

cc: Secretary of State **Hillary Clinton**, Secretary of State Aide **Huma M. Abedin**; National Security Advisor **Thomas Donilon**; Deputy Secretary of Commerce **Rebecca M. Blank**; U.S. President's Chief of Staff **Jacob Lew**; U.S. Vice President's Chief of Staff **Bruce Reed**; Presidential Counselor **Peter Rouse**; Senior Adviser **Valerie Jarrett**; Senior Adviser **David A. Plouffe**; Senior Adviser **David Axelrod**. bcc: **50 media authorities**

To: President **Barack Obama** and Vice President **Joseph Biden**,  
The White House via Fax: 202-456-2461 and Postal Service  
From: [www.TolerancePark.org](http://www.TolerancePark.org) and [www.ToleranceMonument.org](http://www.ToleranceMonument.org)  
September 17, 2012

## **Re: Pope's message of Tolerance**

Dear Mr. President and Mr. Vice President,

The Pope, on his visit to Beirut on September 14, 2012, said that

**“there is always a danger of forgetting a fundamental aspect of liberty: Tolerance for others and the fact that human liberty is always shared liberty...”**

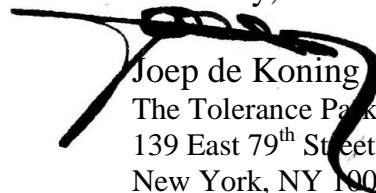
If the Pope proclaims to the world that “Tolerance is a fundamental aspect of Liberty” **why and how do you see “American liberty” to be different?**

You are well aware that, through silence, politicians have rejected the denotation of Tolerance as innate to American freedom. Our decade-long, copious requests for an explicit political endorsement for the message of Tolerance were all for naught.

If “Tolerance” is a forbidden word among the members of America's political class or absent from their political vocabulary, **is America conveying to the world thus that Intolerance is fundamental of American liberty?** Does that make sense?

Is a White House endorsement for the message of Tolerance indeed unattainable? Can we get at least confirmation that our request is unfeasible?

Sincerely,



Joep de Koning  
The Tolerance Park Foundation  
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[www.ToleranceMonument.org](http://www.ToleranceMonument.org)

cc: Secretary of State **Hillary Clinton**, Secretary of State Aide **Huma M. Abedin**; National Security Advisor **Thomas Donilon**; Deputy Secretary of Commerce **Rebecca M. Blank**; U.S. President's Chief of Staff **Jacob Lew**, U.S. Vice President's Chief of Staff **Bruce Reed**; Presidential Counselor **Peter Rouse**; Senior Advisor **David A. Plouffe**; Senior Adviser **David Axelrod**; Senior Adviser **Valerie Jarrett**. bcc: 50 media authorities

# **“Tolerance a Reciprocal Dynamic”**

To: President **Barack Obama** and Vice President **Joseph Biden**,  
The White House via Fax: 202-456-2461 and Postal Service  
From: [www.TolerancePark.org](http://www.TolerancePark.org) and [www.ToleranceMonument.org](http://www.ToleranceMonument.org)  
September 12, 2012  
Two pages

Dear Mr. President and Mr. Vice-President,

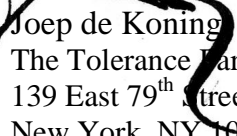
Wouldn't it be in America's interest to promulgate and promote Tolerance as the timeless cause of American freedom?

Isn't it time for America to let the world know the true meaning of liberty-for-all through Tolerance?

Why has it been so problematic to be supportive of America's fundamental message of Tolerance which lies at the foundation of American liberty? (See e.g., our request to you for an endorsement on October 9, 2009)

In view of the death of Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens and three other Americans in Benghazi, **is White House support for the message of Tolerance still a possibility?**

Sincerely,



Joep de Koning  
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**From someone's Facebook posting:**

**"Innocence of Muslims" is, judging from the trailer, probably the worst piece of film making since "Bambi meets Godzilla." But to kill and maim over opinions, no matter how misguided, is terrain only fanatic religious fundamentalists of ANY denomination walk on. How many more 9/11's, how many more Theo Van Gogh's and Salman Rushdie's does humanity need to wake up from the nightmare of intolerance and blind orthodoxy?**



August 2010 Via Postal Service; Board of Directors of Trust for Governors Island: Ronay Menschel, Chair; Amanda Burden; Elizabeth Berger; Doug Blonsky; Mark Costello; Patti Harris; Jeffrey H. Lynford; Julie Menin; Seth Pinsky; David Saltzman; Dennis Walcott; Judy Rapfogel; Carl Weisbrod; February 2011, bcc: Governor Andrew Cuomo, Lieutenant Governor Robert Duffy, Secretary to the Governor Steven Cohen; Chief of Staff of the Governor Benjamin Lawsky; Counsel to the Governor Mylan Denerstein; Counselor to the Governor, Andrew Zambelli; Senior Advisor to the Governor Larry S. Schwartz; Director of State Operations, Howard Glaser; Appointments Secretary, Leslie Leach; Chief Diversity Officer, Yrithya Dinzey-Flores; Special Counsel on Public Integrity and Ethics, Jeremy Creelan; Special Policy Adviser, Adam Cohen; Executive Deputy Secretary Joseph Perocco; Deputy Secretary for Policy and Programs James Maltras; Communications Director Rich Bamberger; Deputy Communications Director Josh Vlasto; March 2011: House Homeland Security Committee members; November 2011: Assemblyman Christopher Friend

