

Institute for the Advancement of Justice & Human Rights

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Date: 25 August 2026

To: The Advocates for Human Rights

Via: hrights@advrights.org (verify on advrights.org on sending day)

Subject: The U.S. Universal Periodic Review record — a procedural request before 10 November

Attachments: Letter to the Office of the High Commissioner (stakeholder window); Letter to the President of the Human Rights Council (non-cooperation mandate)

Dear colleagues,

On 7 November 2025 your organization stated publicly that the United States' failure to appear at its scheduled review “threatens the integrity of the UPR, opening the door for other countries to stop participating.” We write because the concern you identified has a second, quieter consequence: the rescheduled review on 10 November 2026 will proceed on a civil-society record closed in early 2025 — while every other State at the fifty-third session had a stakeholder window closing 10 April 2026.

The Institute has written to the Office of the High Commissioner and to the President of the Human Rights Council asking that the window be reopened or, in the alternative, that the basis and locus of authority for the restriction be stated in writing. Both letters are attached.

We ask whether The Advocates would consider making the same request independently, in its own name. As a contributor across multiple 2025 joint submissions, your voice on this point is disinterested in a way ours cannot be — you are inside the record; we are not. A brief letter raising the equal-treatment question would carry weight that no excluded organization's request can.

Respectfully,

Cyrus Hazari

Director, Institute for the Advancement of Justice & Human Rights

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IAJ email to The Advocates for Human Rights Subject: The U.S. Universal Periodic Review record — a procedural request before 10 November

Attachments:

IAJ_Letter_OHCHR_Stakeholder_Window.pdf → <http://iaj.institute/publications/IAJ-COM-20260825-002-PUB.pdf>

IAJ_Letter_HRC_President.pdf → <http://iaj.institute/publications/IAJ-COM-20260824-002-PUB.pdf>

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