



**B'NAI B'RITH
INTERNATIONAL**

His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York, NY 10017

Dear Mr. Secretary-General:

On behalf of B'nai B'rith International – the world's oldest and best-known Jewish humanitarian, advocacy and social action organization, with members in over 50 countries – we are writing to express our deep dismay at reports of your intention to participate in the upcoming summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) to be convened by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in Tehran later this month.

The Iranian regime, which is under steadily increasing international isolation due to its deplorable domestic human rights situation, financing of terrorist groups and illicit pursuit of nuclear weapons, hopes to use this summit and the presidency of NAM to gain some international legitimacy without having to curtail any of the abuses that have led to its international pariah status. Furthermore, President Ahmadinejad, who will serve as chairman of this summit, has frequently used past opportunities to speak before international fora to deny the Holocaust and call for the destruction of Israel, a U.N. member state. You will recall that President Ahmadinejad has often chosen to use such rhetoric at U.N. gatherings while you or other high-level U.N. officials are seated behind him.

This summit, however, is not a U.N.-sponsored gathering or meeting and, therefore, there should be no reason why the U.N. must be represented at all, let alone by its highest official. This meeting is intended to be a celebration of the start of Iran's NAM presidency, and your attendance only gives legitimacy to the Iranian regime. Iran has become only more belligerent in the past few months – as evidenced by the regime's obstructionism during briefly renewed nuclear negotiations with the P5+1 and a global trail of attempted terrorist attacks against Israeli and Jewish targets. The international community must pressure Iran to act according to international norms. Your trip to Tehran will be used as a propaganda tool by Iran, and will be seen as condoning the regime's belligerency.

We call on you to change course and announce that you will not attend this summit in Tehran.

Sincerely,

Allan J. Jacobs
President

Daniel S. Mariaschin
Executive Vice President