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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **For Immediate Release:** | **Contact:** [Neal A. Patel](mailto:neal_patel@heller.senate.gov) | | February 2, 2017 | 202-224-6244 |   **Heller Highlights Need for Strong Leadership to  Combat Iran**  **(Washington, DC)** – Recently, U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) sent a letter to United States Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley calling for the United Nations to address Iran’s aggressive actions. The latest example is Iran’s ballistic missile test on January 29, 2017. After eight years of the past administration placating to this state sponsor of terrorism, Heller is looking to move forward with bold leadership that will hold Iran accountable for its actions.  A PDF copy of the letter can be found [here.](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/1acfb4ea-c0ec-499d-92c7-396af4beb4e1/Letter%20to%20Ambassador%20Haley.pdf)  **Full text of letter to Ambassador Nikki Haley**  February 1, 2017  Ambassador Nikki Haley  Department of State  2201 C St. NW  Washington, DC 20520  Dear Ambassador Haley:  As a member of the Senate Banking Committee, which has jurisdiction over sanctions policy, I write to you today about the testing of a ballistic missile by Iran on January 29, 2017, in explicit violation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231.  Under the former Obama Administration, these ballistic missile tests by Iran went unchecked, despite the United States’ ability to take these issues to the U.N. Security Council to hold Iran accountable.  As you begin your role as the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, I appreciate you swiftly addressing the most recent ballistic missile test by Iran and encourage you to utilize the same urgency for any future violations by Iran.  This ballistic missile test, along with all previous tests by Iran under the former Obama Administration, are a threat to the security of the U.S. and allies in the region like Israel. The previous U.N. Ambassador stated at a Congressional hearing on December 9, 2015, that “Iran has systematically ignored U.N. Security Council Resolutions over the life of the entire international security council regime.”  In light of this, I believe it is critical for the U.S. to show leadership at the U.N. and demonstrate its serious commitment to aggressively enforcing Iran’s obligations and investigating any possible instances of violations by Iran.  Given the Obama Administration’s failure to address violations in a timely manner, I respectfully request answers to the following questions and appreciate the leadership you’ve already shown on this issue.     1. Given the bureaucracy the U.S. has experienced at the U.N. in the past, what mechanisms does the U.S. have to reduce the time it takes for the U.N. Security Council to make a determination on a violation, including this most recent Iranian ballistic missile violations? 2. In the absence of U.N. action on Iran’s violations, what action can the U.S. take to hold Iran accountable for its ballistic missile tests?     Again, as a member of the Senate Banking Committee, I take seriously the oversight role Congress has in ensuring Iran is sanctioned for any violations of U.N. resolutions and the terms of the Iran nuclear agreement.  I appreciate your time and look forward to working together further to ensure the security of our nation.  Sincerely,    DEAN HELLER  U.S. Senator  ###  [http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/vendor/_skins/heller/images/newsletter/icon_fb.png](http://www.facebook.com/pages/US-Senator-Dean-Heller/325751330177) [http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/vendor/_skins/heller/images/newsletter/icon_tw.png](http://twitter.com/SenDeanHeller) [http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/vendor/_skins/heller/images/newsletter/icon_yt.png](http://www.youtube.com/user/SenDeanHeller) |