



Fact Sheet on the Iranian Interim Deal

- The interim deal, or the Joint Plan of Action (JPA), took effect on January 20, 2014. It was renewed on July 20, 2014 for another four months ending on November 24, 2014. It was [renewed](#) again until [March 24](#), [March 31](#), or [June 30](#), 2015. A framework to a final deal was [announced](#) on April 2, 2015.
- The Obama Administration has [refused](#) to release the full text of the deal. It has been [reported](#) that there is an informal side deal to the deal itself that is a 30-page text.
- Sanction relief is [estimated](#) to be more than \$20 billion for Iran. *The Daily Beast* [assessed that](#) the easing of sanctions on Tehran, as reported in a study, allowed the Iranian economy to begin to recover, “undercutting Western leverage”.
 - In 2012/3, thanks to the full sanctions, the Iranian economy [contracted](#) by 6.6%. In 2013/4, after the JPA, it only contracted by 1.9%. In 2014/5, it is estimated to actually grow by 2.9-3.0%.
 - Iran has [busted](#) through energy export caps every single month of the deal.
 - The lower estimates by President Obama have [proven](#) to be wrong.
 - *The Daily Beast* [assessed that](#) the easing of sanctions on Tehran, as reported in a study, allowed the Iranian economy to begin to recover, “undercutting Western leverage”. FDD Executive Director Mark Dubowitz has [expressed concerns](#) that eroding leverage may prevent American diplomats from securing “[a]n agreement that is verifiable, enforceable and that prevents Iran from pursuing both a uranium and a plutonium pathway to a nuclear weapon would be a tremendous achievement.”
 - A European judicial decision [led to](#) the UK lifting a long-time asset freeze on Iran's largest tanker operator.
 - *Reuters* reported that India [is preparing](#) to pay \$1.5 billion for Iranian oil.
 - Turkey will [ink](#) a trade pact with Iran worth up to \$50 billion a year.
 - In September of 2014, Russia and Iran [announced](#) major trade initiatives that were described as a way for Tehran to dodge Western sanctions pressure.
- The U.S. has released billions of the estimated [\\$150 billion](#) frozen Iranian funds as well.
 - Prior to the JPA taking affect, the U.S. [released](#) \$8 billion in Iranian assets frozen in 1979.¹
 - Under the original six month deal with Iran, Tehran [received](#) \$4.2 billion in cash.
 - For the (first) four month extension, the United States [gave](#) Iran another \$2.8 billion in frozen funds.
 - For the (second) six month extension, Iran will be [given](#) \$700 million a month, for a total of \$4.9 billion.
- The deal has [conceded](#) to Iran’s demand that it be permitted to domestically enrich uranium.
- Iran is [at most](#) three months away from enriching enough nuclear fuel for an atomic bomb.
- [According](#) to the deal, Iran has committed to halting enrichment to 20%, diluting half of its existing 20% stockpile to 5% levels, and converting the other half to an oxide form in which it can’t be further enriched.
- Iran is [permitted](#) to continue advanced research and development work on its nuclear program under the interim deal. However, there is a [dispute](#) about what kinds of research and development the plan actually allows. “Western officials said on Sunday that existing projects could continue and research could go on, but that new physical projects can’t be

¹ That amount is claimed by the Iranians. However, the State Department and other experts have not confirmed this number.

begun. Araqchi suggested otherwise, saying, “No facility will be closed; enrichment will continue, and qualitative and nuclear research will be expanded. All research into a new generation of centrifuges will continue.””

