

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 13, 2011

Dear Secretary Clinton,

We write to you on behalf of Pastor Youcef Nadarkhani, an Iranian Christian pastor who was convicted of apostasy and currently faces execution. We are painfully aware of Iran's history of carrying out executions before releasing formal decisions to the public and fear his execution could be imminent. Accordingly, it is with great urgency that we request your swift engagement with the international community to advocate for his release.

Pastor Nadarkhani was arrested on October 13, 2009, after attempting to invoke his rights under the Iranian Constitution to educate his children according to his family's religious teachings. In September 2010, a state court convicted Pastor Nadarkhani and sentenced him to death by hanging. In June 2011, the Iranian Supreme Court upheld the conviction and death sentence and returned the case to the state court for further investigation. In September 2011, the state court demanded three times that Pastor Nadarkhani recant his faith or die. Each time, he replied, "I cannot."

Pastor Nadarkhani's conviction violates numerous domestic laws and international obligations. Articles 13, 14 and 23 of the Iranian Constitution guarantee his right to freely practice his religion of choice. Furthermore, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, both of which Iran is a party to, firmly secure one's right to practice their religion of choice.

We are grateful for your condemnation of the Iranian regime's actions in this case, as well as the White House's statement calling for the release of Pastor Nadarkhani. We agree that a full and unconditional release is necessary and respectfully ask you to use all the powers at your disposal to accomplish that end as swiftly as possible. We believe your voice can motivate entities within the United Nations to action, including the Human Rights Council, the Special Rapporteur on human rights in Iran, the Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression, the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Additionally, we would like to see the Secretary General of both the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation come to Pastor Nadarkhani's defense. We implore you to take action to engage these entities to save this innocent man's life.

We understand the numerous and complex challenges you face, but it is the most sacred duty to protect innocent human life. We implore you to raise your voice at this critical juncture on behalf of Pastor Nadarkhani. We must not stand by while the Iranian regime executes a man who has committed no crime. Thank you for your urgent attention to this matter. We eagerly await word of your actions.

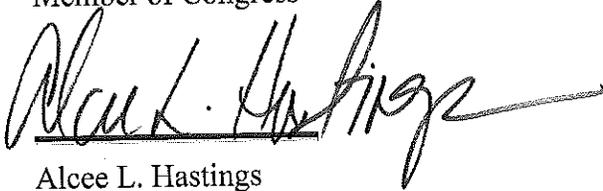
Respectfully,



Joseph R. Pitts  
Member of Congress



Heath Shuler  
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress



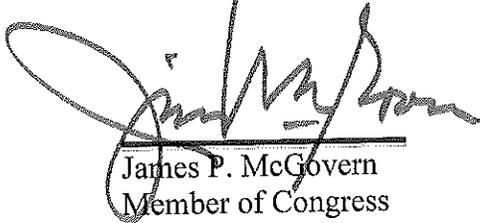
Sue Myrick  
Member of Congress



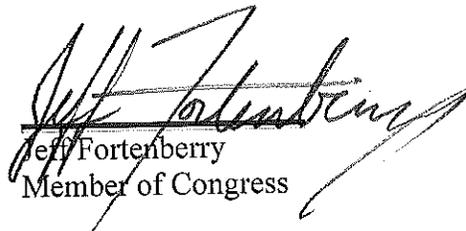
Christopher H. Smith  
Member of Congress



Frank R. Wolf  
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Jeff Fortenberry  
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress



Joseph Crowley  
Member of Congress



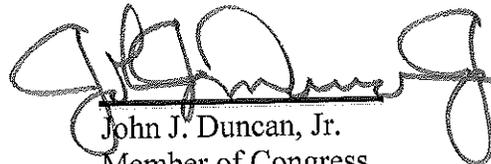
Robert B. Aderholt  
Member of Congress



James P. Moran  
Member of Congress



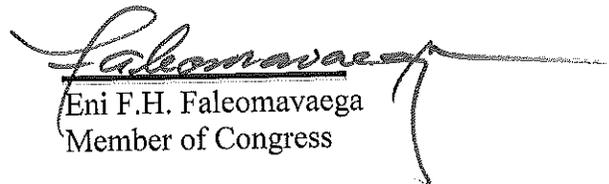
Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress



