

ROBERT PITTENGER
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9TH DISTRICT, NORTH CAROLINA

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3309

November 15, 2013

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The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President,

This week, our nation paused to celebrate Veteran's Day. A day in which we give thanks to the brave men and women who sacrificed so much, not just in protecting America's safety, but protecting the values and freedoms which make her great.

Freedom of religion is, has been and must always be, among the great freedoms citizens of America possess. The prominence with which the United States holds freedom of religion must remain clear. Mr. President, the world looks to you as the face of our nation when gauging our commitment to ensuring this inalienable right is never subject to threat or restriction.

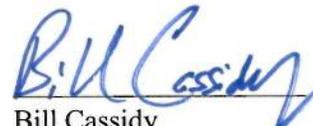
Pastor Saeed Abedini's situation in Iran has dramatically worsened since you discussed his captivity with President Rouhani in September. On November 3 2013, Pastor Abedini was transferred to Rajai Shahr Prison, which was described by Dutch diplomat Loes Bijen as a prison "where political prisoners who are seen as a nuisance are stowed away" and collocated with murders, rapists and drug addicts.

Mr. President, as Pastor Abedini's family sees it, and as we, the undersigned see it, this transfer has elevated Pastor Abedini's eight year prison sentence to a death sentence. After being denied any due process, convicted, sentenced and tortured, Pastor Abedini is now being held in a prison cell with five of Iran's most violent criminals simply because he has exercised his inalienable right to practice Christianity.

Pastor Abedini's life is in peril, and this most recent action by Iran warrants a response from the President. The time is now for you and your administration to raise international awareness regarding Iran's brazen violation of an inalienable right which should be extended to every person in the world.

Sincerely,


Robert Pittenger
Member of Congress


Bill Cassidy
Member of Congress

Cc: Secretary Kerry

Jackie Walorski

JACKIE WALORSKI
Member of Congress

Randy K Weber

RANDY WEBER
Member of Congress

Daniel Webster

DANIEL WEBSTER
Member of Congress

Lynn A. West

LYNN WESTMORELAND
Member of Congress

Roger Williams

ROGER WILLIAMS
Member of Congress

Vicky Hartzler

VICKY HARTZLER
Member of Congress

Ted S. Yoho

TED YOHO
Member of Congress

Jim Jordan

JIM JORDAN
Member of Congress

Bill Johnson

BILL JOHNSON
Member of Congress

Peter King

PETER KING
Member of Congress

Richard Hudson

RICHARD HUDSON
Member of Congress

Frank Lucas

FRANK LUCAS
Member of Congress

Blake Farenthold

BLAKE FARENTHOLD
Member of Congress

Paul Broun

PAUL BROUN
Member of Congress

Rick Crawford

RICK CRAWFORD
Member of Congress

Mike Conaway

MIKE CONAWAY
Member of Congress

Raul R Labrador

RAUL LABRADOR
Member of Congress

Spencer Bachus

SPENCER BACHUS
Member of Congress

Cynthia Lummis

CYNTHIA LUMMIS
Member of Congress

Shelley Moore Capito

SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO
Member of Congress


GEORGE HOLDING
Member of Congress


BILL HUIZENGA
Member of Congress

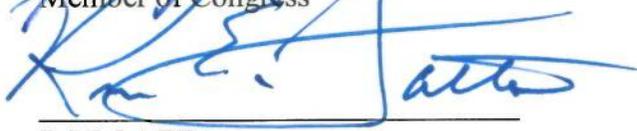

WALTER JONES
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STEVE KING
Member of Congress


DOUG LAMBORN
Member of Congress


DOUG LAMALFA
Member of Congress

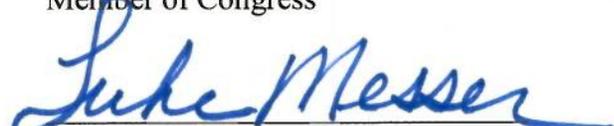

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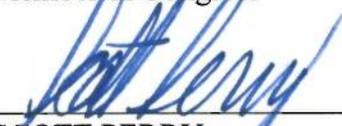

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MICK MULVANEY
Member of Congress


