

## **IRAN OPEN LETTER 2:**

*As published in The New York Times on February 7, 2010 and The International Herald Tribune on February 9th, 2010:*

**DEAR PRESIDENT OBAMA, PRESIDENT SARKOZY, PRESIDENT MEDVEDEV,  
PRIME MINISTER BROWN AND C HANCELLOR MERKEL,**

### **HOW LONG CAN WE STAND IDLY BY AND WATCH THE SCANDAL IN IRAN 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, raped, and killed, many by hanging. 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 the press, riot tanks have appeared 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 and Berlin, 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)

ClaudeCohen-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 Hoffmann, 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)

Jody Williams, Nobel Prize, Peace (1997)