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Facts & Logic About the Middle East

May 19, 2020



Huge Opportunity for the U.S. to Ratchet Up Pressure on Iran: Renew the U.N. Arms Embargo

Dear Friend of FLAME:

The United States just announced that it will work to renew a 13-year-old arms embargo against Iran—set to expire this October—in the U.N. Security Council. But if the Security Council fails to renew the embargo, the U.S. will work independently to keep it in place.

Given the often-cozy relationship between the Islamic Republic and permanent Security Council members China and Russia, it's likely that one or both will veto renewal of the U.N. Resolution.

However, Iran's burgeoning belligerence in the Middle East makes it imperative that the U.S. refresh the arms embargo—as well as other pressures—even if we have to go it alone.

A short review of recent U.S.-Iran relations should convince you this is the right strategy.

When President Obama agreed to the Iran Nuclear Deal in 2015, he hoped it would ideally “strengthen the hand of those more moderate forces inside of Iran.”

In addition to the President, many pundits and politicians actually believed this would happen.

Mr. Obama envisioned that “we would see a situation in which Iran, seeing sanctions reduced, would start focusing on its economy, on training its people, on reentering the world community, [on] lessening its provocative activities in the region.”

Do you know anyone—Democrat or Republican—who believes since the Iran Deal was adopted that Iran has become one iota more moderate?

Has Iran reduced in any way its efforts to develop weapons of mass destruction, seize more power in Lebanon, Iraq, Gaza, Syria and Yemen, or to threaten Israel?

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**YOU DESERVE TO KNOW THE TRUTH...
Keep the Pressure on Iran**

America's greatest enemy is reeling from sanctions and a botched coronavirus response. We can best help the Iranian people by speeding regime change.

What are the facts?
Iran is the largest state sponsor of terrorism, it attacks U.S. military assets, and its proxy militia has killed U.S. soldiers. The Islamic Republic also violated U.N. resolutions by developing weapons of mass destruction, and after cheating on the Iran Deal, it set out to acquire nuclear weapons. Most recently, Iran hid the world's only atomic enrichment facility, causing the disease spread rapidly—and we seek to banish it from existence. While the people of Iran deserve transparency and their dissent should not be dismissed as mere "tough talk," the U.S. sanctions on the country have led to the greatest misery of the United States, has made no sense of its base of the U.S., frequently shows that the U.S. will not be "Iran" and "Islamic Republic" in the Middle East. The Islamic Republic has also attacked and harmed U.S. naval vessels and has been shot down 21 U.S. naval aircraft and 300 U.S. military personnel. Moreover, Iran recently attacked a major oil processing facility of our ally, Saudi Arabia.

Iran cheats on arms treaties and is still developing WMDs. Iran violated the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty, but while negotiating the Iran Nuclear Deal, it hid the development of nuclear weapons. Iran has also violated the Iran Nuclear Deal, and after cheating on the Iran Deal, it set out to acquire nuclear weapons. Most recently, Iran hid the world's only atomic enrichment facility, causing the disease spread rapidly—and we seek to banish it from existence. While the people of Iran deserve transparency and their dissent should not be dismissed as mere "tough talk," the U.S. sanctions on the country have led to the greatest misery of the United States, has made no sense of its base of the U.S., frequently shows that the U.S. will not be "Iran" and "Islamic Republic" in the Middle East. The Islamic Republic has also attacked and harmed U.S. naval vessels and has been shot down 21 U.S. naval aircraft and 300 U.S. military personnel. Moreover, Iran recently attacked a major oil processing facility of our ally, Saudi Arabia.

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Iran has not reduced its efforts to develop weapons of mass destruction, seize more power in Lebanon, Iraq, Gaza, Syria and Yemen, or to threaten Israel?