**GOVERNORS ISLAND, ICONIC AMERICAN SYMBOL** \* — [WWW.TOLERANCEPARK.ORG](http://WWW.TOLERANCEPARK.ORG)  
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WWW.NATIONALHERITAGETRIANGLE.COM

The Hon. Barack H. Obama  
President of the United States of America  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

October 9, 2009

**Tolerance in Tomorrow**

Dear Mr. President,

Congratulations on today's announcement that you have been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. You deserve it as will be proven to mankind by the end of your presidency.

Doubtless, you will use this Prize to the greatest effect in the broad definition of world peace and in benefitting human freedom. The Prize will give you further credence and moral authority in your commitment to redefine America's relationship to the world.

In the past we have asked you for only **your endorsement of a universal value** which also happens to be a Constitutional right. Our goal is to have this civil and political ethic – tolerance – visualized on Governors Island in New York harbor because it is not only America's ultimate virtue and a central part of contemporary culture but also a legal-political imperative and critical to the success of America's, if not mankind's future. As part of the *"foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,"* the just precept of tolerance was adapted by the United Nations under its Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 under Article 26-2:

***"Education...shall promote...tolerance...among all nations, racial or religious groups."***

**We are sure that you will concur with the notion that tolerance is an active and moral dynamic in American freedom and entails reciprocity and reciprocal respect. The twin credos of tolerance and liberty thus comprise the conception of American freedom.**

We need **your endorsement of this ethical force** of tolerance which defines, sets limits and gives meaning to an otherwise undemanding "generic" or "static" liberty. Without your endorsement for the adhesive that dynamically shapes America's living mosaic, it would be hard to convince just three men at the state level to act in the interest of the national public and educational good.

Your receipt of the Nobel Peace Prize is fully compatible with your endorsement of this human ethic which would help foster a fraternity of nations while extolling America's vital role in advancing liberty in the world through the moral force of tolerance.

Will you give us your endorsement for this quintessentially American precept?



National Heritage Triangle

cc: The Hon. Rahm Emanuel, Ms. Mona Sutphen, Mr. Jim Messina, Mr. Sean Sweeney, Vice President Joseph Biden Jr., Mr. Ronald Klain, Mr. Jay Carney, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Ms. Cheryl Mills, Ms. Anne-Marie Slaughter, Ms. Lea Perez, Special Rep. Farah Pandith; Ms. Karen Chandler, Mr. Alec Ross, Mr. Jared Cohen; Mr. David Axelrod, Ms. Yvette Jarvis, Mr. Peter Rouse, Mr. Patrick Gaspard; Mr. Jonathan Favreau; Mr. Reggie Love, Ms. Katie Johnson, Ms. Lisa Brown; Press Secretary Robert Gibbs, Ms. Jen Psaki; Mr. David H. Pfiffer; Gregory Craig, Esq., Cassandra Butts, Esq., Mr. Phil Schirro, Mr. F. Michael Kelleher; Ms. Melody Barnes, Ms. Heather Higginbottom; Ms. Elizabeth Jarvis-Shean, Ms. Dana Singler, Mr. Corey Ealons, Mr. Luis Miranda; Special Envoy Rashad Hussain, Esq.; First Lady Michelle Obama; Susan Sher, Esq., Mr. David Medina, Ms. Melissa Winter, Ms. Jocelyn Frey, Mr. Lechtenberg, Ms. Camille Johnston, Ms. Katie McCormick Lelyveld, Ms. Dana Lewis, Mr. Secretary Ken Salazar, Inspector General Earl Devaney; U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, Jr., Ms. Loreita King; NYS Attorney General Andrew Cuomo, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan; National Security Advisor James Jones; Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke, Ms. Ellen Moran; General Services Administrator Paul Prouty, Mr. Barnaby Brasseux, Mr. Steve Ruggiero; bcc: American Ambassador Fay Hartog Levin; Dutch Council of State, Governing Dutch Party Leaders, Presidents Dutch Senate and House; Manhattan City Council Members Christine Quinn, Gale Brewer, Margaret Chin, Inez Dickens, Daniel Garodnick, Robert Jackson, Jessica Lappin, Melissa Mark-Viverito, Rosie Mendez, Ydanis Rodriguez; NYS Governor David Paterson; NYS Lieutenant Governor Richard Ravitch; Majority Leader NYS Senate Pedro Espada Jr.; NYS Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver; NYS Assemblyman Richard Brodsky; NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg; NYC First Deputy Mayor Patricia Harris; NYS Commission on Public Integrity members, Esq.; U.S. Senators Charles E. Schumer and Kirsten E. R. Gillibrand; 28 Members of the New York State Congressional Delegation; January 2011: White House Chief of Staff William Daley, Senior Adviser David Plouffe; NYS Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli; NYS First Deputy Comptroller Pete Gramis