- The deal [includes](#) a provision allowing the Iranians to veto reports of violations of the JPA. “Iran sits on the commission that decides whether a violation occurred so enforcement of the deal may prove impossible.” The public summary [calls](#) that body the Joint Commission, which is “made up of technical experts from the six powers, Iran and the European Union, (who) will convene at least monthly to discuss implementation of the deal and “any issues that arise.”
- The deal, which does not require Iran to dismantle the vast nuclear infrastructure it assembled, is in [direct contravention](#) of [six UN resolutions](#).
- “The deal did [force](#) the Iranians to tinker with their existing 20 percent stockpile. They had to turn half of it into oxide, a step reversible at that level just as it is at 5 percent. They had to downblend the other half to 5 percent and then oxidize that, too—a double-step that Iran’s Atomic Energy Organization spokesman once estimated would take two to three weeks to reverse. They had to modify their centrifuges to prevent further enrichment to 20 percent, a step that Zarif and other Iranian officials repeatedly bragged could be reversed in less than a day.”
- The deal [does](#) nothing to stop Iran from using its new installments of cash and time to advance the weakest parts of its nuclear program -- bomb technology and the ballistic missiles needed to deliver such bombs to Israel, Europe or the U.S.
 - American Foreign Policy Council Vice President Ilan Berman has [warned](#) of “the Iranian regime's intent to become a global missile power” as it negotiates with the P5+1 over its nuclear program, noting that while Tehran is engaging in talks with the West, “it is simultaneously arming for regional dominance.” Berman pointed out that Tehran has poured money into both its ballistic missile and space programs, which he called “technologies that, if fused together, would allow the regime to rapidly field an ICBM.”
 - Defense Intelligence Agency Director Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn had in February 2014 [testified](#) that Iran was on track for testing its ICBM capabilities as early as 2015, and Rep. Mike Rogers (R-Ala.) earlier this month called predictions that Tehran Iran might well be able to field a working ICBM by next year an “unchanging fact.”
 - Iran has [built](#) a 27-meter-long missile, capable of delivering a warhead “far beyond Europe,” which is capable of carrying a conventional or non-conventional warhead.
 - On March 8, 2015, Iran [unveiled](#) the Soumar long-range ground-to-ground cruise missile, which has a range of 2,500 kilometers. Within range of the new cruise missile are American ships operating in the Persian Gulf, the Gulf States, Israel, moderate Arab states, parts of Russia, and countries in Central Europe.
- The deal legitimizes Iran as a member of the community of nations, and as a partner with the U.S. in negotiations.
- “The agreement [calls](#) for Iran to halt key work on a half-built heavy-water nuclear reactor at Arak. But the deal allows Iran to continue with some work at Arak deemed secondary.” Arak is “widely [viewed](#) as unnecessary” for the development of peaceful nuclear power. According to the latest [reports](#), the final deal appears to allow Iran to continue the construction of the Arak reactor without any alterations to its design or fueling, with Iran being trusted to halt construction just before the reactor is operational.
- The deal has potentially [increased](#) the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)’s access in Iran to monitor the agreement, but Iran is still unwilling to [provide](#) the necessary information and access, and even if it eventually does so, it would still fall short of what the IAEA says it needs. It is a far cry from the wide-ranging inspection powers the IAEA had in Iraq in the 1990s. The agreement does not, for example, say anything about the IAEA’s requests to visit Parchin.
- Iran seems to believe it has “won” with the deal.
 - Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei’s Twitter account [stated that](#) “nuclear achievements are not going to stop [and] no one has the right to trade them and no one will do so,” a stance echoed by remarks published on his official website [declaring that](#) “talks should continue” but that “everyone should know that Iran's activities in nuclear research and development, as well as its nuclear achievements, will never be stopped.”
 - President Rouhani has gloated on [Twitter](#) (later [removed](#)) and [video](#) about the world powers capitulating to Iran.
 - A CNN interview on Jan 26, 2014 [had](#) President Rouhani declaring to CNN host Fareed Zakaria that Iran “will not accept any limitations” on its “nuclear technology” in the context of a comprehensive agreement between Tehran

and the West, and that the Iranians will "not under any circumstances" agree to destroy any uranium enrichment centrifuges. Zakaria [described](#) Rouhani's statement as a diplomatic "train wreck."

