

The Honorable Jane Harman

May 28, 2009

2400 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Harman:

As an Iranian-American I heard, read and analyzed your recent speech addressing AIPAC in Washington. Your views about disintegration of Iran made me appalled and seriously surprised that a seasoned American Congresswoman is promoting division of an independent country like Iran in the Middle East.

Regrettably, similar interference in Iran was undertaken by former President Jimmy Carter's administration in 1979, replacing the patriotic Shah of Iran with a 7th century Muslim fundamentalist like Ayatollah Khomeini and his Taliban-type supporters, and creating a catastrophic blunder in American foreign policy that has caused grave problems for Americans and Iranians for 30 years. It is possible that the long-range plan of some enemies of the Iranian people is to use an approach of divide and rule similar to the Balkanization of Eastern Europe in recent times.

Congresswoman Harman, I do not know if your suggestion for disintegration of Iran was to impress Israeli President Shimon Peres and the audience listening to your presentation, or it was your personal view.

If you believe in your doctrine of separation of ethnic and minority groups in a country, do you believe that the United States should have been divided during the American civil war? If one day the Hispanic minority, which is one of the largest segments of American society, wants to form its own state and separate from the U.S., would you support them on the basis of the same principle you are applying to Iran? I have no doubt your answer would be an absolute "No!" Why do you have a double standard for the same type of situation?

Iran, also historically known as Persia, has been a land of pluralism composed of many ethnic groups, traditions, religions and languages for over 2500 years, more than most countries on earth could claim. It is a shame that someone in your position offends the Iranian people around the globe.

Congresswoman Harman, you have interfered inexcusably in the internal affairs of Iran, regardless of who is ruling that country, and your conduct has been in bad taste and strongly condemned by many Iranians.

Trita Parsi claims that you have expressed regret to his National Iranian American Council (NIAC). Unfortunately, Trita Parsi has supported the agenda of the despotic Islamic Republic of Iran. For your information, Trita Parsi and NIAC do not represent the people of Iran or Iranian-Americans. In fact, they are disliked and opposed by many Iranians.

You have clarified that your speech has been taken out of context and misrepresented, and your aim was to draw attention to the views of minorities in Iran. If this is the case, then you should address your apology directly to the people of Iran in a written statement, and use the media to clarify the issue.

The Islamic republic has brutally violated the human rights of the Iranian people for 30 years. Thousands of Iranians have been tortured and murdered by the Islamic republic, and most Iranians oppose the mullah regime and its cronies.

Despite the mullah regime's brutal campaign against pro-democracy activists, many Iranians inside and outside Iran continue the efforts to bring freedom and democracy to Iran. Just as dozens of other countries have transitioned to democracy in the past twenty years, Iranians can replace the mullah regime with a democratic government, and the process will be much faster with active international support. A democratic Iran will be an important factor in peace and security of the region and the world.

Sincerely,

Nader Paymai
San Diego, California