

August 18, 2021

The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

As the number of COVID-19 infections and deaths reach record highs in Iran, we are writing to urge you to expand the U.S. global vaccine donation campaign to the Iranian people, who are unable to access safe vaccines. Such a measure would serve U.S. policy interests of engaging the Iranian people and have the full backing of the Iranian American community, many of whom have family and friends still residing in Iran.

Irrespective of Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei's unconscionable ban on the importation of U.S. and other Western-produced vaccines, we urge you to exercise global leadership and address the urgent, humanitarian catastrophe unfolding in Iran.

The Iranian government is responsible for the rate at which COVID-19 is ravaging the country, yet it is the Iranian people who are paying the price. While doctors in Iran say deaths due to the virus, already the highest in the Middle East, are more than double what is being reported, the Iranian government has rejected vaccine donation offers through COVAX, instead pouring money into its failed domestic vaccine production programs.

Less than 10 percent of Iran's population of 85 million is fully vaccinated. The health system is being overwhelmed and mass graves are being dug to accommodate the dead. This situation is not only an Iranian disaster, but it represents a continued threat to the global community from a virus that knows no national boundaries.

Iran's supreme leader may choose to ignore the calls of his own people and prolong his deadly ban on American vaccines, but this should not deter you from expanding your donation campaign to Iran. This would not be a gift to the government of Iran, but rather an honorable offer of assistance to a brave and resilient Iranian people, and in the best interest of U.S. public diplomacy towards Iran.

We ask you to stand with the Iranian people and place the U.S. at the forefront of international efforts to contain this global pandemic by demonstrating that the U.S. vaccine donation program knows no politics.

Respectfully,

[Center for Human Rights in Iran](#)

[Public Affairs Alliance of Iranian Americans](#)

[Iranian American Bar Association](#)