



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

October 25, 2022

Secretary Janet Yellen
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Secretary Yellen,

I write to you to request that the U.S. Department of the Treasury take every step within its jurisdiction to support efforts to provide the Iranian people with Internet access and communications services. As you know, the Islamic Republic of Iran is violently cracking down on peaceful protests that have recently spread throughout the country in response to the death of Mahsa Amini, after she was arrested and detained by morality police officers. Reports put the total number of protestors killed by Iranian security forces in the dozens, if not hundreds. As the Iranian government moves to suppress all dissent, it has deliberately restricted the Iranian people's access to the Internet and cut off telecommunication services.

In 2014, the Treasury Department issued the General License (GL D-1) to authorize "certain services, software, and hardware incident to personal communications," in accordance with the policy of the United States Government to facilitate the free flow of information to Iranian citizens. In September 2022, the Treasury issued a General License (GL D-2) to further increase support for internet freedom in Iran by ensuring U.S. sanctions guidance is up to date with changes in modern technology since 2014. The updated license will authorize additional services, platforms, and software to assist the Iranian people. If a request for guidance or a license request to provide communications services or software to Iran is submitted, I ask that the Treasury Department review and approve it expeditiously.

Utilizing their right to freedom of expression, thousands of Iranians are protesting their government in as many as 80 cities. The United States must honor our commitment to democracy and human rights by ensuring they have access to the communication services and technologies they need to organize and exercise their fundamental rights. As such, I encourage your Department to submit a detailed report to Congress of all the requests for guidance and clarity from license applicants from September 16, 2022, when the protests began, until the end of the calendar year; a detailed report of all licensing requests your Department receives regarding the provision of Internet and communications services to Iranian civilians from September 16 to the end of the calendar year; and a detailed report of all licensing requests that are denied by your Department regarding the provisions of Internet and communications services

to Iranian civilians from September 16 until the end of the calendar year, as well as justification for why the requests were not approved.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests. Please feel free to reach out with any questions, and I look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Levin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent flourish at the end.

MIKE LEVIN
Member of Congress