



Economic sanctions are against basic human rights on health

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Dear Sir,

The “Network of Iranian Nuclear Medicine Scientists” with members all around the world from different disciplines (Nuclear Medicine, Radiopharmacy, Health Physics) would like to inform the Nuclear Medicine community about the negative consequences of the recent policy of the current Administration of the United States against the people of Iran.

As healthcare givers, we are deeply concerned about the difficulties of Iranian Nuclear Medicine Services throughout the country to provide radiopharmaceuticals or spare parts for imaging devices.

Drugs and essential medicines are exempted from the sanctions, but harsh banking restrictions and the introduced secondary sanctions for companies doing business with Iran have made it nearly impossible for foreign companies to continue working in the country. Also, the domestically produced radiopharmaceuticals that need raw materials from outside of the country are facing shortages. Therefore, the activities of Nuclear Medicine Departments are greatly reduced and most probably, in the near future, will be completely stopped.

We strongly believe that lack of radiopharmaceutical materials for medical purposes is against basic human

rights on health, which endangers patients to a great extent.

Even if data are not yet available to quantify the exact effects of the new sanctions on Iranian people’s health, reports in the literature [1–3] show clearly the harmful effects of previous economic sanctions on availability of health care. We would like to emphasize the fact that Nuclear Medicine is an indispensable part of the multidisciplinary care of patients, and the shortage of radiopharmaceutical materials will have a devastating impact on the health of many Iranians living in the country.

The consequences of these sanctions are abundantly clear to everybody in the country, especially to healthcare givers, and are affecting the lives of many desperate patients who are entitled to receive the best possible care independent of ongoing politics.

We, therefore, request urgently international organizations, in particular the scientific communities, to protest against the Secondary Sanctions on Iran, especially with regard to medical and radiopharmaceutical materials.

We strongly hope that common sense and respect of human rights will allow all patients around the world to have access to the best medical care.

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Compliance with ethical standards

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