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Facts & Logic About the Middle East

April 5, 2023



As Iran closes in on nuclear weapons, it's time for the U.S. to keep its promise

Dear Friend of Israel, Friend of FLAME:

Iran's unrelenting, belligerent pursuit of nuclear weapons is forcing the hand of the West to fulfill what they have always promised: Prevent a nuclear-armed Iran. Unfortunately, few of the West's current heads of state show the determination and courage to live up to this promise.

Despite all evidence to the contrary, some of the West's leaders—particularly those in the Biden Administration—believe diplomacy will ultimately prevent the Islamic Republic from becoming a nuclear power.

It's no surprise, then, that since taking power in 2021, U.S. President Joe Biden and European nations have sought to revive the failed 2016 agreement that was supposed to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (*JCPOA*).

Meanwhile, in Israel, the country that faces the most danger should Iran acquire nuclear weapons, current Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu remains steadfast, believing that only the credible threat of military force—or the use of force itself—will prevent Iran from developing nuclear arms.

Recently, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) noted that it found uranium particles in Iran enriched to 83.7% purity, just shy of the 90% purity needed to manufacture a nuclear weapon.

The window to act in advance against Iran's nuclear ambitions is quickly closing. The time to act seems at hand. But barring a fundamental change in the West's posture towards Iran—a change that emphasizes an effective military deterrent rather than trying to talk the mullahs out of acquiring nuclear weapons—Israel will be forced to act on its own, without the West's support.

Such an outcome would be a travesty—a failure equal to Neville Chamberlain's appeasement of Hitler, avoiding decisive action, rather than confronting the

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YOU DESERVE TO KNOW THE TRUTH...

Demand Justice for Jewish Students

New report shows skyrocketing attacks on students' Jewish identity—noted in anti-Zionism, a modern disguise for classic antisemitism. It's time to fight back.

Despite rising campus attacks on Israel, many Jewish students and support the Jewish state. But anti-Zionism based in the classroom and public square forces many students to hide their Jewish identity. Greater enforcement of Title VI anti-discrimination laws promises a case to this injustice.

What are the facts?

According to a new report by ANSIA, bullying and intimidation of Jewish students on university campuses spiked in the last year, while attempts to censor Zionism increased as well. Calls to cancel Jewish identity trips to Israel increased nearly 20-fold. Reinforcement of Jewish persecution in 1980s Nazi Germany, now 90% of U.S. Jewish students say they hide their Jewish identity, according to a 2021 poll by the Brandeis Center for Human Rights.

While discrimination against most ethnic minorities is strictly centered on campus, university administrations have generally failed to protect Jewish students from attacks against them. Furthermore, a spike of complaints recently filed with the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights (OCR) now demand action under Title VI anti-discrimination statutes. Campuses, ranging from Rutgers University, City University of New York, University of Vermont, University of Illinois and University of Southern California, are among schools facing OCR investigations for alleged antisemitism violations.

Not surprisingly, the ANSIA report registered pro-Palestinian groups, such as Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), for responsibility in targeting Jewish students.

Indeed, the report found that anti-Zionist groups like SJP were the largest overall contributors to attacks on Jewish identity. Despite their pattern of making antisemitic hate, to date only a single chapter of SJP has been personally shut down as a U.S. campus at New York's private Yeshiva University. The ban was upheld in court.

ANSIA report also noted the contribution of non-Jewish Jewish anti-Zionist groups and individuals to the assault on Jewish identity. One such group is Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP), which uses its open Jewish identity as cover for its antisemitism.

Bad enough that Jewish students are targeted for persecution by their peers, but even worse when university faculty support the persecution. No wonder, according to ANSIA, that universities with faculty who support the BDS movement were three to seven times more likely to suffer attacks on Jewish identity. In fact, ANSIA found that "twenty percent of threats to Jewish identity took place at events supported by academic faculty."

Sadly, without federal intervention, these little-known universities will stop antisemitic attacks. Legally, Jewish students who feel their Jewish identity is threatened can address only on their schools' harassment policies to protect them. They have no choice.

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greatest threat to world peace in a timely manner.

Iran has often and clearly declared its intention to defeat the United States and destroy Israel. It is on the brink of acquiring the nuclear tools to do so. It's time for a Plan B.

Surely, we've reached the point for the U.S., with its ally Israel—and other Western nations the U.S. can muster—to put definitive military action on the table. If military threats fail to dissuade Iran from its belligerence, the use of military force would be called for. The U.S. and its allies undoubtedly have the capability to destroy Iran's nuclear assets without needing a ground war.

