

National Inter-Agency Task Force on Iran

Preventing a Nuclear Iran: Information and Resources Toolkit

September 2009



National Inter-Agency Task Force on Iran

Recognizing the growing sense of urgency as Iran races toward nuclear weapons capability, the Conference of Presidents convened the Inter-Agency Task Force on Iran, to develop a coordinated approach that would maximize cooperation and utilization of resources.

We are grateful to all of our member national agencies that have contributed so much and worked diligently and intensively over the past months. We especially note the co-conveners of the Task Force: the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, the United Jewish Communities and NCSJ: Advocates on behalf of Jews in Russia, Ukraine, the Baltic States and Eurasia, who, along with the national member organizations, made possible the development of the full-scale advocacy mobilization to raise awareness about the urgency of preventing Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons. We thank the organizations who prepared the materials enclosed and others who have helped to implement these initiatives.

The following information and resources have been compiled to help address the issues and concerns about a nuclear Iran and provide action items on both a communal and national level.

The toolkit contents include:

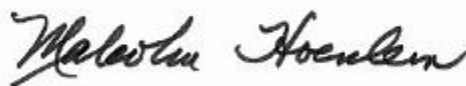
- The Task Force Mission Statement
- Backgrounders for Advocacy
- Legislative Initiatives
- Action Items
- Additional Resources

For further information, go to:

- Conference of Presidents, www.conferenceofpresidents.org
- United Against a Nuclear Iran (UANI), www.unitedagainstnucleariran.com
- UJC/JCPA Israel Advocacy Initiative, www.israeladvocacyinitiative.org
- Member organizations' web sites whose material is enclosed
- Additional Web links included in the Resources section of this toolkit



Alan P. Solow
Chairman



Malcolm Hoenlein
Executive Vice Chairman

Stand for Freedom in Iran Mission Statement

September 24, 2009

The human rights situation in Iran continues to be of great concern. It is extremely important, when world leaders gather in September for the UN General Assembly opening session, that a diverse group of Americans rally on behalf of freedom in Iran and against Iran's nuclear weapons program and its support for terrorism.

We urge you and your organization to participate in demonstrations planned for Thursday, September 24th across the country and abroad. Please check with your local Federation/JCRC for information. Please check with the World Jewish Congress for information about events abroad.

The main event will take place at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, across from the United Nations on September 24 at 12:00 noon when Iranian President Ahmadinejad is expected to be at the General Assembly meeting. Those within traveling distance to New York are urged to participate in the Stand for Freedom in Iran Rally. Those in other areas are urged to organize local demonstrations and programs. The lead organizers of the New York event are the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York and the UJA-Federation of New York. For further information, please call 212-983-4800 ext. 152. The theme of the rally will be "Solidarity for Freedom in Iran." The mission statement for the rally consists of five points:

- Freedom of assembly, freedom of expression and freedom of the press.
- Immediate cessation of human rights abuses and repression of its own people, the release of demonstrators from prisons and protection for minority communities
- End its incitement to hatred, violence, genocide and other threats against Israel, and support for terrorism
- Full compliance and cooperation by Iran with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and Security Council resolutions including an end to all uranium enrichment in Iran
- Prosecution of those responsible for the murder of Neda Agha-Soltan and the many other victims engaged in the recent protest
- Full compliance and cooperation by Iran with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and Security Council resolutions including an end to all uranium enrichment in Iran

We know that you share our concern regarding recent events and ongoing developments in Iran and your organization are dismayed, as we are, by the human rights abuses in Iran. We hope you will join this critical effort in support of freedom on September 24.

For more information about the Stand for Freedom in Iran Rally, go to www.standforfreedominiran.org.

Backgrounder I

The Iranian Nuclear Threat

Prepared by the Anti-Defamation League

A threat to America and American interests

- A nuclear-armed Iran poses a threat to America's closest allies in the Middle East. Beyond Israel, this list includes the Egypt, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain, and others.
- Iran has provided material and financial support to anti-U.S. forces in Iraq. According to U.S. State Department, Iran is already a major proliferator of conventional weapons and has exported rocket and missile technology to terrorist groups like Hezbollah and Hamas. If Iran were to acquire a nuclear arsenal, there is a threat that Tehran could then export its nuclear knowledge, technology, and material to irresponsible state and non-state actors alike.
- Iran already has a conventional weapons capability to hit U.S. and allied troops stationed in the Middle East and part of Europe. If Tehran were allowed to develop nuclear weapons, this threat would increase dramatically.
- A nuclear-armed Iran would likely spark a nuclear arms race in the Middle East that would further destabilize this volatile and vital region, undermining the international Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.
- Iran is one of the world's leading state sponsors of terrorism through its financial and operational support for groups such as Hamas, Hezbollah and others. Iran could potentially share its nuclear technology and know-how with extremist groups hostile to the United States and the West.
- While Iranian missiles can't yet reach America, Iran having a nuclear weapons capability can potentially directly threaten the United States and its inhabitants. Many analysts are concerned about the possibility of a nuclear weapon arriving in a cargo container at a major US port or the threat posed by a nuclear warhead launched off the US coast and detonated high above American air space.

How we know Iran is developing nuclear weapons

- Iran kept its nuclear program secret for 17 years even though international assistance would have been available to a civilian program.
- Since 2002, when Iran's covert program was exposed, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has reported on Iranian technical documents that concern warhead design, production of a uranium core for nuclear weapons, adaptation of missiles to carry nuclear warheads, missile warhead detonation at 1800 feet of altitude (which only makes sense for a nuclear weapon), and underground nuclear test silos.

- The November 2007 U.S. National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) on *Iran: Nuclear Intentions and Capabilities* confirmed the existence of a covert Iranian program to develop nuclear weapons and missiles to deliver them.
- While the NIE was widely misinterpreted as claiming that Iran ended its nuclear weapons program, it only claimed that nuclear warhead design was put on hold in 2003, while all other development was continuing.

