



MARYKNOLL OFFICE FOR GLOBAL CONCERNS
Peace, Social Justice and Integrity of Creation
www.maryknollogc.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 25, 2021

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President Biden: Please Rejoin the JCPOA

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, February 25, the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns [sent a letter](#), signed by 26 national Catholic organizations, to President Joe Biden and Secretary of State Antony Blinken, requesting that the United States offer unilateral sanctions relief to Iran as a show of good faith, in hopes of bringing Iran back to the table and salvaging the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), also known as the Iran nuclear deal. Pax Christi USA is also asking Catholics from across the United States to [sign a petition](#) with the same message.

Dan Moriarty, coordinator of the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns' Sustainable Pathways to Peace program, says:

“With this letter and the accompanying petition, we hope to impress upon President Biden that there is widespread Catholic support for lifting sanctions as a demonstration of good faith, to bring Iran back to the table. We are also involved in interfaith efforts to solicit congressional support for the same. We share the president’s desire to see Iran return to full compliance with the JCPOA, but we are concerned that Iranian leaders simply do not trust the United States as a negotiating partner, especially as sanctions inhibit Iran’s ability to address the COVID-19 pandemic. Iran was in full compliance with the deal when President Trump unilaterally pulled out and imposed sanctions. Now it is up to President Biden to offer unilateral sanctions relief. With Iranian elections only months away, time is of the essence. Our two countries surely have more issues to work out, but restoring the JCPOA provides a diplomatic foundation for future negotiations. As Pope Francis says, authentic reconciliation ‘is achieved in conflict, resolving it through dialogue.’ I pray that President Biden will hear our call, lift sanctions, and save this historic agreement.”

Johnny Zokovich, Executive Director of Pax Christi USA, adds:

“As the Biden administration seeks to undo the damage that the former president caused, re-engaging with Iran and the other signatories to the JCPOA is essential. An initial overture of sanctions relief toward Iran, especially as a humanitarian gesture amid this devastating pandemic, would be a good first step to rebuilding trust and laying the groundwork for a positive diplomatic solution.”

The Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns (MOGC) represents Maryknoll missionaries, who are Catholic men and women serving in impoverished communities around the world. The MOGC provides analysis and advocacy on issues of justice, peace and the integrity of creation that affect the countries and communities where Maryknoll missionaries serve.

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