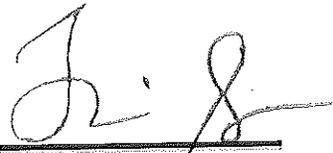
John J. Duncan, Jr.  
Member of Congress



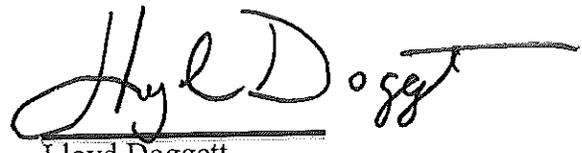
Rob Bishop  
Member of Congress



Eni F.H. Faleomavaega  
Member of Congress



Tim Scott  
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



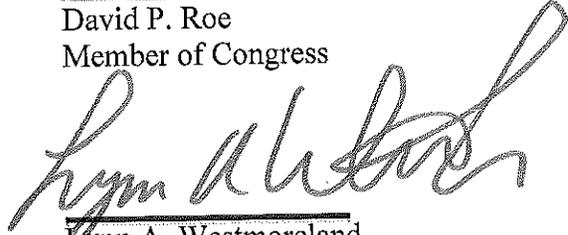
Dan Burton  
Member of Congress



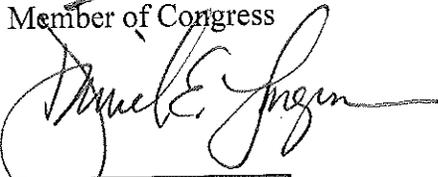
David P. Roe  
Member of Congress



Francisco "Quico" Canseco  
Member of Congress



Lynn A. Westmoreland  
Member of Congress



Daniel E. Lungren  
Member of Congress



Ed Whitfield  
Member of Congress



Trent Franks  
Member of Congress



Vicky Hartzler  
Member of Congress



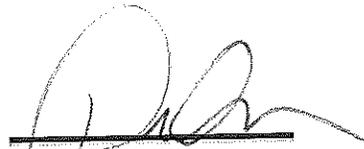
John Lewis  
Member of Congress



Todd W. Akin  
Member of Congress



Rodney Alexander  
Member of Congress



Peter J. Roskam  
Member of Congress

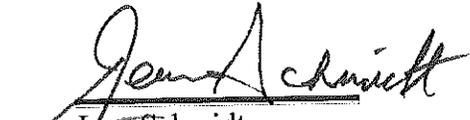


David B. McKinley  
Member of Congress



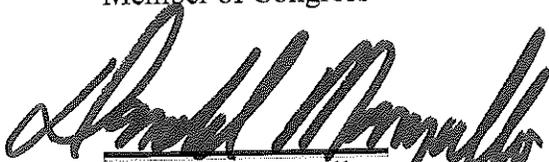
Pete Olson  
Member of Congress

  
Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress

  
Jean Schmidt  
Member of Congress

  
Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

  
Thaddeus G. McCotter  
Member of Congress

  
Donald A. Manzullo  
Member of Congress

  
André Carson  
Member of Congress

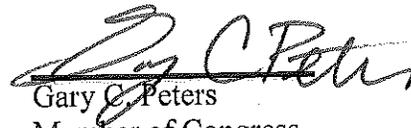
  
John W. Olver  
Member of Congress

  
Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
Marsha Blackburn  
Member of Congress

