

FRANK R. LAUTENBERG

NEW JERSEY

COMMITTEES:

COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
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ENVIRONMENT AND
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GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 28, 2005

George W. Bush
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Bush,

Last night, the United States Senate unanimously adopted a resolution I introduced condemning the hateful remarks of the Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. The resolution also calls on you to repudiate his remarks. Leaders from Europe to Russia to Australia have done this, but your silence is puzzling and troubling. I urge you to condemn Mr. Ahmadinejad's offensive statement without further delay.

Speaking to four thousand students at a "World without Zionism" conference two days ago, the Iranian President said that "Israel must be wiped off the map." He then went on to call Israel a "disgraceful blot." The Iranian leader rejected the two-state solution to the Middle East crisis as a defeat for the Islamic world, adding that the "Roadmap" would be short-lived: "If we put it behind us successfully, God willing, it will pave the way for the destruction and the downfall of the Zionist regime." Finally, Mr. Ahmadinejad warned "Anybody who recognizes Israel will burn in the fire of the Islamic nations' fury."

Mr. Ahmadinejad made this statement just hours before a Palestinian suicide bomber from Islamic Jihad blew himself up in the small Israeli town of Hadera, killing five people and wounding more than 30. Islamic Jihad's murderers are supported and trained by Iran. The U.S. Department of State has designated Iran as a state-sponsor of terrorism that has repeatedly provided support for international acts of terror. In addition to Islamic Jihad, Iran sponsors Hezbollah, Hamas, the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, and the PFLP-GC by providing them with funding, training, weapons, and safe haven.

Mr. Ahmadinejad has spoken words that are certain to incite violence against the state of Israel and against Jews worldwide. Today, tens of thousands of Iranians staged

multiple anti-Israel demonstrations across the country, repeating calls by their leader for Israel to be destroyed.

Our message to the Iranians, and to other terrorist regimes in the region, must be clear, direct, and forceful: the United States will not tolerate this kind of incendiary rhetoric and the violence that results from it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank R. Lautenberg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'F' and a long, sweeping underline.