The larger question is whether Western leadership has the integrity to meet their commitments.

There's no doubt that a nuclear-armed Iran poses an existential threat to many nations in the Middle East, and increasingly in Europe.

In September last year, the Iranians paraded a missile with a 1400-kilometer range, which would make it capable of reaching *any* target in the Middle East, as well as parts of Europe. Some of Iran's missiles are capable of carrying nuclear warheads.

The US and various Western powers—including Israel—have recognized this threat and vowed solemnly to oppose and in fact to prevent it. In a speech to the United Nations General Assembly in September last year, US President Joe Biden promised, "We will not allow Iran to acquire a nuclear weapon."

Meanwhile, Iran is now on the brink of a nuclear breakout—within striking distance of nuclear weapons. In fact, in late 2022, the IAEA reported that the Islamic Republic already had enough enriched uranium for one nuclear bomb. Fast forward to today, and Iran's uranium stockpile is large enough to implement at least five nuclear weapons within 3-4 weeks.

This threat is only mitigated by the fact that although Iran can produce nuclear weapons in a matter of days or weeks, it still cannot weaponize them. The Iranians have yet to manufacture a nuclear warhead for a missile. Experts believe that this will take one to two years. Nevertheless, the clock is ticking.

While the Biden administration and other Western powers prefer a diplomatic solution, time has proven that diplomacy is unlikely to deter Iran from its nuclear arms ambitions.

While JCPOA was meant to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons, the agreement is fundamentally flawed. It does not prevent Iran from developing nuclear-capable missiles, rather it simply puts a pause on the nuclear program so that it could be quickly restarted by 2031—just eight years from now—without any restrictions.

Nor does the agreement allow for surprise inspections, and it included sanctions relief amounting to billions of dollars that Iran's mullahs could spend on terrorist activities. For these reasons, the Trump Administration chose to abandon the

FLAME is the only organization that defends Israel with paid 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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agreement in 2018.

Unfortunately, since coming to power in 2021, President Biden has sought to revive the deal. In the meantime, Iran has stepped up its nuclear program to the point where, by December last year, the country had a uranium stockpile 18 times larger than that allowed by the JCPOA.

With every passing day, the threat of a nuclear Iran becomes greater, and the possibility of ameliorating it becomes more difficult and more dangerous. Diplomacy has failed.

We are about to reach a crossover point at which the danger of waiting to act is greater than the danger of acting. Israel will no doubt approach this point sooner than any other actors.

However, it doesn't make sense for the U.S. and other Western powers to allow Israel to take on this threat singlehandedly—even though it may feel forced to do so. Israel acting alone dramatically raises the stakes and raises the danger . . . of failure, of a counterattack by Iran, of a Middle East conflagration.

I urge you in conversations with friends, colleagues and family—and in letters to the editor—to explain emphatically that the only sane solution is for the U.S.—and its Western allies—to threaten Iran with severe military repercussions if the mullahs continue their pursuit of nuclear arms. That time is here.

I hope you'll also take a minute, while you have this material front and center, to forward this message to friends, visit FLAME's lively [Facebook page](#) and review the P.S. immediately below. It describes FLAME's new *hasbarah* campaign —“Demand Justice for Jewish Students”—which exposes rising attacks on Jewish college students' identity and how these acts of antisemitism can be defeated.

Best regards,

James Sinkinson, Publisher
Facts and Logic About the Middle East (FLAME)

P.S. You've surely seen headlines describing increasing attacks on Jewish students—in the classroom and in the public square—by radical anti-Zionist students, as well as faculty members. So far, university administrators have failed to prevent this kind of antisemitism on campus. At the heart of this discrimination, Israel's enemies outrageously claim that Zionism is not part of being Jewish. No wonder more and more Jewish students are hiding their Jewish identities on campus. I think you'll agree that we supporters of Israel need to speak out. FLAME's new *hasbarah*---explanatory message— [“Demand Justice for Jewish Students”](#) —tells how recent law suits based on Title VI anti-discrimination laws are putting pressure on college administrators to protect Jewish students from such attacks. I hope you'll review this convincing, fact-based editorial, which FLAME intends to publish in the *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, *New York Post*, *Chicago*

Tribune, Houston Chronicle, Star Tribune, Los Angeles Times and *Newsmax*. This piece will also be sent to all members of Congress, Vice President Harris and President Biden. If you agree that this kind of public relations effort on Israel's behalf is critical, I urge you to [support us](#).

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