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December 10, 2010

The Honorable Hillary Clinton
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Madam Secretary:

We are outraged to learn of reports that Iran is placing missiles in Venezuela and, if proven factual, we call on the State Department to take decisive and immediate action. Iran and Venezuela have a long history of partnership, from joint banks and collaboration with the Qods Force of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) to long standing oil and development contracts. Now, latest reports show that they plan to develop jointly-operated military bases in Venezuela and deploy medium range missiles to this site with the capability to reach American cities.

The consequences of such collaboration would be devastating and it is imperative that we have a plan in place to prevent this partnership from developing further. Venezuela must be added to the state sponsor of terrorism list to send a clear message that its current actions are unacceptable and will no longer be tolerated.

Venezuela and the government of Hugo Chavez have acted with impunity for too long, consorting with dangerous actors like Iran and Cuba, destabilizing democracy in Latin America, and posing a serious threat to the national security of the United States. It is past time that our government stands up to Hugo Chavez and his dangerous allies and make clear that we stand with those who share our values of freedom and family. By adding Venezuela as a state sponsor of terrorism, we will show that the United States does not tolerate any government who threatens our families, this nation and the security and prosperity we've worked so hard to achieve.

We call on the State Department to add Venezuela to the list of state sponsors of terrorism and launch an immediate investigation into Iranian activity in Venezuela. We look forward to your response and a prompt resolution to this urgent threat to our nation.

Sincerely,



CONNIE MACK
Member of Congress

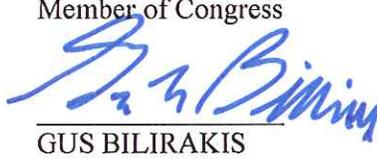


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