

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 13, 2011

Dear Secretary Clinton,

We write to you on behalf of Pastor Youcef Nadarkhani, an Iranian Christian pastor who was convicted of apostasy and currently faces execution. We are painfully aware of Iran's history of carrying out executions before releasing formal decisions to the public and fear his execution could be imminent. Accordingly, it is with great urgency that we request your swift engagement with the international community to advocate for his release.

Pastor Nadarkhani was arrested on October 13, 2009, after attempting to invoke his rights under the Iranian Constitution to educate his children according to his family's religious teachings. In September 2010, a state court convicted Pastor Nadarkhani and sentenced him to death by hanging. In June 2011, the Iranian Supreme Court upheld the conviction and death sentence and returned the case to the state court for further investigation. In September 2011, the state court demanded three times that Pastor Nadarkhani recant his faith or die. Each time, he replied, "I cannot."

Pastor Nadarkhani's conviction violates numerous domestic laws and international obligations. Articles 13, 14 and 23 of the Iranian Constitution guarantee his right to freely practice his religion of choice. Furthermore, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, both of which Iran is a party to, firmly secure one's right to practice their religion of choice.

We are grateful for your condemnation of the Iranian regime's actions in this case, as well as the White House's statement calling for the release of Pastor Nadarkhani. We agree that a full and unconditional release is necessary and respectfully ask you to use all the powers at your disposal to accomplish that end as swiftly as possible. We believe your voice can motivate entities within the United Nations to action, including the Human Rights Council, the Special Rapporteur on human rights in Iran, the Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression, the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Additionally, we would like to see the Secretary General of both the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation come to Pastor Nadarkhani's defense. We implore you to take action to engage these entities to save this innocent man's life.

We understand the numerous and complex challenges you face, but it is the most sacred duty to protect innocent human life. We implore you to raise your voice at this critical juncture on behalf of Pastor Nadarkhani. We must not stand by while the Iranian regime executes a man who has committed no crime. Thank you for your urgent attention to this matter. We eagerly await word of your actions.

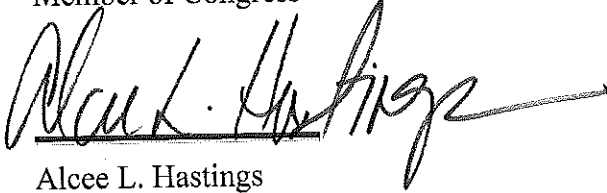
Respectfully,




Joseph R. Pitts
Member of Congress



Heath Shuler
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



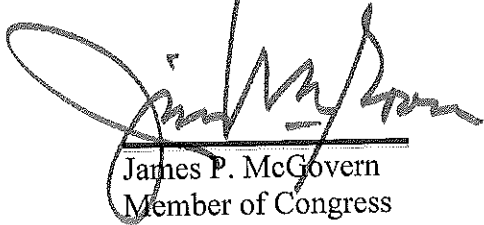
Sue Myrick
Member of Congress



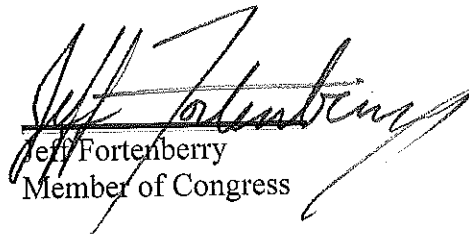
Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress



Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress



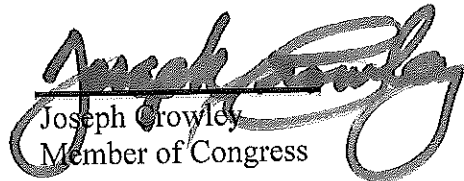
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Jeff Fortenberry
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress



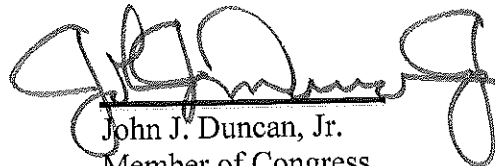
Robert B. Aderholt
Member of Congress



James P. Moran
Member of Congress



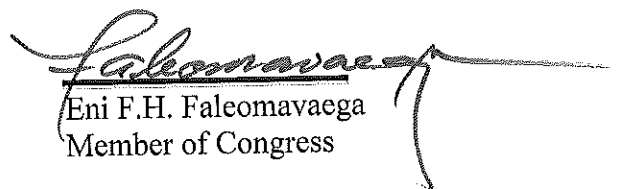
Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



John J. Duncan, Jr.
Member of Congress



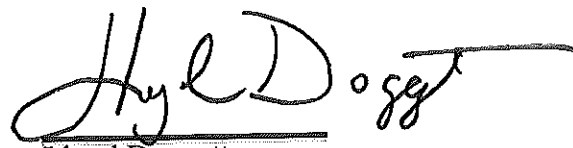
Rob Bishop
Member of Congress



Eni F.H. Faleomavaega
Member of Congress



Tim Scott
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



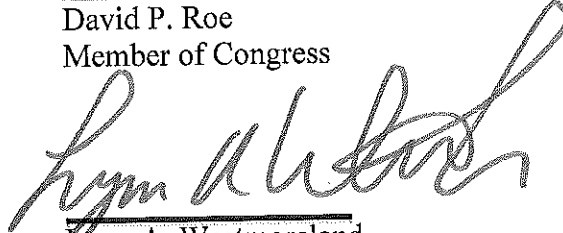
Dan Burton
Member of Congress



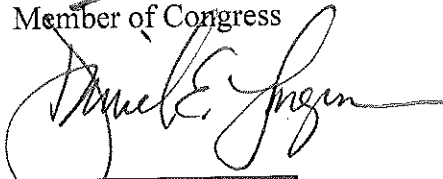
David P. Roe
Member of Congress



Francisco "Quico" Canseco
Member of Congress



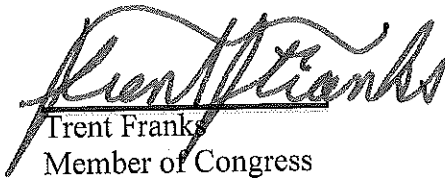
Lynn A. Westmoreland
Member of Congress



Daniel E. Lungren
Member of Congress



Ed Whitfield
Member of Congress



Trent Franks
Member of Congress



Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress




John Lewis
Member of Congress



Todd W. Akin
Member of Congress



Rodney Alexander
Member of Congress




Peter J. Roskam
Member of Congress

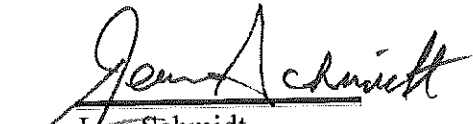



David B. McKinley
Member of Congress




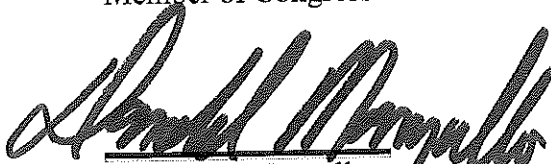
Pete Olson
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



