



The Need to Revert the Bad Effects of the Nuclear Deal with Iran

Last February 15, during the press conference after the meeting with the Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu, U.S. President Donald Trump made clear what he thinks of the nuclear deal with Iran: "One of the worst deals I have ever seen is the Iran Deal." One month before, in January, during her visit to the United States, the UK's PM, Theresa May, warned about "Iran's malign influence in the Middle East." Today the new leadership both in the White House and in Downing Street has realized that, due to the pernicious consequences of the nuclear deal, Iran's emergence as a major power is a danger to the world.

Certainly, due to the bad nuclear deal, Iran is today more powerful, more rogue and more dangerous than in 2015, before the signature of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) between the P5+1 group and Iran. Since then, Iran has illegally tested ballistic missiles that could be used to carry nuclear warheads. Last time was in January 29, in violation of UN Security Council Resolution 2231, just as as it also did in October 2015, only four months after signing the deal. According to the IAEA, Iran has accumulated more heavy water than the JCPOA allows.

Besides, Iran has not abandoned its malign activities home and abroad. On the contrary, they feel encouraged due to the ample wiggle room granted by the JCPOA. As Iranian activist Heshmat Alavi has asserted: "[The nuclear deal] has been successively violated by the Iranian regime. Tehran continues its atrocious executions, human rights violations, and ongoing oppression of ordinary citizens inside the country. And the mullahs in Tehran have continued their mantra of exporting 'Islamic Revolution' by engulfing the entire Middle East, and beyond, into mayhem, as we are unfortunately witnessing so vividly today in Syria."

In this regard, as Human Rights Watch published in 2015, the executions have risen under supposedly-moderate President Hassan Rouhani. HRW pointed out that, "Iranian authorities executed at least 830 prisoners by hanging as of November 1; with almost 700 executed in the first six months of the year. Officials also carried out amputations of limbs for crimes such as theft." On the other hand, as Alavi said, Iran is still, in accordance with the list released by the U.S. Department of State, the main sponsor of terrorism in the world. In addition, through its proxy Hezbollah, which has more than 120,000 missiles targeting Israel —as Danny Danon revealed last July in the UN— Iran is fighting in Syria in support of al-Assad, controlling Lebanon, and extending its influence in Latin America.

As we highlighted in our big report *The Iran Deal a Year On: Assessing Iranian Ambitions a year after the nuclear deal*, far from getting better, the resulting situation is worse. Fortunately, the new administration in the United States is highly aware of it.

The current question of paramount importance is: How can we reverse the damage caused by the JCPOA?

First of all, Iran should pay a high price for every breach of the JCPOA. A price high enough that it would dissuade future violations. The Trump Administration has already enacted new sanctions after putting Iran "on notice" for the launching of ballistic missiles in January. The sanctions to the 25 companies that assisted Iran with its ballistic

missiles is a good start, however, it does not seem to be an impediment to Iran's will to breach the JCPOA and carry on with its military activities, so focused it is on becoming a hegemon in the Middle East. Also, the monitorization of Iran's compliance with the JCPOA should be broader and more intense and the mechanism to activate the sanctions should be immediate.

Secondly, the promotion of the global terrorism and the violations of the Human Rights should be under a more comprehensive watch and retaliation regime. The so-called non-nuclear sanctions remained intact after the JCPOA; yet that has not prevented Iran from being the main sponsor of terrorism and human rights violator in the world. In the wake of the unofficial but non-secret alliance that Israel and the Sunni States in the Middle East are forging before the upcoming Iran's rise, democratic nations willing to make business with Iran should demand the regime to stop these activities in order to close eventual deals. The trade honeymoon with Iran will only enhance the behavior of the ayatollahs' regime, the promotion of the Islamic revolution in the world, the domination of the Middle East through the ancient struggle between Shia and Sunni, and the crushing of the political opposition. In addition, democratic nations that want to come to Iran to trade should know all the perils and pitfalls of entering in the Iranian market—as we at the Friends of Israel Initiative already did by publishing the working paper *Risky Business* authored by the widely-known expert Emanuel Ottolenghi.