The Iranian regime

- Since the revolution in 1979, Iran has been run by a Shia Islamist regime, which has violently suppressed internal dissent. Both President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who was initially elected in 2005, and Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the country's powerful Supreme Leader, are uncompromising hardliners.
- Iran is the world's number-one state sponsor of terrorism, and has provided financial support and training for organizations such as Hamas, Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad, and anti-U.S. insurgents in Iraq.
- The Iranian regime persecutes members of a wide range of minorities, social, and religious groups, including Christians, Bahais, homosexuals, women, labor activists, and student groups.
 - Under Iran's strict apostasy laws, conversion to Christianity is a crime punishable by death.
 - Homosexuality is illegal in Iran, and gay sex is considered a capital crime.
 - The Iranian government is escalating its attacks against women's rights activists
- After the disputed 2009 Iranian presidential elections, the government's security forces cracked down on peaceful demonstrations throughout the country, leading to the deaths of at least 20 and the arrest of more than 1,000 people.
- Iran's regime regularly calls Israel's demise, propagates anti-Semitism and denies the Holocaust.

Backgrounder II

Prepared by the Jewish Council For Public Affairs

Urgent efforts are required by the United States and the international community to prevent the Iranian regime from acquiring a nuclear weapons capability. President Obama has asserted that Iran's acquisition of a nuclear arms capacity is "unacceptable." The administration and the U.S. Congress, on both sides of the aisle, have demonstrated full recognition that this would pose a grave threat to fundamental U.S. national security interests and to world peace.

A nuclear-armed Iran would:

- Destabilize an already volatile Middle East and stimulate a nuclear arms race in the region;
- Create a very real risk that nuclear weapons technology might be shared with Al Qaeda, Hezbollah, Hamas and other extremist organizations with a long history of launching devastating terrorist attacks against targets in the United States, Western Europe, the Middle East and South America;
- Endanger the security of our allies in the region, particularly Israel, which has been threatened by Iranian leaders with annihilation, as well as moderate Sunni Arab nations, which have made their concerns known; and
- Undermine efforts to achieve Middle East peace, as an emboldened Iran would seek to strengthen rejectionist forces among the Palestinians and the wider Arab world and would make it less likely that moderate Arab regimes would seek to advance reconciliation with Israel.

Call to Action

- Urge the U.S. Administration to lead a concerted and robust international effort, utilizing a combination of strong diplomatic and economic measures, to persuade Tehran to fully cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency and to desist from its nuclear weapons initiative.
- Urge Congress to adopt new legislation expeditiously – including the Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act (IRPSA), the Iran Sanctions Enabling Act and other related bills – and we encourage the administration to take full advantage of these additional tools in order to advance the international effort.

There is no way to know for sure when Iran might cross the nuclear arms threshold, but we do know that the time to stop it from happening is rapidly running out.

We take very seriously the danger posed by a head of a government who says he wants to destroy Israel and who says the Holocaust did not occur. A government that has so little regard for human life, truth, and human rights as this one must not be entrusted to possess the most powerful weapons in the world.

Backgrounder III

False Linkage to the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict

Prepared by the World Jewish Congress

There is no linkage between the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and the Iranian determination to achieve nuclear capability, regional supremacy and Tehran's stated determination to destroy Israel.

- The Arab Israeli dispute pre-dated the Iranian nuclear crisis, and the conflict will likely continue regardless of what happens on the Iranian issue. The Palestinian Authority continues to categorically refuse to recognize Israel as a Jewish state in any borders today, as the Arab and Palestinian leadership refused in 1947 following the UN Partition Plan, with no consideration of Iran.
- The Iranian regime's interests and stated declarations have been driven by a religious and ideological commitment to destroy the Jewish state.
- The Iranian regime rejects the very notion of a U.S.- and Israeli-backed Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza and is working through its local proxy terror groups to subvert the West Bank as they did Gaza.
- Any near-term territorial concessions Israel would be pressured to make in the West Bank would be exploited by Iranian proxies Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades and cooperative Al Qaeda- inspired cells to transform the area into a second *Hamastan* as transpired in Gaza when the Israel withdrew its civilians and defense forces in September 2005.

Backgrounder IV

Adapted from The Israel Project

The points below can be used to help explain why Iran's quest for nuclear weapons poses an immediate and grave threat to the world.

1. **A “step-by-step” approach.**

As the nuclear threat advances, adopt an incremental approach to increasing the pressure on Iran.

2. **Keeping Iran non-nuclear is a *global* interest.**

The *whole world* benefits from halting Iran's ability to strike with nuclear weapons. The issue is not just protecting Israel. *Arab nations* also will be threatened by a nuclear Iran and strongly oppose Iran's nuclear aspirations.

3. **A policy of *prevention* can be tied into past experiences across the globe.**

Real, memorable examples of situations in which prevention made a difference validate and add credibility for this approach to Iran. For example, sanctions imposed by the United States against Libya helped end its weapons of mass destruction program. International and economic isolation as well as sanctions helped bring about the end of apartheid in South Africa. In both of these cases, non-violent methods were used to effect change.

4. **Iran's aggressive behavior.**

Examples of the Iranian regime's actions, particularly from the recent Iranian elections, underscore the violent and aggressive nature of the regime. The Iranian regime also denies basic freedoms to Iran's citizens, including freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, freedom of religion, and freedom of the press. The rights of women, workers, homosexuals, juveniles, religious and ethnic minorities, and political opposition are brutally suppressed.

5. **The impact of economic sanctions on Iran's economy.**

Economic sanctions have retarded Iran's economic growth, limited trade and discouraged foreign investment. U.S. and U.N. economic sanctions have denied Iran access to international markets and capital. Iran's large state-owned banks have had their profits curtailed as the U.S. Treasury has banned dealings with several Iranian banks, which has forced the Iranian government to recapitalize banks and forced many businesses to steer clear of Iran. Sanctions have also limited Iran's ability to improve its oil sector. Iran's fields are old and its installations are badly damaged. New exploration has been virtually non-existent since 1979.

Legislative Initiatives

Prepared by AIPAC and UANI

United Nations

Since December 2006, the UN Security Council has unanimously passed three resolutions imposing sanctions on Iran.

