raisi has remained on the SDN List due to his extensive criminal behavior.

The decision to express condolences for such an individual is shameful. President Raisi was a despotic tyrant whose rule directly led to the murder of thousands of innocent individuals and the maiming, repression, and subjugation of the Iranian people. We demand a full explanation as to why the State Department would express condolences for the passing of such a despicable individual. Please reply no later than June 5, 2024.

We look forward to a prompt response.

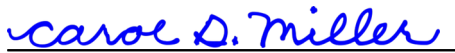
Sincerely,



Claudia Tenney  
Member of Congress



Mike Bost  
Member of Congress



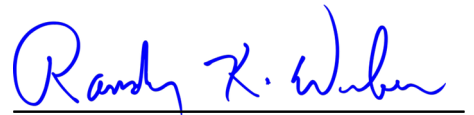
Carol D. Miller  
Member of Congress



Pete Stauber  
Member of Congress



John Rose  
Member of Congress



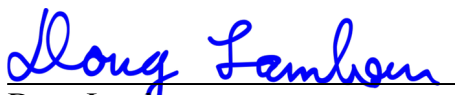
Randy K. Weber, Sr.  
Member of Congress



Tim Burchett  
Member of Congress



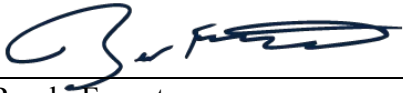
Don Bacon  
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress

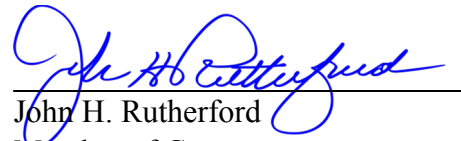


Beth Van Duyne  
Member of Congress



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Randy Feenstra  
Member of Congress



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John H. Rutherford  
Member of Congress