Jean Schmidt
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress


Thaddeus G. McCotter
Member of Congress



Donald A. Manzullo
Member of Congress

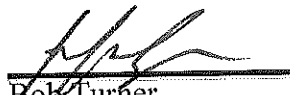

André Carson
Member of Congress

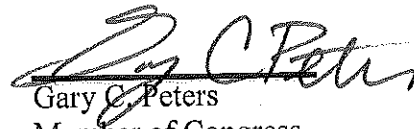

John W. Olver
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress

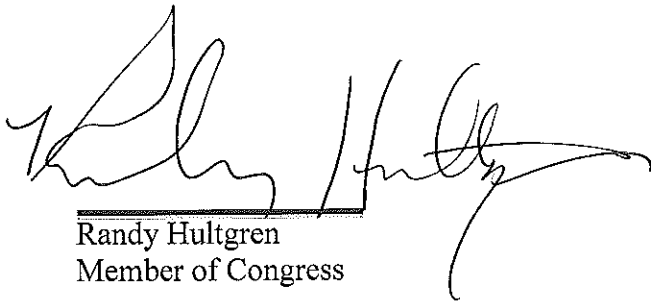

Kathy Hochul
Member of Congress


Bob Turner
Member of Congress

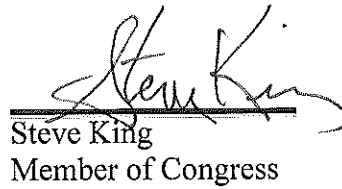

Gary C. Peters
Member of Congress


Lynn Jenkins
Member of Congress

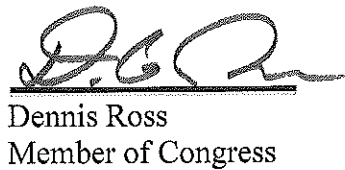

John Campbell
Member of Congress



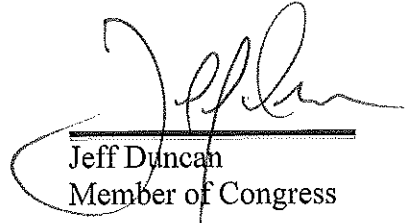
Randy Hultgren
Member of Congress



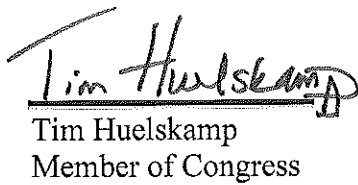
Steve King
Member of Congress



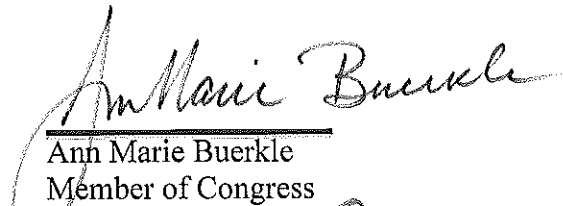
Dennis Ross
Member of Congress



Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



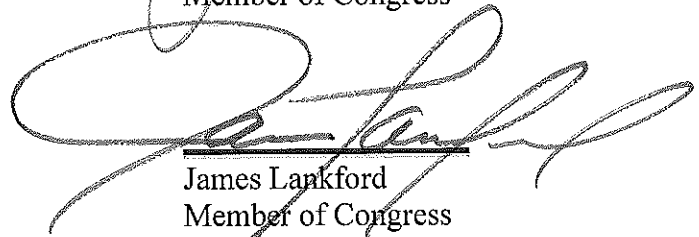
Tim Huelskamp
Member of Congress



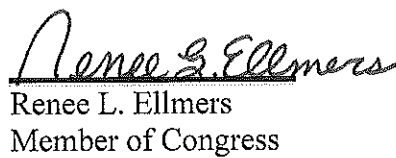
Ann Marie Buerkle
Member of Congress



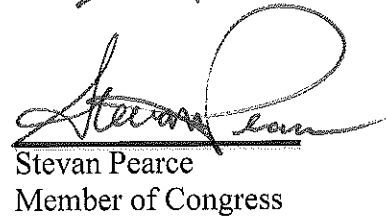
John R. Carter
Member of Congress



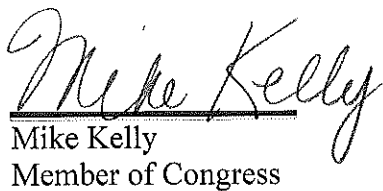
James Lankford
Member of Congress



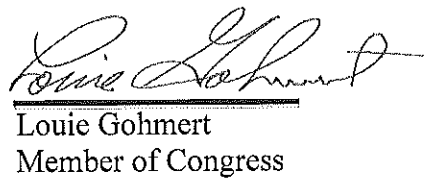
Renee L. Ellmers
Member of Congress



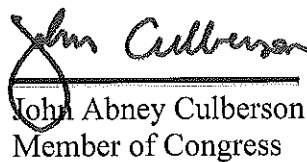
Stevan Pearce
Member of Congress



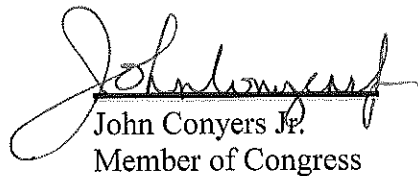
Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



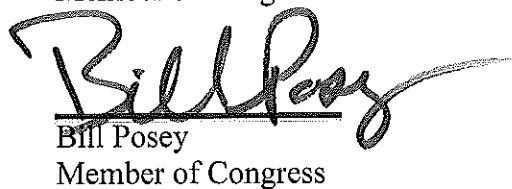
Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress



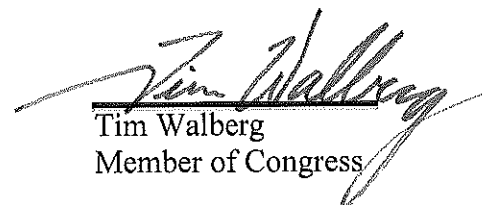
John Abney Culberson
Member of Congress




John Conyers Jr.
Member of Congress




Bill Posey
Member of Congress





Tim Walberg
Member of Congress



John Fleming
Member of Congress



Kevin Brady
Member of Congress



Mike Pompeo
Member of Congress



Paul C. Broun
Member of Congress



Michael K. Conaway
Member of Congress


Cynthia M. Lummis
Member of Congress


Mick Mulvaney
Member of Congress



Steve Chabot
Member of Congress



Darrell E. Issa
Member of Congress



Erik Paulsen
Member of Congress



Scott Garrett
Member of Congress


Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress


Sandy Adams
Member of Congress


Phil Gingrey
Member of Congress


Andy Harris
Member of Congress


Joe Barton
Member of Congress



Mike McIntyre
Member of Congress



Dana Rohrabacher
Member of Congress



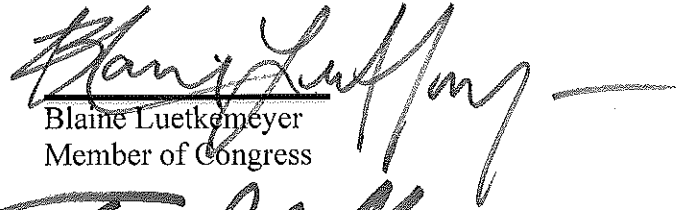
Dan Lipinski
Member of Congress



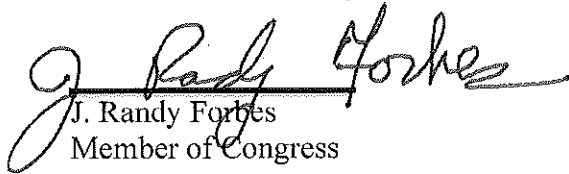
Ted Poe
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Blaine Luetkemeyer
Member of Congress



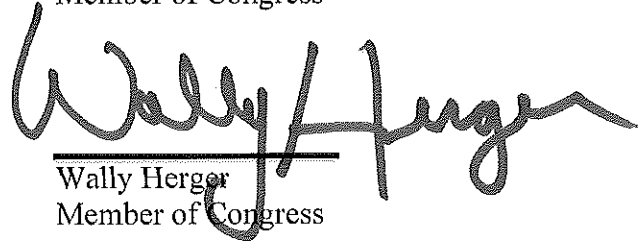
J. Randy Forbes
Member of Congress



Tim Griffin
Member of Congress



Joe Walsh
Member of Congress



Wally Herger
Member of Congress



Steve Southerland
Member of Congress