



SAMPLE LETTERS TO CONGRESS ON 4 INTERNATIONAL TREATIES

1- THE IRAN NUCLEAR “DEAL”

(use as much or as little of this letter as you wish to include)

Dear Representative/Senator _____

As your constituent from (city, state), I am writing you with grave concern about the United States’ rejection of the **Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)** otherwise known as the “Iran Nuclear Deal”. We have broken faith with our partners in this plan which was, according to regular inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), working well and Iran had not been enriching uranium or continuing its nuclear program. The Joint Plan had in fact made the world safer from nuclear threats on all sides. Without Iran actively pursuing a nuclear weapons program, Israel had no basis for their dire warnings about Iranian nuclear ambitions.

Our role in ramping up fears of Iranian nuclear capacity seems particularly ironic since the US handed Iranians the means to start a nuclear program during the time we were busy propping up the Shah. At that time the US was supporting and propping up the repressive Shah after playing a role in ousting Iran’s democratically elected prime minister in 1953.

In May 2019, after a barrage of media misinformation about this agreement and pressure from Israel, President Trump abandoned this 2015 plan and has increased the US economic sanctions on Iran. We continue our bullying attempts to prevent other countries from buying oil from Iran for example, not trading with Iran, further isolating the country. The US hopes that economic hardships will push Iranians towards a political uprising. But history shows when people feel their nation is being attacked they pull together “united we stand” style.

- These punishing sanctions have caused Iran to restart enriching uranium with the apparent goal of using it to make a nuclear bomb.

<https://www.armscontrol.org/blog/2019-07-09/p4-plus-1-iran-nuclear-deal-alert>

- While the nation's leaders remain unmoved by these sanctions, the people of Iran are suffering from lack of access to medications, food, and the parts to repair cars, buses, and financial insecurity as their currency devalues. "Savings in the banks have lost their value, real estate market and rents are going up and every day—I mean literally every single day—the prices of food items, fruits, dairy products, etcetera, is increasing," reports Tehran based political analyst Fereshteh Sadeghi. (Newsweek, Nov 15, 2018 <https://www.newsweek.com/do-us-sanctions-hurt-iran-everyday-people-suffer-most-1201954>)
- The others nations that signed this deal, many of whom are our long term global allies, are trying to deescalate tensions. Their evidence underscores reports of the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) asserting that the nuclear 'deal', while imperfect, was working and keeping the world safe.
- **We have to prevent Iran making a nuclear weapon; such a possibility might make it easier for Israel and Saudi Arabia to target Iran.**
- The United Nations has declared that severe sanctions that affect the ability of the general population to buy food and medicine are immoral and illegal, under international human rights law, forms of coercion.
- Iran has announced that it will restart its uranium enrichment program on the way to nuclear weapons capability. This is a HUGE step backward towards cataclysmic destruction for the planet.
- The escalation of tensions between Iran, Israel and Saudi Arabia are already being felt and will continue to impact the world market on petroleum. In September 2019 Saudi Arabian ARAMCO oil reserves were bombed, creating instability in oil prices and an economic impact that will affect everyone. While Saudi's claim Iran is responsible for the attack, this has not yet conclusively been proven. With the proliferation of false flag attacks in the world and proxy wars being provoked, we may never know for sure who was behind this.

It's clear that the way forward towards peace and away from nuclear threats must diverge from our current situation. The US must stop ramping up its economic and indirect war on Iran and its proxy war through Israel and Saudi Arabia. The Iranian people do not want war and neither do Americans who have been bled dry with their taxes diverted away from human services and basic needs of the American people.

Please use your influence to support a return of the US to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action in whatever form our international partners are able to agree on. Weaponizing economic sanctions for profit and oil expansion purposes must end. Reduce the sanctions that are punishing only the ordinary people of Iran and get the US back into the JCPOA.

Thank you very much.

2- THE INTERMEDIATE-RANGE NUCLEAR FORCES TREATY

(use as much or as little of this letter as you wish to include)

Dear Representative/Senator _____

(for House Representatives only: Please support House Bill 2419 to reduce spending on modernizing nuclear weapons and their delivery methods.)