- **Resolution 1737** imposed sanctions against Iran for failing to stop its uranium enrichment program. It banned the supply of nuclear-related technology and froze the financial assets of key individuals and companies supporting its proliferation of sensitive nuclear activities or the development of nuclear-weapon delivery systems.
- **Resolution 1747** widened the scope of the UN's previous sanctions by banning Iran's arms exports and freezing the assets and restricting the travel of additional individual's engaged in the nuclear program.
- **Resolution 1803** required Iran to cease and desist from any and all uranium enrichment and also required Iran to stop any research and development associated with centrifuges and uranium enrichment.

United States

Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act (H.R. 2194 and S. 908)

- This **Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act (IRPSA)** is sponsored by House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Howard Berman (D-CA) and Ranking Member Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) and by Senators Evan Bayh (D-IN), John Kyl (R-AZ) and Joe Lieberman (I-CT). As of September 9, 2009, the legislation has 301 co-sponsors in the House and 73 co-sponsors in the Senate.
- This legislation would reinforce American diplomatic efforts with Iran with the threat of tougher sanctions if Iran rejects U.S. overtures and continues to enrich uranium in defiance of the international community.
- The legislation would severely limit Iran's ability to import and produce refined petroleum products, such as gasoline and diesel used in vehicles. The IRPSA would strengthen the president's authority to sanction entities providing refined petroleum to Iran, the shipping companies that ship refined petroleum to Iran, the insurance companies insuring and financing the provision of refined petroleum, and any entity assisting Iran in increasing its domestic refining capabilities. The legislation would prohibit any sanctioned entity from doing any business in the United States.
- Tehran imports nearly 40 percent of its gas and diesel needs. By limiting Iran's ability to import and produce refined petroleum products by imposing sanctions on companies helping Iran in these areas, this act could have a dramatic effect on Iran's economy.

Iran Sanctions Enabling Act (H.R. 1327 and S. 1065)

- The **Iran Sanctions Enabling Act of 2009** is sponsored by Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA) and Rep. Mark Kirk (R-IL) in the House and Sens. Evan Bayh (D-IN) and Sam Brownback (R-KS) in the Senate. As of September 9, 2009, the legislation has 238 co-sponsors in the House and 30 in the Senate. The legislation has passed out of committee in the House and should be brought to the House floor in the next several weeks.
- This legislation authorizes state and local governments to divest the assets of their pension funds or other investment funds under their control from companies known to be assisting Iran's energy sector, and protects fund managers who divest from such companies from potential lawsuits.
- Under U.S. law, pursuant to the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996, all U.S. and foreign companies that have invested more than \$20 million in Iran's energy sector in any given year since August 5, 1996, are liable to be sanctioned. It is, therefore, fiduciarily responsible to divest from these companies and invest in similar companies not liable for sanctions. The number of sanctionable companies is less than 20, and all are foreign.
- Legislation in a number of states has required state pension funds to review their investment portfolios to determine their direct holdings in companies investing in Iran's energy sector, and then to contact such companies in writing. If the companies do not commit to stop business in Iran, they will be divested from within a limited span of time. These laws are focused on Iran's energy sector because the revenue from Iran's oil and gas industry directly funds its nuclear program as well as its support for international terrorism. Additionally, the number of companies from which these states are asked to divest from is quite limited.
 - States with divestment laws are **Arizona, California, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, and Utah.**
 - States with divestment policies are **Colorado, Missouri, New York, Ohio, Texas, and Washington.**

Reduce Iranian Cyber-Suppression Act (H.R. 3284 and S. 1475)

- The **Reduce Iranian Cyber-Suppression Act** is sponsored by Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA) and Rep. Ed Royce (R-CA) in the House, and Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Sen. Lindsay Graham (R-SC) in the Senate. As of September 9, 2009, the legislation has three co-sponsors in the House and two in the Senate.
- The legislation, coming in the wake of the Iranian regime's use of technology to restrict the free flow of information in Iran and to monitor or disrupt such information by the people of Iran, was introduced shortly before the congressional August recess. It would prohibit the federal government from entering into contracts with companies that export sensitive technology to Iran

Iran Diplomatic Enhancement Act

- The **Iran Diplomatic Enhancement Act** was introduced by Representatives Mark Kirk (R-IL) and Brad Sherman (D-CA) prior to the Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act.
- The act seeks to back American efforts to engage with Iran by expanding the threat of economic sanctions to limit Iran's ability to import and produce refined petroleum.
- The act would require the President to impose two or more sanctions from a menu of penalties to any person or entity "engaged in an activity, including production, brokerage, insurance, and tanker delivery services, that could contribute to Iran's ability to import refined petroleum resources."

Iran Business Certification Act

- United Against Nuclear Iran (UANI) called on Congress to introduce legislation to ensure that U.S. taxpayer dollars are not paid to companies doing business with Iran. Under the terms of the "**Iran Business Certification Act**" (the "IBC Act"), any firm or business receiving federal taxpayer funds such as by stimulus spending, bailout support or government contracting will be required to certify that they are not engaged in any business with Iran.
- UANI also will work with companies to ensure that they voluntarily declare themselves to be free of Iranian business by executing the following pledge for publication in the Iran Business Registry.

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Memorandum

More Pressure on Iran Critical to Halting Nuclear Progress

Iran continues to advance its uranium enrichment capabilities and has so far failed to respond seriously to the U.S. offer of negotiations. The latest report from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) says Iran has stockpiled nearly enough low-enriched uranium (LEU) to produce two nuclear weapons and has failed to answer outstanding questions about the weaponization of its nuclear program. If Iran continues to defy the international community and to reject the West's package of talks and incentives, more robust economic, diplomatic and political sanctions will be needed to persuade Iran to end its illicit activity.

The latest IAEA report says Iran continues to expand its uranium enrichment program in defiance of three U.N. Security Council resolutions.

