

(West Windsor) - U.S. Rep. Rush Holt today released the following statement following the Obama Administration's announcements that it will impose sanctions on Naftiran Intertrade Company for doing business in Iran's petroleum sector and on eight Iranian officials who share responsibility for the sustained and severe violation of human rights in Iran since the June 2009 disputed presidential election:

"I am pleased that the Administration is swiftly implementing the sanctions that Congress passed in June. While Iran continues to defy its obligations to the international community, these targeted sanctions are beginning to have an effect. Companies around the world are severing their business ties with Iran and those that fail to do so will face penalties that isolate them from the international business community. Equally important, the United States is taking action against those responsible for human rights abuses against ordinary Iranians.

At the United Nations last week, Iranian President Ahmadinejad once again chose to peddle fear and vicious anti-Semitism rather than articulate the true concerns and aspirations of Iranian citizens. Americans continue to stand with those in Iran who are fighting for a government that is truly representative of the people."

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