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The Honorable Michael Pompeo
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20230

The Honorable Steven Mnuchin
Secretary of Treasury
U.S. Department of Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Secretary Pompeo and Secretary Mnuchin,

On behalf of the Public Affairs Alliance of Iranian Americans (PAAIA), I am writing to express our concern over the limitations of humanitarian assistance to the Iranian people as the country is overwhelmed by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. We urge the Administration to act swiftly to clarify allowable activities under the current guidelines for humanitarian assistance and make any appropriate changes to General License E to enhance the flow of humanitarian assistance to Iran.

We commend the Administration's recent efforts to facilitate the flow of humanitarian goods to the Iranian people. This includes the implementation of the Swiss Humanitarian Trade Arrangement, which will further enable companies to send food, medicine and other critical supplies to Iran. While this is a much-welcomed measure, the spread of COVID-19 has been a catastrophe for the people of Iran and of great concern for the Iranian American community, many of whom have family or friends still residing in Iran.

Iran is one of the *hardest-hit* nations dealing with COVID-19 epidemic. According to [data from Johns Hopkins University](#), Iran has more than 23,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and its death toll reached over 1,800 as of this week. While Iranian Americans are proud patriotic Americans that contribute to all levels of U.S. society, they maintain close ties to the people of Iran. Many are eager to help the Iranian people deal with current COVID-19 outbreak in Iran with humanitarian assistance.

In order to expeditiously facilitate the delivery of critical humanitarian assistance to the Iranian people, we ask that the Administration clarify what is permitted and prohibited under U.S. law, and make any appropriate changes to existing regulations that would help to save lives and contain the spread of this dangerous pandemic. Such measures could include:

- Addressing the current challenges faced in delivering critical medical supplies to Iran.
- Issuance of guidance for foreign financial institutions, exporters, and distributors who can demonstrate that they are following the same enhanced due diligence steps being followed by Swiss financial institutions and exporters utilizing the Swiss Humanitarian Trade Arrangement that they will not be penalized or sanctioned if they are facilitating humanitarian trade to Iran in response to efforts to combat the spread and effects of COVID-19 in that country.
- Expand General License E to include research collaboration and knowledge sharing.
- Raise the ceiling on the amount of funds permitted to be sent to Iran for humanitarian aid under General License E.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Respectfully yours,

Leila Golestaneh Austin, PhD
Executive Director