- Iran has now produced more than 3,300 pounds of low-enriched uranium that—if further enriched to a weapons-grade level—is nearly enough fuel for two nuclear weapons.
- Iran now has more than 8,300 centrifuges—machines that spin at supersonic speeds to enrich uranium needed to build a nuclear bomb. This represents a 33 percent increase compared to the number it had in February 2009.
- By increasing the number of centrifuges, Iran can reduce the time it needs to produce enough highly enriched uranium for nuclear weapons. With slight modifications to its existing centrifuges configuration, Iran could produce weapons grade uranium in three to six months.
- Iran also has increased the pace of its installation of centrifuges by 25 percent since May, adding more than 1,100 centrifuges to its Natanz facility in June and July.
- In addition, Iran has failed to provide explanations for military dimensions associated with its nuclear program. The IAEA, in its report released Aug. 28, criticized Iran for focusing on the “style and form” of the questions and evidence presented while providing limited answers or simple denials in response to other Agency queries.



Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has said Iran will not halt its nuclear program.

To date, Iran has not signaled that it is prepared to hold serious negotiations with the United States and Europe over its nuclear program.

- President Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton both set September as a deadline for an Iranian response to the administration's outreach proposal. Obama has specifically said that Iran must not be able to use negotiations as an excuse to continue its nuclear program in perpetuity.
- The Iranian regime has thus far spurned calls for diplomatic engagement with the United States. Iranian officials—including Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei—have questioned the honesty of the Obama administration's new diplomatic approach, likening it to “an extended cast-iron hand in a velvet glove.”
- If Iran reverses course and says it is willing to negotiate with the United States, officials need to continue keeping in mind Iran's history of using such talks to continue its nuclear program while staving off additional sanctions. Any negotiations must lead to a quick suspension of Iran's enrichment program—as required by the U.N. since 2006—or Iran must face additional sanctions.
- Iranian officials have been candid as to how they have exploited past negotiations with the West. Former lead Iranian negotiator Hassan Rowhani proudly claimed in a March 2006 speech that while “negotiating with the Europeans in Tehran, we were installing equipment at the Isfahan site.”

Sanctions have proved to be an effective way to bring additional political and economic pressure on the regime in Tehran.

- Recent signs of some Iranian cooperation with the IAEA underscore the important role sanctions play in pressuring the regime to alter its negative behavior. Additional sanctions on Tehran could be the key in driving Iran to the negotiating table and forcing it to suspend its uranium enrichment.
- Sanctions have put a heavy burden on the Iranian economy, which is already undermined by corruption and mismanagement. The inflation rate was recently as high as 25 percent and more than one in three Iranians aged 19 to 29 are unemployed.
- The threat of sanctions has dramatically curtailed new foreign investment in Iran's energy sector—Iran's refining sector alone needs more than \$25 billion in upgrades to fulfill its domestic needs.
- Sanctions are having an increasingly negative impact on the development of Iran's oil and gas infrastructure. Numerous energy companies have pulled out of Iran in recent years, specifically citing the possibility of international sanctions as “too risky.”

Increasing sanctions on Iran—including its ability to import gasoline—will play a crucial role in forcing the regime to abide by U.N. demands.

- The United States should lead an international diplomatic effort to prohibit the export to Iran of refined petroleum products, a move Obama backed during the campaign.
- With Iran forced to import as much as 40 percent of its gasoline, limiting access to such products would have a dramatic economic effect and weigh heavily on the regime's domestic popularity.
- Iran's gasoline consumption is growing by about six percent per year despite a rationing scheme in place for the past two years. This rise in consumption is outpacing the rate at which the regime is able to upgrade its antiquated oil and gas infrastructure, putting additional strain on the economy and making sanctions more likely to have an impact.
- Restricting Iran's ability to import refined petroleum products could have potentially disastrous political ramifications for the regime's stability. In the summer of 2007, riots followed Tehran's decision to ration gasoline supplies.
- The United States should implement current law by sanctioning foreign energy firms investing more than \$20 million in Iran's energy sector. Sanctioning one of these companies would have a chilling effect on the others and would be a huge setback for Iran's future economic outlook.

- The United States should immediately sanction the Central Bank of Iran as well as banks that continue to conduct transactions with Iranian banks already subject to U.S. sanctions. The United States should also immediately sanction any foreign entity continuing to do business with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines or any other entity subject to U.S. sanctions.

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Issue Brief

The Importance to America of Preventing a Nuclear Iran

Iran's possession of a nuclear weapons capability would have devastating consequences for U.S. interests in the Middle East and fundamentally alter the strategic balance of the region. Preventing a nuclear-armed Iran is critical to preserving American strategic credibility, protecting American citizens from the threat of nuclear proliferation and supporting efforts to secure an Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement.

A Nuclear Arms Race

Iran's acquisition of nuclear weapons would likely touch off a regional nuclear-arms race among other Middle Eastern countries. Fourteen separate Arab states over the last two years have expressed new-found interest in "peaceful" nuclear programs. It is hard to imagine that major Arab powers like Egypt and Saudi Arabia would not seek to develop their own nuclear capabilities to offset Iran.



Iran is working on ballistic missile that would put the United States within striking distance.

A Global Nuclear Non-Proliferation Regime

If Iran successfully acquires nuclear weapons despite international sanctions and Security Council resolutions, it is likely to mark the death knell of the global non-proliferation regime. States around the world would be unlikely to remain non-nuclear if nuclear weapons spread in the volatile and unstable Middle East. A world in which nuclear weapons have spread will be a much more dangerous place for the United States and the international community, exponentially increasing the likelihood that such weapons might actually be used.

Regional Stability

Iran's acquisition of nuclear weapons alters the strategic balance of the Middle East, a vital region key to U.S. national security interests. Possession of nuclear weapons would embolden Iran to implement its radical foreign policy agenda by furthering its support for its terror sponsoring allies: Syria, Hamas and Hizballah, which are actively working to undermine U.S. peace efforts in the region. These allies would also be reinforced by the belief that a nuclear Iran would be able to deter outside powers from responding to terrorist actions. A nuclear Iran would jeopardize the world's two most vital sources of energy: the Persian Gulf and the Caspian Basin.

