

September 15, 2011

Mr. Richard Chiu
President
Warwick International Hotels
1776 Grant Street, 14F
Denver, Colorado 80203

Mr. Sam Kapadia
General Manager
Warwick New York Hotel
65 West 54th Street
New York, NY 10019

Re: Hosting President Ahmadinejad in NYC

Dear Mr. Chiu:

United Against Nuclear Iran (“UANI”) has learned that the Warwick New York Hotel (“Warwick”) will host Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and his cohorts during their stay in New York for the United Nations General Assembly beginning Monday September 19, 2011.

By this letter, UANI requests that the Warwick immediately reconsider its decision and deny accommodation for and refuse to host President Ahmadinejad.

As you should know, President Ahmadinejad is the leader of a criminal regime that flouts international law in developing an illegal nuclear weapon, ruthlessly violates the human rights of its people, and is the world’s leading sponsor of terror including through al-Qaeda.

It is worth recalling that speaking before the General Assembly last year Ahmadinejad despicably claimed that the U.S. orchestrated the September 11 terrorist attacks against its own citizens. As President Obama remarked at the time, those comments were “offensive,” “hateful” and “inexcusable.” Just a few days ago Ahmadinejad repeated this outrageous accusation even as New Yorkers and all Americans were commemorating the tenth anniversary of those tragic events.

Ahmadinejad’s most recent claims were especially offensive in light of Iran’s role in killing American soldiers (*The New York Times* “In Shadow of Death, Iraq and U.S. Tiptoe Around a Deadline”) and revelations by the U.S. Treasury Department that Iran has formed an alliance with al-Qaeda--the very group responsible for the 9/11 attacks--and is helping al-Qaeda transfer money, weapons, and fighters to Afghanistan and Pakistan.

It is also worth noting that the human rights situation in Iran continues to deteriorate. Activists and dissidents suffer daily at the hands of the regime's security forces and are at constant risk of arbitrary arrest, detention and execution. Iran is on course for a record year in executions, having already executed some 200 people in 2011. That is an average of almost two executions a day. (See July 6 op-ed in the *Los Angeles Times*, "Iran's Execution Binge"). A number of these executions are carried out publicly. The accompanying photo depicts just one of the Iranian regime's brutal execution practices.



Given your company's irresponsible choice to previously accommodate Ahmadinejad at a "monster's ball" featuring extremists such as Louis Farrakhan in 2010 (*New York Post* "A'jad Monster's Ball," September 26, 2010), UANI would like to ask the Warwick a simple question: In light of the foregoing, do you honestly think it is appropriate to provide accommodations to the leader of such a detestable regime, specifically in the very city where the worst of 9/11 occurred?

By choosing to host the Iranian delegation, the Warwick is accepting blood money from a regime that presents an overwhelming threat to global security. By turning a blind eye to the regime's flagrant violations of human rights, support for al-Qaeda and its commitment to an illegal nuclear weapons program, the Warwick is *once again* facilitating Ahmadinejad's misuse of UNGA for the purposes of disseminating the propaganda of an illegitimate and brutal dictatorship that flouts international law.

Should the Warwick continue with its plans to serve as a host to President Ahmadinejad, UANI will take action against all Warwick properties worldwide. UANI will call on its partners and activists to peacefully protest your properties, and will call for a general public boycott of all Warwick properties.

As you recall, during last year's UNGA, UANI launched a campaign against the Hilton hotel chain for hosting Ahmadinejad and the Hilton paid for its decision with negative publicity, protests outside of the Hilton Manhattan East and lost business (*ABC News*. "Guarding Iran's President Ahmadinejad, the Most Hated Man in New York" September 23, 2010). UANI hopes that the Warwick will not repeat this mistake. Now more than ever, it is important to stand with UANI, the United States and much of the international community in condemning the behavior of Iran's government.

By refusing to host President Ahmadinejad at your venue, you will be joining with many other New York-area hotels, as well as multinational corporations such as General Electric, Huntsman, Caterpillar, Ingersoll Rand, KPMG, Bobcat and Terex, among many others, who have severed their business ties with the Iranian regime.

In the event that the Warwick fails to reconsider its dealings with the Iranian regime, we are confident that our call for a boycott will result in the loss of business for your company. Rest assured we do not seek to harm any business gratuitously, but please understand that the danger of a nuclear-armed Iran that threatens the U.S., sponsors al-Qaeda and brutalizes its own people is too great to ignore.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark D. Wallace". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Ambassador Mark D. Wallace

cc: Tammie Tam
Senior Vice President

Ulla Schneider
Senior Vice President

G. Paul LeBlanc
Vice President, Marketing & Sales

The Honorable Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Chairman, United States House Committee on Foreign Affairs

The Honorable Howard Berman
Ranking Member, United States House Committee on Foreign Affairs

The Honorable Peter T. King
Chairman, United States House Committee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Bennie Thompson
Ranking Member, United States House Committee on Homeland Security

H.E. Susan Rice
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations

H.E. Mohammad Khazaee
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Iran to the United Nations

The Honorable Michael R. Bloomberg
Office of the Mayor, City of New York

Commissioner Marjorie B. Tiven
New York City Commission for the United Nations, Consular Corps and Protocol

The Honorable Christine C. Quinn
New York City Council

The Honorable Sheldon Silver
New York State Assembly