Thirdly, the calls for the annihilation of Israel must be challenged as well. As Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs Dore Gold highlighted: "Those who asserted that the Iran nuclear agreement would lead to a moderation of Iranian attitudes were completely wrong." In this sense, in September 2015, Ali Khamenei, the Supreme ayatollah, warned that Iran will accomplish the destruction of Israel in 25 years. Before, in May, Ahmad Karimpour, a high level official of the Quds Force, said: "With the facilities and equipment we have, we can raze the Zionist regime to the ground in less than eight minutes, if we ever decide to act, based on the supreme leader's orders." In July, the deputy commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Hossein Salami, stated that: "Taking into account that Hezbollah has stored more than 100,000 missiles, the Islamic Republic possesses 10 times more missiles of different types, and its power is unlimited." All democratic nations that have ties with Israel and want to do business with Iran should, at least, hold Iran's government and its officials accountable for these kinds of statements. As the Israeli PM reminded the UN General Assembly last year, the world has allowed Iran to show its intentions to annihilate Israel and no country is saying anything. This is intolerable, and we hope that the trend will be reversed thanks to the new winds coming from Washington.

At the end of the day, Iran's regime is exploiting the international validation that the JCPOA provided in order to bolster its own power, to kill political opponents, to expand its influence in the Middle East, to aggressively take advantage of the deep loopholes of the nuclear deal, and to advance its plans to wipe Israel off the map—an intention it has never concealed.

The nuclear deal shows every day that it has been a disaster. It is positive to have a White House recognizing the bad effects of the JCPOA, but there is still much to do in order to deter Iran in its quest to become the major threat to the stability of the world.

Spotlight

The New Right and Israel: Consequences and Eventual Understanding

The emergence of a new political rightist movement in Europe, known as the New Right or the so-called Alt-Right, is a phenomenon that we at the Friends of Israel Initiative cannot ignore. The West is now at a crossroads: It is either the sovereignty of nation-states, or the international multilateral order built after World War II—the New Right is playing the main role.

Despite the hopes of the establishment in the West that the New Right will only be a temporary nightmare doomed to disappear, it should not be seen as a fleeting phenomenon. The New European Right can obtain big success during 2017 in the elections of France, Holland, and Germany, forming governments or becoming the main opposition party in these countries—New-Right parties currently hold the government in Poland and Hungary. The political landscape in Europe is about to change and it will surely have effects on Israel. For that reason, it is our duty to work cautiously in order to understand the origins and motivations of the New Right and how to handle the new scenario.

In that vein, the New Right is not a movement formed by the classic extreme-right wing linked to totalitarian ideologies; it is proving to be a more complex issue, related to current global and internal problems in Western nations, that requires to be analyzed in depth.

Therefore, the Friends of Israel Initiative has sponsored and elaborated a study, jointly with the Strategic Studies Group, on the Emerging European Political Environment and the consequences for Israel, which delves into the origins, motivations, and goals of these emerging political parties in Europe and the effects that can produce in relation to Israel.

Concretely in Israel, the rise of the New Right is not seen precisely with good eyes. The past of many of these political parties, such as the Front National in France, are full of anti-Semitic attitudes and hostility against Israel. This is a clear and rational answer to Israeli skepticism. However, most of the New Right parties share some goals and concerns with Israel. In this regard, the New Right could see Israel not only as a reliable ally, but also as an example in many fields, for example, in the fight against radical Islam, the defense of Western civilization, or the struggle against economic uncertainty. Nonetheless, not all New-Right parties have the same concept of Israel; we must work responsibly for these parties to see that Israel is a necessary asset for the future of the West.

FOII'S ACTIVITIES

Working papers

“An approach to the 'New [Alt] Right' in Europe: The Emerging European Political Environment and the consequences for Israel.”

Authored by the prestigious Strategic Studies Group, the paper approaches to the phenomenon of the New (Alt) Right in Europe, its origins, motivations and goals, and the consequences for Israel.

[Read the Working Paper.](#)

Op-eds

“Call off the Paris Conference” by Rafael Bardaji and Colonel Richard Kemp, Israel Hayom, January 12 ([Read](#))

“Paris on the UN and Obama's Heels” by Fiamma Nirenstein, Il Giornale, January 13 ([Read](#))

“The Truth about the Jewish Settlements and Jerusalem” by Carlos Alberto Montaner, January 18 ([Read](#))

“Nato Needs to Reform into a Global Alliance against Islamic Terrorism - or Become Obsolete” by Rafael Bardaji and Colonel Richard Kemp, The Telegraph, February 13 ([Read](#))

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"The greatest danger the world faces in the twenty-first century is an Iranian nuclear arsenal."

Alan Dershowitz

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