Achieving U.S. Regional Objectives

A radical, nuclear-weapons possessing Iran will make it much more difficult for the United States to achieve its goals in the Middle East – including the promotion of peace and human rights. With nuclear weapons, Iran will be in a much better position to oppose Arab-Israeli peace, to impose its influence throughout the region, and to ensure regime survival in Tehran. Even as some Arab states sought a nuclear capability of their own, they and others would likely seek accommodation with Iran. Its influence in the global oil market would also likely increase, allowing Tehran to threaten Western economies by attempting to manipulate the global oil market and bully other OPEC producers to reduce petroleum availability, forcing a surge in oil prices.

Protection of American Allies and Citizens

It is certainly not beyond doubt that Iran's apocalyptic regime could actually use nuclear weapons against American allies or U.S. citizens, either by miscalculation or design. Iran's regime has already demonstrated its willingness to sacrifice large numbers of its own people to achieve regime objectives, making deterrence a risky proposition. Iran has also demonstrated an interest in the acquisition of long-range and ultimately intercontinental ballistic missiles that could reach U.S. territory.

Preserving American Strategic Credibility

Failure to prevent Iran from achieving nuclear weapons capability would erode American prestige and reputation in the Middle East. The United States has long been perceived as the most important single guarantor of regional security. This may well not be the case in a Middle East under an Iranian nuclear umbrella.

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Bill Summary

Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act of 2009 (H.R. 2194 and S. 908)

More than two-thirds of both chambers of Congress have cosponsored legislation to enhance and strengthen American efforts to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapons capability. The legislation would reinforce American diplomacy with the threat of tougher sanctions if Iran rejects U.S. overtures and continues to enrich uranium in defiance of the international community. The legislation, introduced in May in the House by House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Howard Berman (D-CA) and Ranking Member Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) and in the Senate by a broad group of 27 senators led by Sens. Evan Bayh (D-IN), Jon Kyl (R-AZ) and Joseph Lieberman (I-CT). The bill now has 295 cosponsors in the House and 73 cosponsors in the Senate.

Bill Aims to Limit Iran's Ability to Import, Produce Refined Petroleum

The Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act (IRPSA) would limit Iran's ability to import and produce refined petroleum products (e.g. gasoline and diesel used in vehicles). The bill would strengthen the president's authority to impose sanctions on companies providing refined petroleum to Iran or helping Iran expand its own refining capacity. Shipping companies that transport the refined petroleum to Iran and their insurers are also targeted by the legislation.

IRPSA would severely limit Iran's access to and dramatically raise the price for refined petroleum within Iran. This could have a dramatic effect on the Iranian economy because Iran imports about 40 percent of its refined petroleum. IRPSA would force Tehran to confront a real choice: continue its illicit nuclear program and risk economic ruin or suspend the program and open the door to relief from sanctions.

During the 2008 presidential campaign, then-Senator Barack Obama backed such a move, saying, "if we can prevent them from importing the gasoline that they need ... that starts changing their cost-benefit analysis. That starts putting the squeeze on them."

Key Provisions:

- Strengthens the president's authority to impose sanctions on any entity that provides Iran with refined petroleum resources or engages in activity that could contribute to Iran's ability to import such resources, including:
 - Providing ships or shipping services to deliver refined petroleum to Iran
 - Providing insurance or reinsurance for such activity

- Financing or brokering such activity
 - Providing machine components to maintain or expand Iran's refining capacity
- Effectively prevents such entities from doing business in the United States by:
 - Prohibiting the entities from carrying out any financial transactions in U.S. dollars
 - Barring any U.S. person or financial institution from carrying out any transaction involving a sanctioned entity
 - Freezing any assets the entities may have under the jurisdiction of the United States
- Requires the president to report within 90 days and every six months thereafter regarding any person who has:
 - Provided Iran with refined petroleum
 - Engaged in activity that could contribute to Iran's ability to import refined petroleum resources
 - Sold, leased, or provided to Iran any goods, services, or technology that would allow Iran to maintain or expand its domestic production of refined petroleum resources
- Urges the president to impose sanctions on the Central Bank of Iran and any financial institution engaged in proliferation activities or support of terrorist groups.

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The Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act Frequently Asked Questions

As Iran continues to defy international demands to suspend its nuclear program and refuses to enter negotiations with the international community, dramatic new sanctions will be needed to press Tehran to suspend its illicit enrichment of uranium. The Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act seeks to increase pressure on Iran by limiting Tehran's ability to import and produce refined petroleum products such as gasoline and diesel fuel. With Iran continuing to advance its nuclear program, it must be presented with a real choice now: continue its nuclear program or face crippling sanctions.

Q: What is the Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act?

A: The Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act is a bill containing provisions aimed at supporting diplomatic engagement with Iran and granting strong bipartisan backing for the president to implement tougher sanctions if Iran fails to suspend its nuclear program.

The legislation seeks to limit Iran's ability to import and produce refined petroleum (such as gasoline used in vehicles) by making clear the president's authority to impose sanctions on companies providing refined petroleum to Iran, or helping Iran expand its own refining capacity. Shipping companies that transport the refined petroleum to Iran and their insurers are also targeted by the legislation.



The bill would restrict Iran's ability to import refined petroleum products that are critical for its production of oil and transportation.

The legislation does not call for, require, or necessitate a blockade of Iran or any use of military force. Rather, the bill seeks to leverage private market forces by forcing companies to choose between doing business with the United States or with Iran. Companies working with Iran on the refined petroleum-related activities would be barred from conducting any business in the United States. For banks, shipping and insurance companies that have large U.S. investments or do considerable business in the

United States, the risk of losing access to the American market would almost certainly cause them to end their activity in Iran.

Q. Will a naval blockade be required to prevent Iran from importing refined petroleum?

A. No. The sanctions envisioned by Congress seek to leverage private market forces to compel companies to decide between doing business with the United States or with Iran. No naval or other forces are needed to enforce such a sanctions regime. Companies faced with the stark reality of losing access to the U.S. market would simply end their business dealings with Iran.