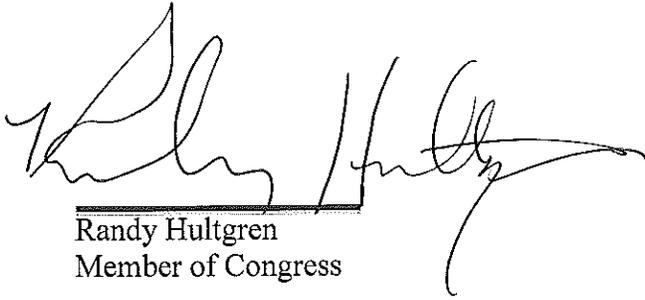
  
Kathy Hochul  
Member of Congress

  
Bob Turner  
Member of Congress

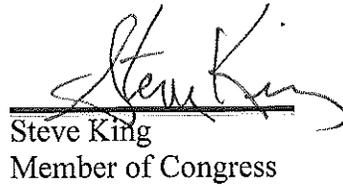
  
Gary C. Peters  
Member of Congress

  
Lynn Jenkins  
Member of Congress

  
John Campbell  
Member of Congress



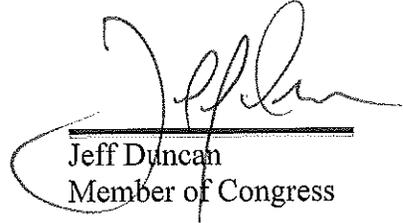
Randy Hultgren  
Member of Congress



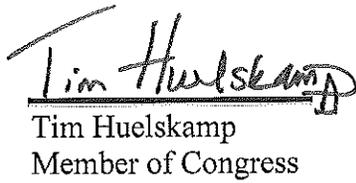
Steve King  
Member of Congress



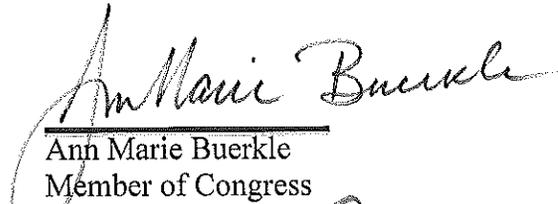
Dennis Ross  
Member of Congress



Jeff Duncan  
Member of Congress



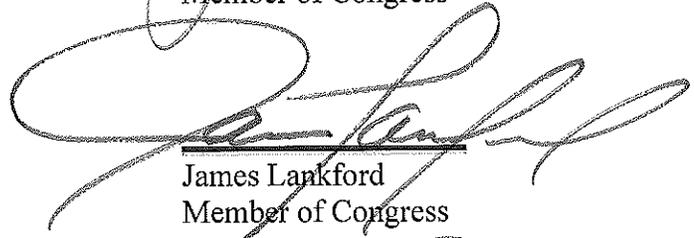
Tim Huelskamp  
Member of Congress



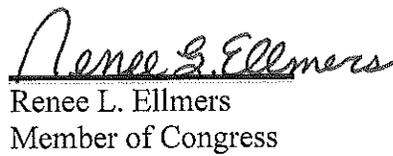
Ann Marie Buerkle  
Member of Congress



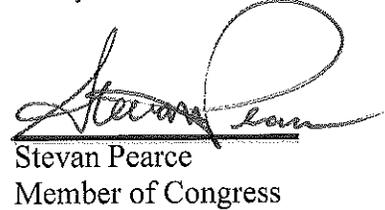
John R. Carter  
Member of Congress



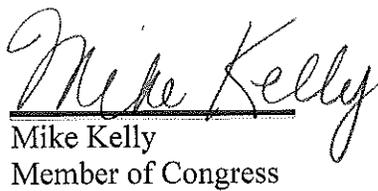
James Lankford  
Member of Congress



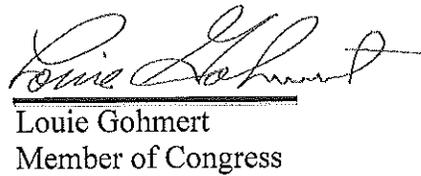
Renee L. Ellmers  
Member of Congress



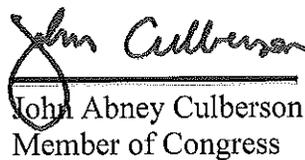
Stevan Pearce  
Member of Congress



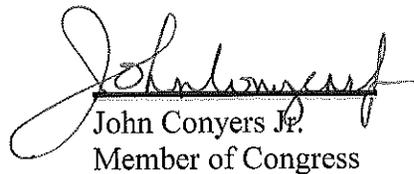
Mike Kelly  
Member of Congress



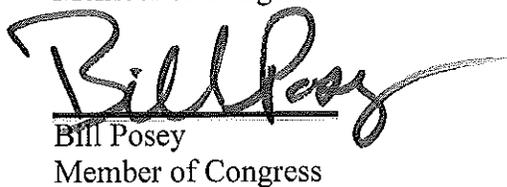
Louie Gohmert  
Member of Congress



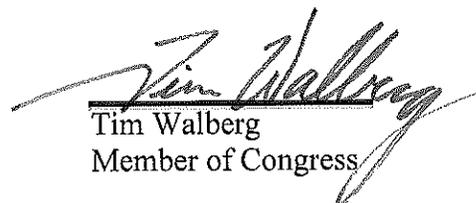
John Abney Culberson  
Member of Congress



