AMERICAN
IMMIGRATION
LAWYERS
ASSOCIATION

The Honorable Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Via email

January 15, 2026

RE: Recommendations on Protecting Individuals Impacted by the Iranian Crisis

Dear President Trump,

On behalf of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, we urge you to take immediate whole of government action to use the full range of immigration authorities available under U.S. law to ensure the safety and security of all people impacted by the current crisis in Iran. During the past two weeks, unrest and protest in Iran has led to the arrests and killings of thousands of Iranians. As an organization of more than 18,000 immigration lawyers, we are concerned about the safety of Americans and their family members in Iran, as well as Iranian nationals in the United States.

You have publicly expressed concerns about the "significant" number of killings of Iranian protestors, you have urged Iranians to "keep protesting", and you have demanded that they be treated with "humanity", with the promise that "help is on its way." These statements should be matched with concrete action. We urge you to take affirmative steps to ensure that at-risk individuals can access lawful pathways to safety in the United States - and that no one is forced to return to danger.

The State Department (DOS) has issued a Level 4 Travel Advisory for Iran, warning U.S. citizens "[d]o not travel to Iran for any reason. U.S. citizens in Iran should leave immediately. U.S. citizens are at risk due to terrorism, civil unrest, kidnapping, arbitrary detention of U.S. citizens, torture, and wrongful detention." Given these dire warnings, we urge the government take the following actions:

Inter-Government Agency Actions

- All U.S. Citizens and Lawful Permanent Residents and their family members should be provided assistance to ensure their departure from Iran.
- The Secretaries of Homeland Security and State should authorize Temporary Protected Status and/or Deferred Enforced Departure to provide temporary relief for Iranian nationals currently in the United States who cannot safely return to Iran.

<u>Department of State Actions</u>

- Despite Presidential Proclamation 10949 banning the processing of nonimmigrant and immigrant visas for Iranian nationals, DOS must expeditiously process the visas of Iranian nationals. Their visas should be processed at any U.S. consulate in the world they may safely reach.

<u>Department of Homeland Security Actions</u>

- USCIS should expedite the review and processing of all cases involving Iranian nationals, including but not limited to requests for humanitarian relief, waivers, nonimmigrant and immigrant petition processing, as well as parole.
- DHS should issue a Federal Register Notice declaring the current crisis in Iran as an emergent circumstance for granting Special Student Relief (SSR) for Iranian students.
- DHS should immediately place a temporary moratorium on removals of Iranian nationals in immigration custody should be assessed for release or release with any necessary conditions.
- The Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Office of the Principal Legal Advisor (OPLA) and Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) should robustly exercise prosecutorial discretion for pending removal cases involving Iranian nationals, including dismissal, termination, administrative closure, or stipulations to relief or facts such as country conditions for those with applications for relief.
- ERO should extend Orders of Supervision for Iranian nationals who may be approaching the end of their period of supervision.

We appreciate your urgent consideration of these recommendations and are available to discuss them with your staff. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Sharvari (Shev) Dalal-Dheini at sdalal-dheini@aila.org or Greg Chen at gchen@aila.org.

Sincerely,

Executive Director   President

THE AMERICAN IMMIGRATION LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

cc: Kristi Noem, Secretary Homeland Security

       Marco Rubio, Secretary of State