While it may be difficult to stop all refined petroleum exports to Iran, this is not needed for the sanctions to be effective. Reducing Iran's oil imports by half would still result in the loss of 20 percent of Iran's gasoline supply. Further, with fewer companies willing to do business with Iran, the increased costs those remaining companies will need to charge to cover added risk will have substantial financial repercussions for the Iranian regime.

Q. Why is it so important for the United States to increase sanctions on Iran now as the regime is in turmoil?

A. Time is of the essence to stop Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapons capability. The world cannot wait for the political situation in Iran to unfold before dealing with the threat of a nuclear-armed Iran. In the chaotic aftermath of the recent disputed presidential election, Iran has not put its nuclear weapons pursuit on hold. Deferring efforts to address the threat of a nuclear-armed Iran will only allow Iran to achieve increased capabilities, making a successful resolution of the nuclear issue that much harder.

Nobody knows how long it will take for the ongoing turmoil in Iran to reach a resolution. The present regime could stay in power for another six months, a year, or indefinitely, allowing it to reach its goal of a nuclear weapons capability. If Iran fails to accept the U.S. offer of serious engagement and suspend its uranium enrichment, sanctions will be the next best way to press the regime to change course. A crippling sanctions regime would force Iran's leaders to confront a real choice: continue the nuclear program or face the collapse of Iran's economy and possibly the loss of their own power.

Q. What is the status of Iran's nuclear program?

A. Iran is rapidly moving toward a nuclear weapons capability, aggressively pursuing a uranium enrichment program that could give the regime the ability to produce a nuclear weapon as early as next year.

Iran increased the number of installed centrifuges in its Natanz enrichment facility by 30 percent between February and May 2009 to more than 7,000, according to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). This number, according to experts, is enough to produce sufficient highly enriched uranium for up to two nuclear bombs a year. Today, Iran has already produced nearly 3,000 pounds of low enriched uranium that—if further enriched to a weapons-grade level—is more than sufficient for one first-generation nuclear device.

Within several months, Iran could raise the enrichment level of its uranium stockpile to weapons-grade using its existing centrifuges. The IAEA also has reported that Iran is continuing its work testing more advanced centrifuge designs in order to reach its ultimate goal of 54,000 operational centrifuges, which represents an industrial enrichment capability, and providing Iran with the capability to produce enough highly enriched uranium to make up to fifty nuclear weapons a year. Iran is also developing and

deploying an increasingly advanced arsenal of long-range ballistic missiles ideal for delivering atomic warheads.

Q. Won't additional sanctions undermine opposition protestors and provide an excuse for the current regime to continue its repression?

A. The current regime in Iran has long blamed its internal problems on outside interference from the West. There is no doubt the regime will continue to do so regardless of whether sanctions are increased or decreased. However, the people of Iran have largely ignored this argument. Recent attempts to blame the upheaval resulting from the Iranian presidential election on Western interference have fallen on deaf ears as protests continue. Opposition leaders have blamed Iran's current isolation and economic difficulties on their own leadership's ineptitude. The Iranian people, moreover, are well aware of the corruption that exists among the ruling clerics. There is no reason to believe that additional sanctions will result in increased support for the regime. The people of Iran—especially in light of the brutal crackdown—are more likely to oppose the regime, not rally around it.

Q: Does the legislation punish close American allies?

A: The leaders of our major allies, including France, Britain, and Germany, have all recently spoken of the need for much tougher sanctions if engagement does not succeed. On August 21, 2009, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown stated, "If there is no further progress immediately, then I believe the world will have to look at stepping up sanctions against Iran as a matter of priority." On the same day, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said, "If Iran got atomic weapons it would a dangerous situation. That is why sanctions would be justified." French President Nicolas Sarkozy echoed these sentiments, saying Aug. 26 that he would press for tougher sanctions on Iran if the Islamic Republic refuses to halt its illicit nuclear work. "It is the same leaders in Iran who say that the nuclear program is peaceful and that the elections were honest. Who can believe them?" Sarkozy said.

U.S. diplomacy is aimed at imposing such sanctions with the multilateral cooperation of our allies. The sanctions in the legislation would be imposed only if current diplomatic efforts fail and foreign companies continue to provide refined petroleum to Iran. Iran poses a strategic threat not only to the United States, but to Europe and the entire world as well. With Iran continuing to defy the international community, the Europeans should continue to step up their own efforts to put economic pressure on Iran. Many European nations have already begun to cut their investments in Iran and limit their trade. Scores of European and international banks, unwilling to risk heavy fines and the possible loss of access to U.S. financial markets, have ceased or limited transactions with Iran. Past U.S. sanctions legislation has been managed by the executive branch to avoid alienating our European allies, and the current legislation provides the president with the flexibility he would require.

Q. Iran has undertaken a massive campaign to upgrade its domestic refining capacity. Doesn't this render gasoline sanctions obsolete?

A. It is true that Iran has undertaken an intensive campaign to upgrade its domestic refining capacity to eliminate the vulnerability it faces from sanctions targeting refined petroleum imports. However, this campaign, which is several years old, has yet to significantly increase Iran's gasoline production and it is questionable if it ever will. Current refinery projects are years behind schedule and will take several more years to complete. Further, despite rationing gasoline, Iran is expected to see a two to six percent annual increase in gasoline demand for the foreseeable future, making even more new refining capacity necessary.

The Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act specifically targets Iran's expansion of its domestic refining capacity by imposing sanctions on any company that helps Iran develop its capabilities. Much of the technology needed to upgrade and expand Iran's refineries comes from Western companies that are unlikely to continue their activity in Iran when faced with the potential loss of access to the U.S. market. While China has announced plans to invest in Iran's refinery sector, it is unlikely to greatly affect Iran's gasoline production levels since China does not have the technical or operational capability to carry out such a major program.

The bill also targets any bank or financial institution providing credit or financing for any refinery project or the export of material for such refineries, thus reducing the likelihood of significant refining expansion.

