

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 3, 2014

The Honorable John Kerry
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry:

As Members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee's Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa, we are extremely troubled that Hamid Aboutalebi has been selected to be the Islamic Republic of Iran's new Permanent Representative to the United Nations, and we urge the Department of State to take immediate action and explore all legal avenues available to prevent Mr. Aboutalebi's entry into the United States.

According to reports, Mr. Aboutalebi was a member of the Muslim Students Following the Imam's Line group that seized the U.S. Embassy in 1979 and held American citizens captive for 444 days. During that time, these hostages were subjected to profound physical and mental abuse and have suffered injuries and damages that can never be fully healed. We maintain that anyone who has participated in the embassy takeover must not be granted a visa to enter this country, regardless of the title or position they hold in their respective country.

We recognize that the United States has obligations under the UN Headquarters Agreement of 1947, but we do not believe that any country should be forced to allow someone tied to the kidnapping and torture of its citizens to enter the country under the guise of being named a diplomat.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN
Member of Congress



TED DEUTCH
Member of Congress



RON DESANTIS
Member of Congress



RANDY K. WEBER
Member of Congress



JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, III
Member of Congress



LOIS FRANKEL
Member of Congress


BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER
Member of Congress


ADAM KINZINGER
Member of Congress


DOUG COLLINS
Member of Congress


GRACE MENG
Member of Congress


GERALD E. CONNOLLY
Member of Congress