

January 15, 2026

Mr. Børge Brende
President and CEO
The World Economic Forum
Via email: borge.brende@weforum.org

Re: Iran's Regime's Participation at the World Economic Forum

Dear Mr. Brende:

On behalf of United Against Nuclear Iran ("UANI"¹), I write to you to clarify whether the Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran Abbas Araghchi or any other representative of the Iranian regime has been invited to the World Economic Forum at Davos taking place this month. If so, I urge you to rescind an invitation to Iranian officials, including Araghchi, to participate. The Financial Times has reported that the Forum issued an invitation to Araghchi for its annual meeting in January.²

Abbas Araghchi is a long-time member of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' (IRGC) Quds Force, a U.S.-designated Foreign Terrorist Organization responsible for orchestrating acts of terrorism across the globe.³ The IRGC provides direct support to the military arms of Hezbollah and Hamas—both considered terrorist organizations by the United States and the European Union—and employs brutal methods, including mass executions, beatings, and rape, to crush dissent within Iran and destabilize the Middle East and beyond. Araghchi has proudly and openly admitted his allegiance to the Guards and their efforts, at one point telling other IRGC members that, "the same IRGC commander who dressed you in IRGC uniform and gave you a weapon has also given me a suit and collared shirt and given me a political mission."⁴ This is not a man of diplomacy but a loyal operative of a regime that weaponizes terror and wields violence as state policy.

As you know, just this month, the Iranian regime has carried out what some believe to be the largest massacre in its history.⁵ Araghchi is a member of the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), which reportedly issued an order to use live fire on Iranian civilians protesting. Estimates suggest the regime killed at least 12,000 and up to 20,000 Iranians over the course of a few days in January as they exercised their fundamental rights to demonstrate against the Ayatollah and his tyranny.⁶ Beyond the fatalities, recent reports further highlight the severity of the human rights crisis, documenting 18,434 arrests and 1,134 individuals who sustained severe injuries.⁷ Iranian regime media has also broadcast at least 97 forced confessions, featuring handcuffed detainees with blurred faces coerced into admitting to "rioting" and "foreign plots" following reported physical and psychological torture.⁸

¹ United Against Nuclear Iran, "[About](#)."

² Financial Times, "[Ukraine's G7 allies to press Donald Trump in crunch talks at Davos](#)," January 2026.

³ Tehran Times, "[Araghchi hailed as former member of IRGC](#)," August 12, 2024.

⁴ Didban Iran, "[Abbas Araghchi](#)," January 3, 2024.

⁵ Iran International TV, "[At least 12,000 killed in Iran crackdown during internet blackout](#)," January 2026.

⁶ CBS News, "[Over 12,000 feared dead after Iran protests, as videos show bodies lined up at morgue](#)," January 2026.

⁷ Jerusalem Post, "[Iran Justice Minister: All protesters are now criminals](#)," January 14, 2026.

⁸ Associated Press, "[Iran has aired at least 97 coerced confessions, activists say](#)," January 13, 2026.



A screenshot of a forced confession video released through Iran's state broadcaster in early January.

Harrowing accounts have emerged of the Iranian regime's abuses since Iranians began protesting. According to The Guardian, an ophthalmologist in Tehran documented more than 400 eye injuries from gunshots in a single hospital, with evidence suggesting Iranian state suppression forces shot protesters' eyes and genitals.⁹ One girl was treated after being shot in her pelvic area.



Photos from Vahid Online Taken at the Kahrizak Forensic Medicine Center in Tehran on January 10, 2026

⁹ The Guardian, "[Hundreds of gunshot eye injuries found in one Iranian hospital amid brutal crackdown on protests,](#)" January 2026.

Hosting Iranian regime officials, such as Araghchi, who whitewash this record is deeply offensive and would be wholly inappropriate to platform at a Forum whose theme this year is “A Spirit of Dialogue.” Instead of dialogue, the Islamic Republic offered bullets to these brave Iranians.

Switzerland and the Forum would never consider inviting ISIS leadership to Davos, which engages in similar terror against civilians as the Iranian regime does to its own people. By the same token, it is grossly unacceptable to extend the same courtesy to the Islamic Republic. It is unconscionable and indefensible to grant Araghchi or any other Iranian regime official an invitation to participate at Davos to spew propaganda on behalf of a regime that has no legitimacy at home, and sows chaos across the globe through its network of proxy terrorism and violent subjugation. He would be visiting Davos, enjoying mingling with your guests, while his people have suffered from an internet blackout, mass murder, and the imminent threat of numerous executions.

Iran’s egregious behavior has not ended there. Last year, a Swiss national died under suspicious circumstances while in Iranian custody.¹⁰ This past summer, Swiss public television reported that Iranian espionage posed a growing threat to Swiss diplomats. Swiss public television also found that Swiss diplomat in Tehran Sylvia Brunner was pushed from the balcony of her apartment in May 2021 following a botched IRGC surveillance operation; a Swiss defense attaché died under mysterious circumstances after collapsing in a Tehran hotel in June 2023; and another local employee of the Swiss embassy was stabbed and shot in the hand while commuting to work.¹¹

At a time when the Iranian people are courageously standing up to their oppressive regime, an Iranian regime presence at Davos would send a dangerous message. It would tell the victims of the Iranian regime—political prisoners, dissidents, journalists, and innocent civilians—that their suffering is secondary to a facade of diplomacy. It would tell the attending partners of the Forum that their brands are being associated with a regime that kills its own people and tries to terrorize them with injuries like blinding. It would signal that while the Forum claims to champion trust and resilience, it is also willing to entertain emissaries of a government that sows division, destruction, and despair. Allowing Araghchi or another Iranian official to attend the Forum now would represent a betrayal to those who continue to stand against tyranny and terrorism.

I strongly urge you to clarify whether the Iranian regime will be in attendance. If so, I call on you to rescind their invitations to uphold the integrity of the Forum and its mission. Their presence at Davos would not foster dialogue or trust, but embolden a regime that thrives on deceit, division, and destruction. The credibility of the Forum and the values it seeks to advance demand that such voices be excluded.

Very truly yours,



Ambassador Mark D. Wallace

¹⁰ Reuters, “[Switzerland seeks answers from Iran after traveller dies in prison](#),” January 10, 2025.

¹¹ Jerusalem Post, “[Mysterious deaths in Tehran sparks concern over Swiss diplomats safety](#),” July 2025.

UANI is a not-for-profit, bi-partisan, advocacy group that seeks to prevent Iran from fulfilling its ambition to obtain nuclear weapons. UANI was founded in 2008 by Ambassador Mark D. Wallace, the late Ambassador Richard Holbrooke, and Middle East expert Dennis Ross. UANI's private sanctions campaigns and state and federal legislative initiatives focus on ending the economic and financial support of the Iranian regime by corporations until Iran verifiably abandons its drive for nuclear weapons, support for terrorism and gross human rights violations. Advisory Board consists of distinguished leaders in government, academia and business. See www.unitedagainstnucleariran.com/about/leadership.