Finally, even if Iran succeeds in expanding its domestic refining capacity to meet its internal needs, it will take years and require expending massive financial resources. The mere talk of sanctions has already forced Iran to spend billions of dollars attempting to expand domestic production.

Q. Won't Russia and China supply Iran with refined petroleum if the U.S imposes sanctions?

A. While the support of China and Russia for increased sanctions is preferable, it is not needed to successfully limit Iran's ability to import refined petroleum. No Security Council resolution is needed to carry out sanctions, as the initiative seeks to leverage private market forces to force companies to choose between doing business with the United States or with Iran. Neither Russia nor China has the spare capacity of refined petroleum to make up for the loss of other international suppliers. Even if it had the capacity, China, with its own internal demands for petroleum, would be unlikely to siphon gasoline to Iran at the expense of its own economy.

Even if Tehran is able to acquire some refined petroleum, it is likely to be at substantially increased cost as Iran will be forced to carry out much of the importation itself using its own ships and providing its own insurance. If foreign companies are willing to help Iran, they will likely charge increased rates to sell, ship and insure the petroleum to compensate for the increased risk they face. And the regime will be forced to further reduce already-rationed gasoline supplies, risking the ire of its citizens.

Q. Does it make sense to sanction gasoline imports since Iran spends so much money subsidizing the sale of imported gasoline?

A. Any savings Iran achieves by not having to import refined petroleum will be lost by the resulting drop in the amount of oil available for export. Iran's subsidization of gasoline prices is a huge burden on the regime that only increases as it produces more domestically. The revenue lost by Iran due to the sale of subsidized gasoline during 2007-2008 was nearly \$32 billion, or 11.2 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). If Iran produced 100 percent of its gasoline domestically and sold that gasoline at subsidized prices, it would cost the regime more than 18 percent of its GDP—a higher percentage of GDP than the United States spends on health care in a year.

Further, if Iran succeeds in expanding its domestic refining capacity to meet its internal needs, it will have done so only after expending a massive amount of capital. The mere talk of sanctions has already forced Iran to spend billions of dollars in an attempt to expand domestic production with little correlating decrease in refined petroleum imports.

Q: Couldn't Iran just end gasoline subsidies and blame the decision on the United States?

The Iranian public views access to cheap gasoline as its natural right given Iran's vast energy resources. If confronted with the loss of gasoline imports, the Iranian regime may attempt to further ration gasoline or reduce demand by raising the price of gasoline. However, any such moves would likely be met with broad public protests and riots, as was the case in 2007 when the Iranian regime last tried to impose gasoline rationing. In that instance, hundreds of gasoline stations were set on fire and the regime was forced to increase the amount of gasoline provided at subsidized rates. An unpopular regime already facing mass protests over the disputed presidential election would be unlikely to take such a dramatic move to further stoke dissent.

Action Items

Iran Community-Based Activism Checklist

Prepared by the JCPA/UJC Israel Advocacy Initiative

Preventing Iran from acquiring nuclear arms is a priority of the American Jewish community in 2009. The objective of community-based activism on this issue is to fill the public square with diverse voices urging the Obama Administration to make Iran a matter of the highest priority and to take actions that will enhance diplomatic and economic pressures on the regime in Teheran. Among the action items available to achieve these goals, your community can:

Please note that some activities on this list should be designated for community leadership, while others could be directed to the general population.

- ___ Convene a local working group on Iran, including Jewish organizations and Jewish religious movements, to promote stronger community-based Iran advocacy
- ___ Contact and meet with members of Congress; officials at the local and state levels; and Consuls General of key foreign governments to showcase the importance of this urgent issue
- ___ Send communications to President Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton raising concerns about this international crisis, and to United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon calling on Iran to cooperate with the inspectors per UN resolutions
- ___ Engage editorial boards of newspapers and encouraged editorial comment; craft op-ed pieces and letters in the Anglo-Jewish and the general press; monitor and participate in all media including radio talk shows, TV, billboards, blogs, online petitions, etc.
- ___ Identify and utilize prominent Jewish and non-Jewish leaders to create a local coalition on Iran which will be focused on furthering discussion about this crisis in the broader community
- ___ Partner with civic, political, business, religious, cultural and/or academic institutions to promote educational programs – not only on the nuclear issue, but also on Iran's human rights record and its support for global terrorism – in the Jewish and general communities
- ___ Support economic initiatives, including divestment, which can bring pressure to bear on the Tehran regime
- ___ Organize a demonstration, briefing and/or program in your community raising awareness on this issue, particularly to coincide with the Stand for Freedom in Iran Rally on September 24.
- ___ Send organizational delegates to the National Jewish Leadership Advocacy Day on Iran in Washington, DC, on September 10.
- ___ Link efforts to UANI's Eye on Iran newsletter.

Rabbinic and Synagogue Organizations Against a Nuclear Iran

Coordinated for the Inter-Agency Task Force on Iran by Rabbi Joel Meyers, Rabbinical Assembly

We, the leadership of the rabbinic and synagogue organizations of the American Jewish Community are calling upon American Jews to make Iran a matter of the highest urgency.

We support President Obama's diplomatic initiatives. We are also convinced that our Government must take the lead in increasing economic and diplomatic pressure on the Iranian regime at this time. We take this position now because we are convinced that the Government of Iran is an increasing threat to us all. The Government of Iran

- Continues to develop nuclear capabilities, which, if fully operational, will threaten not only Israel or the Middle East as a whole, but every other country, including the United States.
- Has repeatedly acted to destabilize countries in the Middle East and elsewhere through direct sponsorship of terrorism and support of such groups as Hamas and Hezbollah. There is a real danger that a nuclear armed Iran will supply these weapons to its proxies and will certainly use the threat of these weapons to destabilize other nations.
- Has used negotiations solely as a delaying tactic and has continually reneged on promises made while thwarting vital efforts of the International Atomic Energy Agency to inspect those nuclear facilities most implicated in developing a military capability.
- Denies basic freedoms to its own citizens and any opposition to the ruling powers is too often suppressed, sometimes brutally.
- Has continually called for the destruction of Israel and promoted anti-Semitism.