John Conyers Jr.  
Member of Congress

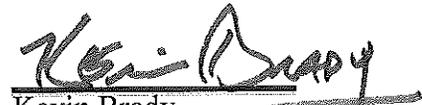


Bill Posey  
Member of Congress



Tim Walberg  
Member of Congress

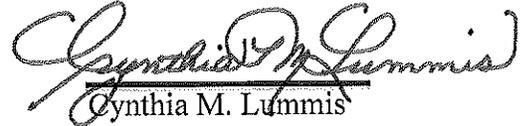
  
John Fleming  
Member of Congress

  
Kevin Brady  
Member of Congress

  
Mike Pompeo  
Member of Congress

  
Paul C. Broun  
Member of Congress

  
Michael K. Conaway  
Member of Congress

  
Cynthia M. Lummis  
Member of Congress

  
Mick Mulvaney  
Member of Congress

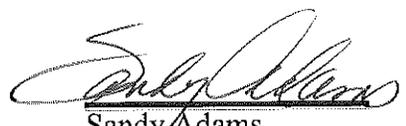
  
Steve Chabot  
Member of Congress

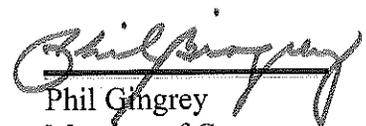
  
Darrell E. Issa  
Member of Congress

  
Erik Paulsen  
Member of Congress

  
Scott Garrett  
Member of Congress

  
Bill Huizenga  
Member of Congress

  
Sandy Adams  
Member of Congress

  
Phil Gingrey  
Member of Congress

  
Andy Harris  
Member of Congress

  
Joe Barton  
Member of Congress



Mike McIntyre  
Member of Congress



Dana Rohrabacher  
Member of Congress



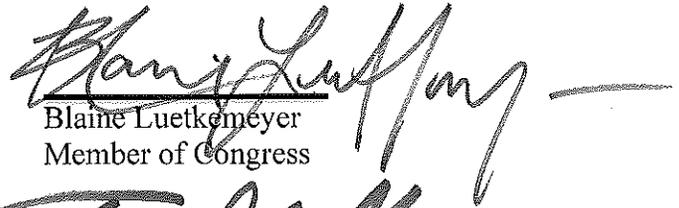
Dan Lipinski  
Member of Congress



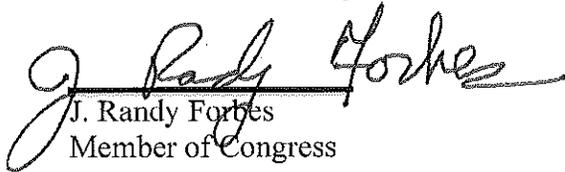
Ted Poe  
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



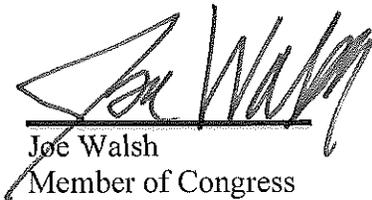
Blaine Luetkemeyer  
Member of Congress



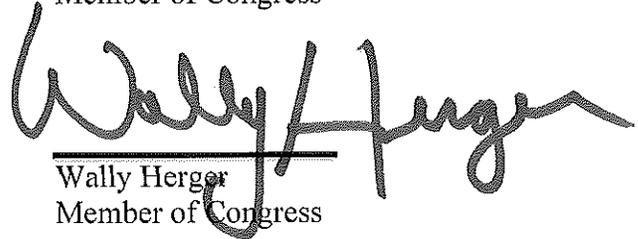
J. Randy Forbes  
Member of Congress



Tim Griffin  
Member of Congress



Joe Walsh  
Member of Congress



Wally Herger  
Member of Congress



Steve Southerland  
Member of Congress