

September 16, 2013

Mark Zuckerberg
Chairman and Chief Executive
Facebook, Inc.
1601 Willow Rd
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Colin Stretch
General Counsel
Legal Department
Facebook, Inc.
1601 Willow Rd
Menlo Park, CA 94025

**Re: Criminal and Civil Liability of Facebook Relating to
Providing Services to The Government of Iran**

Dear Mr. Zuckerberg and Mr. Stretch,

Shurat HaDin—Israel Law Center, an Israeli organization dedicated to enforcing basic human rights through the legal system, represents victims of terrorism in courtrooms around the world.

It has come to our attention that Facebook, Inc. has recently commenced providing social media and associated services to 15 Ministers of the State of Iran. See <http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0.7340.L-4427460.00.html>

As I'm sure you are aware, the State and Government of Iran is under numerous sanctions by the United States government. Under various laws, regulations and Presidential Executive Orders administered by the US Department of Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) goods, technology, or services may not be exported, re-exported, sold or supplied, directly or indirectly, from the United States or by a U.S. person, wherever located, to Iran or the Government of Iran. See <http://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/sanctions/Programs/Documents/iran.pdf>

Please be advised that providing social media and other associated services to Ministers of the Government of Iran is illegal under the OFAC administered sanctions regime.

In addition, Iran's support of designated terrorist groups such as Hizbullah and Hamas may expose persons providing services to the Government of Iran to liability under the criminal and civil provisions of Chapter 113B, Title 18 United States Code, and of the criminal provisions of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, of numerous Executive Orders and of their implementing regulations. On April 4, 2009, Javed Iqbal, a New York businessman plead guilty to one count of providing satellite services to Al-Manar TV (a Hizbullah related entity) and was sentenced to five and half years in prison.

I also call your attention to the United States Supreme Court's recent ruling in the case of *Holder v. Humanitarian Law Project*, 561 U.S. ___, 130 S.Ct. 2705 (2010), which found that providing **any** assistance or support to terrorists is unlawful. Your provision of social media and associated services to the Iranian Government which is the world's number one state sponsor of terrorism would constitute the type of seemingly innocuous material support that would render your company and you personally criminally and civilly liable. This includes liability for future terrorist attacks carried out by Hizbullah, Hamas or other FTOs.

Many U.S. entities and individuals who have provided material support to terrorists have been sued by the terror victims and their families for aiding and abetting international terrorism. Many of these defendants now find themselves defending against multi-million dollar civil actions in federal courts around the United States. In addition, American corporations that provided material support to militant organizations in the Middle East are currently defendants in multi-million dollar civil actions in U.S. federal courts brought by the victims of these groups, and officers and principals of such corporations have also become defendants. *See e.g. Abecassis v. Wyatt*, 785 F.Supp.2d 614 (S.D.Tex. 2011); *Stern v. Islamic Republic of Iran*, 271 F.Supp.2d 286 (D.D.C. 2003), *Rubin v. Islamic Republic of Iran* 349 F.Supp.2d 1108 (2004).

In light of the above, we request that you immediately provide us written confirmation that Facebook, Inc. has permanently discontinued the provision of social media and associated services to the Government and State of Iran, including all Ministers of the State of Iran.

Absent such confirmation, we will seek all available relief and remedies against Facebook, Inc. in all relevant jurisdictions.

Very truly yours,



Nitsana Darshan-Leitner, Esq.