Therefore preventing Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons must be a priority for our country at this time. For too long we have not taken action and have not modeled forceful leadership to the rest of the world. It is urgent that we heighten awareness about the danger a nuclear Iran presents to the U.S. and the world.

The time for action is now.

We ask for your participation in the following:

Eight Actions to Stop a Nuclear Iran

- (1) *Mobilize your communities. The public must be presented with clear information. Hold public forums about the Iranian regime and its support of state terrorism and violations of human rights. Invite expert speakers to community forums to engage your community on this issue of concern.*

- (2) *Urge community members and community leaders to advocate with their elected officials. Divestment from Iran is an important economic tool by which to exert pressure. Speak to your local city and state officials. Convince them to make certain that pension funds and financing not be done through vehicles which benefit Iran's energy or financial sectors.*
- (3) *Contact your senators and representatives and urge that we tighten our sanctions on banks and industries doing business with Iran. Ask their help in leading and strengthening an international effort to do the same, particularly in terms of tightening access to refined petroleum products.*
- (4) *Be alert for opportunities to write letters to the editor of your local and/or op-ed pieces supporting diplomatic and financial pressure on Iran.*
- (5) *Respond assertively, quickly, and publicly to lies and misinformation being fostered upon the public by Iran, its proxies, and countries aligned with Iran against the United States and its vision of democracy and freedom.*
- (6) *Rabbis and those involved in interfaith activities should engage their partners in discussion about the danger Iran presents and ask for their help in preventing Iran from developing nuclear weapons.*
- (7) *Keep informed of the latest developments by utilizing the websites of United Against Nuclear Iran (www.unitedagainstnucleariran.com) and Jewish Council for Public Affairs (www.jewishpublicaffairs.org).*
- (8) *Publicly display signage on our institutional and synagogue property urging that we must prevent a Nuclear Iran. It provides one vivid demonstration of our communal commitment to keep the issue of a Nuclear Iran before the public.*

We are enclosing informational and programmatic material for your use.

Signed by:

Central Conference of American Rabbis
 Jewish Reconstructionist Federation
 National Council of Young Israel
 Rabbinical Assembly
 Rabbinical Council of America

Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association
 Union for Reform Judaism
 Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America
 United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

Iran Business Registry (IBR)

Prepared by UANI

- The Iran Business Registry (IBR) is a running database of the names and key data of more than 150 firms that are reported to work in Iran. The IBR is a clearinghouse of information that individuals in the United States and around the world can use in making business choices and focusing pressure.
- Iran is uniquely susceptible to financial pressure due to the drop in oil prices and the effects of continued sanctions imposed by the US and the EU. This creates an opportunity for progress in stopping Iran's quest for a nuclear weapon.
- Companies that do business with Iran for short term economic gain provide the last support for the Iranian economy and facilitate the regimes diversion of funds to its nuclear program.
- By using the IBR, you can:
 - **Increase Product Awareness:** Use the IBR to guide your purchase decisions.
 - **Divest:** Use IBR to help identify your divestment decisions.
 - **Contact:** Contact companies on the IBR about doing business with Iran.
 - **Send a Message:** Write your elected officials or start a campaign in your local media through local newspaper editorial boards or local radio to send a message to these companies to stop doing business in Iran.
- The IBR can be visited at www.unitedagainstnucleariran.com/ibr.

IBR Message Center

- The IBR Message Center allows individuals to send a message to companies on the IBR at the global, national and local level. The IBR Message Center also enables individuals to send messages to elected officials and to start a media campaign by targeting local media.
- The kind of focused private pressure on businesses generated by the IBR Message Center works. Companies do not want the American people to know that they are doing business with the Iranian regime – a government that is the world's number one state sponsor of terrorism, that suppresses the rights of its own citizens and that provides support to anti-U.S. forces in Iraq. **The IBR Message Center can be used to tell these companies to STOP doing business with Iran.**
- The IBR Message Center can be visited at www.unitedagainstnucleariran.com/ibr/messagecenter

Contact Legislators

Individuals can contact their local and Federal Representatives and Senators about the threat of a nuclear Iran, supporting tougher Iran sanctions and backing divestment from Iran.

Prepared text about the issues above that can be used to contact your Congressional Representatives and Senators is available through AIPAC's Take Action page:
<http://www.aipac.org/694.asp>.

Contact information for your Representative or Senator can be found through his or her Web site. An online form is also available through the House of Representatives Web site,
<https://writerep.house.gov/writerep/welcome.shtml>.

A listing for U.S. Senators along with contact information and a link to each Senator's contact form can be found online at
http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm.

Resources

Prepared by the ADL

Fact Sheets on Iran

AIPAC: Brutal Iranian Regime with Nukes a Serious Threat
http://www.aipac.org/The_Issues/index_26638.asp

American Jewish Committee: Stopping Iran's Nuclear Ambitions
<http://www.ajc.org/atf/cf/%7B42D75369-D582-4380-8395-D25925B85EAF%7D/StoppingIransNukes061907.pdf>

General Information

CIA Factbook <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ir.html>

U.S. Policy

Congressional Research Service Report for Congress: "Iran: US Concerns and Policy Responses" <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/mideast/RL32048.pdf>

Strategic Issues

Center for Strategic and International Studies <http://www.csis.org/burke/iran>

International Atomic Energy Agency <http://www.iaea.org/NewsCenter/Focus/IaeaIran/index.shtml>

Washington Institute for Near East Policy
<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/templateI03.php?SID=6&newActiveSubNav=Iran&activeSubNavLink=templateI03.php%3FSID%3D6&newActiveNav=researchAreas>

Wisconsin Project Iran Watch <http://www.iranwatch.org/>

General Human Rights

State Department Report: <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/nea/119115.htm>

International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran:
<http://www.iranhumanrights.org/themes/womens-rights.html>

Religious Freedom

State Department Report: <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2008/108482.htm>

Center for Religious Freedom at the Hudson Institute: <http://crf.hudson.org/>