Sincerely,

Joep de Koning  
President, The Tolerance Park Foundation

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[www.GovernorsIslandNationalSymbol.org](http://www.GovernorsIslandNationalSymbol.org)  
[www.GovernorsIslandTolerancePark.org](http://www.GovernorsIslandTolerancePark.org)  
[www.NationalHeritageTriangle.com](http://www.NationalHeritageTriangle.com)

\* THE TOLERANCE PARK FOUNDATION IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION WHICH SEEKS TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL HERITAGE TRIANGLE ENCOMPASSING AMERICA'S THREE PRIMARY VALUES IN NEW YORK HARBOR. ITS CORE MISSION IS TO PROTECT GOVERNORS ISLAND—NEW YORK STATE'S BIRTHPLACE—AS THE NATION'S OLDEST NATURAL HISTORIC SYMBOL (1624) BY RESTORING THE ISLAND TO ITS HISTORICAL, THEMATIC INTEGRITY THUS SUSTAINING ITS VITAL MESSAGE OF TOLERANCE AS AN ETHICAL FORCE AND MORAL DYNAMIC FOR THE BENEFIT OF FUTURE GENERATIONS: **THE LIFEBLOOD OF AMERICAN LIBERTY.**

OP-ED CONTRIBUTOR

## A Cruel and Unusual Record

By JIMMY CARTER

Published: June 24, 2012

THE United States is abandoning its role as the global champion of human rights.

[Revelations](#) that top officials are targeting people to be assassinated abroad, including American citizens, are only the most recent, disturbing proof of how far our nation's violation of human rights has extended. This development began after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and has been sanctioned and escalated by bipartisan executive and legislative actions, without dissent from the general public. As a result, our country can no longer speak with moral authority on these critical issues.

While the country has made mistakes in the past, the widespread abuse of human rights over the last decade has been a dramatic change from the past. With leadership from the United States, the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) was adopted in 1948 as "the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world." This was a bold and clear commitment that power would no longer serve as a cover to oppress or injure people, and it established equal rights of all people to life, liberty, security of person, equal protection of the law and freedom from torture, arbitrary detention or forced exile.

The declaration has been invoked by human rights activists and the international community to replace most of the world's dictatorships with democracies and to promote the rule of law in domestic and global affairs. It is disturbing that, instead of strengthening these principles, our government's counterterrorism policies are now clearly violating at least 10 of the declaration's 30 articles, including the prohibition against "cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

Recent legislation has made legal the president's right to detain a person indefinitely on suspicion of affiliation with terrorist organizations or "associated forces," a broad, vague power that can be abused without meaningful oversight from the courts or Congress (the law is currently being blocked by a federal judge). This law violates the right to freedom of expression and to be presumed innocent until proved guilty, two other rights enshrined in the declaration.

In addition to American citizens' being targeted for assassination or indefinite detention, recent laws have [canceled the restraints](#) in the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to allow unprecedented violations of our rights to privacy through warrantless wiretapping and

government mining of our electronic communications. Popular state laws permit detaining individuals because of their appearance, where they worship or with whom they associate.

Despite an arbitrary rule that any man killed by drones is declared an enemy terrorist, the death of nearby innocent women and children is accepted as inevitable. After more than 30 airstrikes on civilian homes this year in Afghanistan, President Hamid Karzai has demanded that such attacks end, but the practice continues in areas of Pakistan, Somalia and Yemen that are not in any war zone. We don't know how many hundreds of innocent civilians have been killed in these attacks, each one approved by the highest authorities in Washington. This would have been unthinkable in previous times.

These policies clearly affect American foreign policy. Top intelligence and military officials, as well as rights defenders in targeted areas, affirm that the great escalation in drone attacks has turned aggrieved families toward terrorist organizations, aroused civilian populations against us and permitted repressive governments to cite such actions to justify their own despotic behavior.

Meanwhile, the detention facility at [Guantánamo Bay](#), Cuba, now houses 169 prisoners. About half have been cleared for release, yet have little prospect of ever obtaining their freedom. American authorities have revealed that, in order to obtain confessions, some of the few being tried (only in military courts) have been tortured by waterboarding more than 100 times or intimidated with semiautomatic weapons, power drills or threats to sexually assault their mothers. Astoundingly, these facts cannot be used as a defense by the accused, because the government claims they occurred under the cover of "national security." Most of the other prisoners have no prospect of ever being charged or tried either.

At a time when popular revolutions are sweeping the globe, the United States should be strengthening, not weakening, basic rules of law and principles of justice enumerated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. But instead of making the world safer, America's violation of international human rights abets our enemies and alienates our friends.

As concerned citizens, we must persuade Washington to reverse course and regain moral leadership according to international human rights norms that we had officially adopted as our own and cherished throughout the years.

*[Jimmy Carter](#), the 39th president, is the founder of the Carter Center and the recipient of the 2002 Nobel Peace Prize.*