Since 1987 the bilateral Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF) has prohibited both the US and Russia from possessing ground-launched missiles with ranges of 500-5,000km. That began to change after President GW Bush signaled that the US would not be bound by these treaties with Russia. After several recent years of finger pointing and US bases encroaching on Russia, creating an implicit threat to that nation, and provocative testing by Russia, President Trump pulled us out of this peace-keeping treaty on August 2nd, 2019. The US proudly tested a similar but sea-launched missile 17 days later in an arrogant and provocative show of strength. In retaliation Russian President Putin suspended his own country's obligations to the treaty shortly after August 2nd. Thus a new nuclear arms race is brewing, reversing the progress made by the treaty over the past 30 years, and the whole world will pay the price.

We still have time to prevent the worst from happening. **Congress can stop the production of new weapons that the INF Treaty prohibits.** The continued production of these weapons is spurring Russia and other countries to build more weapons and develop new capabilities, fueling a vicious cycle.

Instead of withdrawal, the U.S. and Russia should resume negotiations to resolve any concerns on either side. This President must return to a international collaboration and stop using bullying as a substitute for diplomacy.

The costs for maintaining and upgrading these weapons is obscene in the face of the extraordinary economic, human and infrastructure needs facing the US. In 2017 experts predicted a cost of \$1.2 trillion for maintaining, operating and modernizing these weapons

systems, which our best generals have characterized as largely unusable. That \$1.2 trillion (in 2017 dollars) includes \$800 billion to operate and sustain existing forces, and \$400 billion to modernize them, through 2046.

New F35 bombers, equipped to carry and deliver small nuclear weapons are estimated to cost between \$94 million (F-35A) and \$122 million (F-35B) for low-rate initial production run 10, though sustainment **cost** projections are as big a concern as production **costs** for a program that is expected to **cost** \$1.5 trillion over its 55-year lifespan.

Among systems that will be updated in the next three decades are the Navy's replacement for the Ohio-class nuclear submarine; the Air Force's B-21, a new bomber design capable of both conventional and nuclear strike; the Ground Based Strategic Deterrent, a replacement for the existing Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missiles; and the Long Range Stand-Off weapon, a new nuclear cruise missile.

New modernized nuclear weapons will be smaller, more portable and more at risk to fall into the hands of terrorists. Even now F35 bombers are being stored at military bases across the country in highly populated cities which will be targets in the event of attack.

At a time when American's water systems, energy grid, transportation system, bridge and tunnel infrastructure, education and health system are in need of significant investment, these expenditures are unconscionable.

I assert strongly that Homeland security should include efforts to preserve America's infrastructure, resources and invest in our educational future.

International collaboration and standing together against the threat of nuclear destruction is essential. If the US is really sincere about protecting itself and the world from nuclear attacks, Congress must instruct the President to rejoin the INF, re-sign and ratify the NPT, the **Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty**, and join the nations who supported the 1996 **Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty**. Because 5 states rejected the treaty it was never activated. The US should also honor the **START Treaty** with Russia signed by President Obama in 2010 which reduced nuclear weapons between Russia and the US to 1500 on each side.

For the sake of the planet and for our children and grandchildren, please use your influence to move our nation closer to peaceful cooperation and negotiations that move us away from the threat of nuclear weapons.

Thank you,

3- A KOREAN PEACE TREATY “The Treaty That Never Was”

(use as much or as little of this letter as you wish to include)

Dear Representative,

I am writing to ask for your support to end a long period of suffering and expense for the people of the Korean Peninsula and the people of the United States. I support the work of the **Korean Women’s Movement for Peace, Women Cross the DMZ, Nobel Women’s Initiative**, and Women’s International League for Peace & Freedom to advocate for an official end to the Korean War.

Please support House Resolution 152, introduced by Rep. Ro Khanna (D-Calif.), which calls for a formal end to the Korean War and the inclusion of women and civil society groups in the peace process. Please consider co-sponsoring this resolution with Representative Khanna and become a champion for peace (#KoreaPeaceChampion).

It’s estimated that as many as 300,000 people would die in the first few days of conventional fighting on the Korean Peninsula. Former Secretary of Defense James Mattis warned that a conflict with North Korea “would be probably the worst kind of fighting in most people’s lifetimes.”

Because of provisions in the U.S.-R.O.K. Mutual Defense Treaty of 1953 and the Sino-North Korean Mutual Aid and Cooperation Friendship Treaty of 1961, a war with North Korea could legally force the United States and China into direct armed conflict with each other, leading to a much larger regional war.

