

Dear Colleagues,

As IFOR's Executive Director, I would like to draw your attention to the following. The Iran program of FOR USA www.forusa.org has been working toward reconciliation between Iran and the United States for almost four years now. FOR USA has developed a relationship with Iranians based on mutual respect in our efforts to create trust and engagement. In its short history, we have sent nine Civilian Diplomacy Delegations to Iran involving more than 120 participants, including five Europeans.

In this era of Islam-o-phobia (The new ban of building minarets in Switzerland and a mosque in Germany are distinct examples), as well as the fear of Islamic Iran becoming a nuclear power, we need to reconnect with Iran.

Our Governments—the United States and European (5+1 committee)—have shown they haven't come to their senses on how to deal with Iran. The new IAEA resolution last week and Iran's immediate reaction of "opening 10 new nuclear sites" did not reduce the tension, but rather added to it.

In this critical moment of our history we need a stronger voice for civil society and non-governmental organizations dedicated to peace and nonviolence. The International Fellowship Of Reconciliation could take a very important step in support of this direction.

FOR USA is interested in your availability for a conference that we would like to schedule for the second half of 2010. For the conference, we would like to ask all our colleagues in all IFOR branches to take a part and join as "mediators" in the conference.

To have the conference we need to create an active IFOR relationship with Iran. FOR USA would love to take this opportunity to introduce our other colleagues from all around the world to our Iranian counterparts and prospective attendees to such a conference.

In this respect we are inviting you to join a specific delegation of IFOR/FORUSA this coming February. The delegation will take 10 days and include Tehran, Qom, Isfahan and Shiraz. We will meet religious and political leaders and groups to establish our dialogue, which would continue in the proposed Reconciliation Conference.

For further information please contact:

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Yours in peace,

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