



August 23, 2016

Ambassador Samantha Power  
United States Mission to the United Nations  
799 United Nations Plaza  
New York, New York 10017-3505

Dear Ambassador Power:

It is my pleasure to strongly recommend Mr. Roozbeh Farahanipour for appointment as the United Nations (UN) Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

As a former member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia and current member of the Caucus on International Religious Freedom, I am well acquainted with Mr. Farahanipour and his insight as an international leader in the Iranian cultural renaissance movement. I am proud to rely on him as an invaluable advisor on all issues regarding the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. I consider Mr. Farahanipour a good friend and a great American.

Mr. Farahanipour escaped Iran in 1999 and received political asylum in the United States. Now based in the Iranian expatriate community of Los Angeles, he continues his activism by advising government officials in Washington, D.C. and his home state of California, as well as addressing students and faculty at universities across the nation. Most significantly, during the 2009 national Iranian uprising after allegations of an electoral coup in June, Mr. Farahanipour was active in attempting to facilitate the groundswell for a revolutionary overthrow of a regime that many had come to recognize as incapable of being reformed.

In an increasingly connected world, it is important to recognize that upheaval and unrest in the Middle East creates ripples that echo across the globe. Therefore, I embrace the opportunity to work with world leaders and international pro-democracy activist like Mr. Farahanipour to ensure a peaceful future in the Middle East and at home.

I strongly believe that Mr. Roozbeh Farahanipour's leadership and expertise qualifies him as an excellent candidate for appointment as the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Thank you for your consideration.

Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gus M. Bilirakis".

Gus M. Bilirakis  
Member of Congress