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## **CARDIN STATEMENT ON IRANIAN ELECTION**

*WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Senator Benjamin L. Cardin (D-MD), Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (U.S. Helsinki Commission), released the following statement upon reports of results in the Iran Presidential election.*

“I am deeply dismayed by reports that Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has been declared the winner of the Iran Presidential election. It is apparent that the deep flaws in this so-called election began well before the Iranian people began voting,” Senator Cardin said. “For Ahmadinejad and the ruling powers in Iran, it is clear that an ‘end justifies the means mentality’ prevails. There is no doubt whatsoever as to his unfitness as a leader. Regardless of the limited official scope of his duties, Ahmadinejad’s consistent pattern of noxious remarks and his belligerent attitude inject understandable tension around the Middle East and beyond. The fact that his apparent re-election has come through such an undemocratic election process underscores the danger the Iranian regime poses to the region and beyond.”

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