Finally I believe that this truce would be a powerful step towards denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula. North Korea has stated that the primary impetus for its drive to achieve nuclear capability has been the immense nuclear threat posed to it by the United States, and has made it clear that it will not give up its nuclear weapons until the U.S. drops its “hostile policies” against Pyongyang.

Women peacemakers and representatives of national governments are mobilizing for the negotiation and ratification of a peace treaty between the Koreas by 2020 and a disarmed Korean Peninsula. The Goals they are seeking include

- A formalized treaty or agreement and normalized relations between North and South Korea and the United States.
- Tangible denuclearization, removal of landmines, and reduction of bases/troops.
- Women’s voices, leadership and gender based analysis in the peace processes across government and civil society.
- Lifting of broad-based sanctions against North Korea, especially those impacting

humanitarian conditions.

- Redefined security from national security based on war and militarism to a feminist understanding of security centered on basic human needs and ecological sustainability.

These are goals I support and I ask you to use your influence to end this painful history and move our nation forward towards a cooperative peace between the US and a united Korea.

Finally a peace agreement between the U.S. and North Korea would provide an opportunity to revise U.S. foreign policy and its \$700 billion military budget, which could go toward domestic investments that would improve genuine human and ecological security. "Homeland Security" must include keeping our water drinkable, our bridges and tunnels safe, our food systems sustainable, our energy sustainable and our educational system and human services strong.

Thank you very much for your attention to my request.

Sincerely,

_____ .

4- THE VIENNA CONVENTION on Diplomatic Relations of 1961

Dear Representative/Senator _____

I am writing to you to express my deep disapproval of the US violation of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961, a treaty which protects the foreign embassies of nations.

When the United States took sides, and even went so far as to promote a leader in Venezuela (Guaido) who has no official status, in opposition to a democratically elected President (Maduro), we were wrong. And when Maduro's diplomatic delegation was called home from the Washington DC Embassy, and the US installed unelected Guaido's team of representatives, we did so by unauthorized entry into the Venezuela Mission in DC, and the hostile removal of peace activists who were under Maduro's protection.

The US clearly put its fingers on the scale of the Venezuelan crisis when it illegally entered the Venezuela Embassy in Washington DC in Spring 2019. While the administration of President Maduro is not without blame, he is still the elected representative of the people of Venezuela and they have been very outspoken in rejecting US intervention, both political and military.

The repercussions of this treaty violation could be dramatic since the US has

demonstrated that national sovereignty need not be honored. It places embassies of all nations at risk.

I am writing in support of those peace activists and urge you to work for their release and the dismissal of cases brought illegally against them. It takes courage to stand for democracy between the hostilities of two countries.

And I am writing also to ask that the US end its punishing weaponized sanctions on the people of Venezuela. They are suffering so that US oil companies and profiteers can realize their dreams of privatizing then controlling the rich oil reserves of Venezuela. That is the end game. We are punishing Venezuela for being an economy that puts people ahead of profits, which is anathema to the US vulture capitalism that currently governs our own economic and political system and dictates our foreign policy.

Some experts believe the igniting factor for the latest economic attacks against Venezuela was the country's rejection of the US Dollar in 2017. But America's long-standing suspicion of and opposition to democratically elected leaders who support a people-centered society and economy, rather than a profit-driven model is well rehearsed throughout Latin America. And after 40 years of US incursion, fostering corruption and our interference in elections and economic stability, the results are being seen in high refugee rates from those nations in the global south who have endured US imposed economic and political instability, as well as US training for authoritarian police forces.

On September 27th, 2019 the Vice President of Venezuela addressed the General Assembly at the United Nations with a scathing rebuke and evidence that the US is now fomenting a military attack on Venezuela, with trained mercenaries stationed in 4 camps along the Colombia border and welcomed by US puppet in Colombia, Ivan Duquez Marquez. Our last resort since a strong media campaign that misleads Americans about the political realities in Venezuela and weaponized economic sanctions have not yet resulted in the revolt and regime change the US hoped for.

Please use your influence to dismiss charges against the occupiers of the Venezuelan Embassy, to connect the refugee flight we are seeing to the decades of hegemony and imperialism the US has inflicted on the Global South, and to disarm the forces that would support military and continued disruption and instability in Venezuela. We can not afford, nor can the American people be party to, another baseless and wasteful war.

Sincerely yours