ALAN NUNNELEE
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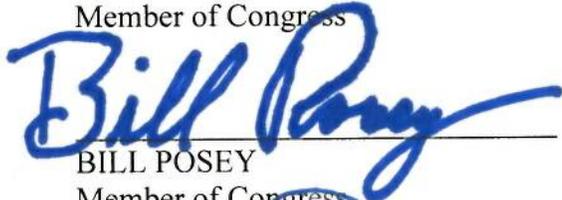

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SCOTT PERRY
Member of Congress

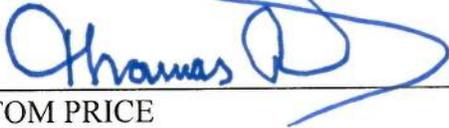

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JOE PITTS
Member of Congress



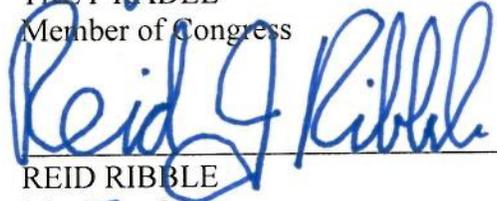
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TOM PRICE
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TREY RADEL
Member of Congress



REID RIBBLE
Member of Congress



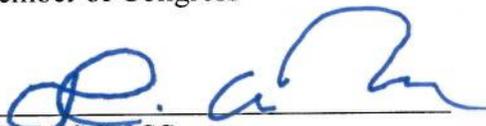
TOM RICE
Member of Congress



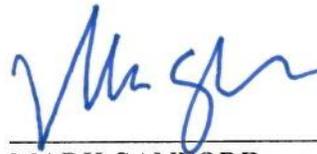
TODD ROKITA
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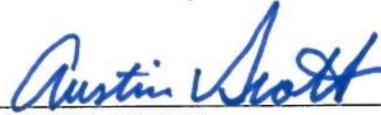
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Member of Congress



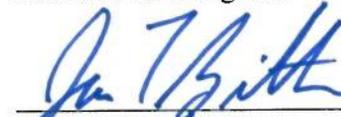
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AUSTIN SCOTT
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ROBERT ADERHOLT
Member of Congress



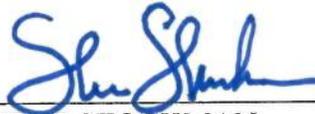
JASON SMITH
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LAMAR SMITH
Member of Congress



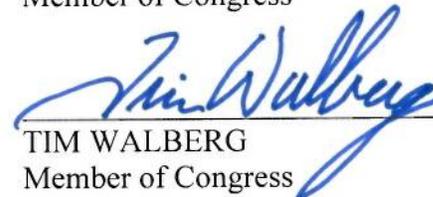
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STEVE STOCKMAN
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MARLIN STUTZMAN
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TIM WALBERG
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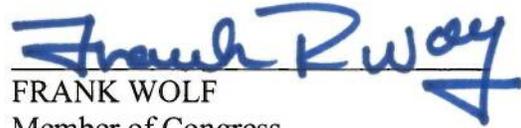
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RANDY FORBES
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MICHELE BACHMANN
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FRANK WOLF
Member of Congress



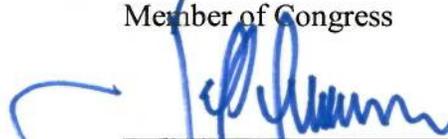
JOE BARTON
Member of Congress



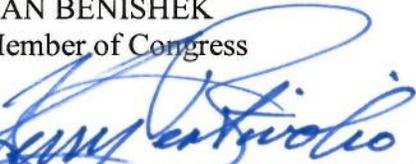
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Member of Congress



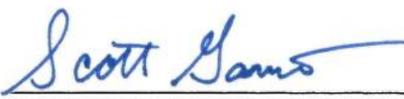
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SCOTT GARRETT
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TOM COLE
Member of Congress



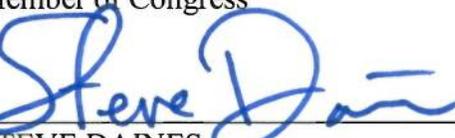
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Member of Congress



BRETT GUTHRIE
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STEVE DAINES
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ANDREW HARRIS
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