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If anything, Iran has increased its meddling in the internal politics and military operations in a wide range of countries, most of which was led by Qassem Soleimani, who was assassinated by the U.S. in January 2020 at the Bagdad Airport:

- Iran has continued to develop long-range Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs) capable of delivering nuclear weapons—in blatant violation of a 2015 U.N. Security Council resolution.
- In Yemen, Iran funds and supplies the Houti rebels seeking to overthrow the U.S.-backed Yemeni government. Just last year the Houtis claimed responsibility for launching sophisticated missile attacks against major Saudi Arabian oil refineries—a feat only possible if Iran supplied those missiles to the rebels.
- In Gaza, Iran continues to support Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine— all terrorist organizations, all enemies of Israel.
- Iran supports a range of Shi'ite militias in Iraq, which strongarm Iraq's government to cooperate with Iran—always contrary to U.S. interests in the country.
- Lebanon's Hezbollah terror group is largely funded and managed by Iran. Hezbollah maintains a standing army of 40,000 in Lebanon (violating another U.N. Security Council Resolution) and is active in militarizing both Lebanese and Syrian borders with Israel.
- Iran itself is a major ally of the Syria's Assad government and uses this relationship freely to import a range of military equipment to within a few miles of Israel—forcing the Jewish state to continually conduct defensive bombing raids against these Iranian military facilities.
- Iran naval boats have frequently harassed U.S. Navy vessels as well as commercial ships in the Persian Gulf over the past year.

In short, there is zero evidence that the Iran Nuclear Deal has had a moderating effect on Iran's mullah-ruled government. To the contrary, Iran behaves as aggressively as ever and continues to seize every opportunity to increase its imperialist grip in the Middle East.

Every indication is that an end to the U.N. arms embargo in October will only encourage Iran's dangerous behavior.

Indeed, Iran's President Hassan Rouhani confirms that negotiating a sunset for the U.N. arms embargo back in 2007 was a “huge political success.” In case we have any doubts about why Rouhani likes this expiration date, just six months ago he confirmed that “When the embargo . . . is lifted next year, we can easily buy and sell weapons.”

Good news: Nearly 90% of the U.S. House of Representatives—387 members of 435—earlier this month called on Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to work with our allies to extend the U.N. arms embargo on Iran, which also includes travel restrictions on Iranians involved in the arms business.

editorial hasbarah messages placed in media nationwide every month: The dire threats from Iran, Hamas and Hizbollah, the injustice of BDS, Palestinian anti-Semitism and more. If you support a bold voice that tells the truth about Israel in American media, please donate now.

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Since Iran is unlikely to change its Middle East strategy, the U.S. should provide leadership in tightening pressure on the Islamic Republic—not only in renewing the arms embargo, but in further ratcheting up economic and diplomatic sanctions.

I hope that as you discuss Iran’s role in the Middle East—with friends, family, colleagues and in letters to the editor—you’ll emphasize Iran’s treachery across the Middle East and the need for the U.S. to oppose it with all necessary means.

I hope you’ll also take a minute, while you have this material front and center, to visit FLAME’s lively [new Facebook page](#) and review the P.S. immediately below. It describes FLAME’s new *hasbarah* campaign—which provides even more arguments for maintaining strong sanctions against our enemy, Iran.

Jim Sinkinson

President, Facts and Logic About the Middle East (FLAME)

P.S. Some leftist European and American politicians have recently proposed easing sanctions on Iran as a humanitarian gesture in the face of Covid-19’s devastating attack on the Islamic Republic. However, this would be an egregious mistake, just as tough U.S. sanctions are pressuring Iran to back off its imperialistic adventures across the Middle East—especially since U.S. sanctions do not restrict Iran from acquiring humanitarian medical supplies. That’s why FLAME has created a new *hasbarah* message called “[Keep the Pressure on Iran](#)” I hope you’ll review this convincing, fact-based paid editorial, which ran in the *Sunday New York Times* and *Washington Post*. It lays out the many dangers that Iran poses to the U.S., Israel and our other allies in the region and spells out why in fact we should consider *increasing* sanctions on Iran. This piece will also be sent to all members of Congress, Vice President Pence and President Trump. If you agree that this kind of public relations effort on Israel’s behalf is critical, I urge you to support us. Remember: FLAME’s powerful ability to influence public opinion—and U.S. support of Israel—comes from individuals like you, one by one. I hope you’ll consider giving a donation now, as you’re able—with \$500, \$250, \$100, or even \$18. (Remember, your donation to FLAME is tax deductible.) To donate online, just go to [donate](#) now. Now, more than ever, we need your support to ensure that the American people, the U.S. Congress and President Trump stay committed to realistic policies in relation to Israel, Iran and the entire Middle East.

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