- Supreme Leader Khamenei [declared](#) that talks between Tehran and world powers "will not lead anywhere."
- In November of 2014, Iran's Foreign Minister Javad Zarif [said](#) there has been "no change in Iran's rigid stance on its inalienable nuclear rights" and that "Some [western] countries have fallen prey to miscalculations [about Iran's position] due to wrong analyses".
- Foreign Minister Zarif [told CNN](#) on Wednesday, January 22, 2014 that the White House's public description of the interim text "both underplays [Western] concessions and overplays Iranian commitment." Zarif also flat out declared that Iran "did not agree to dismantle anything," in contrast to how "the White House tries to portray [the agreement] as a basically a 'dismantling' of Iran's nuclear program."
- *FARS* has [reported](#) Iranian Army Commander Major General Salehi said: "Had the enemy been able to confront us militarily, it would have already taken action."
- Ali Younesi, senior advisor to Iranian President Rouhani, [stated](#) that "Obama is the weakest of U.S. presidents, he had humiliating defeats in the region" and "that is why they want to compromise with Iran".
- Iranian officials, including [President Rouhani](#), [Foreign Minister Zarif](#), and [former top nuclear negotiator Hossein Mousavian](#), have said that Iran refuses to dismantle even minimal elements of its nuclear infrastructure.
- During negotiations, Iranian negotiators [tend](#) to treat their Western counterparts—particularly the Americans—with scorn. Iranian diplomat Araghchi is reported to have said in an interview that during past negotiations in Geneva, Zarif "shouted" at Kerry and spoke to him in a way that was likely "unprecedented" in the history of U.S. diplomacy. Araghchi went on to claim that he and Zarif play the roles of "good cop, bad cop," according to the report. The two often exchange these roles in a bid to "baffle the Western diplomats" and keep them uneasy, the report claims.
- The "Americans have very clearly surrendered to Iran's might, and this is obvious in their behavior in the region and in the negotiations, and the enemies' reservations vis-a-vis Iran are completely felt," Major General Mohammad Ali Jafari [said](#) following the 2nd extension in talks.
- Foreign Minister Javad Zarif [said](#) in March of 2015 that Iran has emerged as "[the winner](#)" in nuclear talks with Western powers and boasted that Iran's diplomacy with Western nations established them as a global power.

Other Pertinent Facts

- **Iranian Budgets:** The entire government budget in Iran per year is [roughly](#) \$300 billion. In 2015, the [number](#) was \$312 billion, and the Iranian defense expenditures rose by one-third to around \$10bn, much of which will go to the Revolutionary Guards.
- **Iran is a Theocracy:** "On the [surface](#), the U.S. and Iranian governments have much in common: a president who is popularly elected, a boisterous legislature, and a powerful judiciary. The obvious difference lies in the fact that Iran is an Islamic theocracy, and that one man, the Supreme Leader, exerts ideological and political control over a system dominated by clerics who shadow every major function of the state."
- **Iran is Apocalyptic:** "Iran has an [apocalyptic regime](#) with a great deal to be apocalyptic about. As I have argued in these pages since 2005, no poor country in the entire troubled history of the world has seen its fertility rate plunge from 7 children per female just one generation ago to only 1.6 children per female today... As a matter of arithmetic, Iran can sustain a third of its population as elderly dependents only by acquiring the wealth of its neighbors, for example, Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia, which has a Shia majority, and where Iran already is attempting to subvert the Saudi monarchy. That is why Iran is aggressive, and why no negotiation will contain it."
- **Iran is Apocalyptic:** Dr. Bernard Lewis, the leading U.S. scholar on the Middle East and a consultant to the U.S. and other Western governments, has [said](#) "Iran's leadership comprises a group of extreme fanatical Muslims who believe that their messianic times have arrived. This is quite dangerous... with these people in Iran, mutually assured destruction is not a deterrent factor, but rather an inducement. They feel that they can hasten the final messianic process. This is an extremely dangerous situation of which it is important to be aware." Leader Khamenei [believes](#) this.
- **Iran is at War with the U.S.:** Since 1979, and the seizure of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, the Iranian regime has committed [numerous](#) acts of war against the U.S. It has supported terrorists that have killed 241 U.S. Marines and 17 Embassy personnel in the 1983 bombings in Beirut, and in the 1996 bombing of the Khobar Towers that killed 23 Americans; it has supplied IEDs to Iraqi rebels during the 2000's that have [killed more than 1000](#) U.S. soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan, and it planned a 2011 bombing of a Washington, DC restaurant to kill the Saudi Ambassador.

- **True Sanctions Haven't Been Tried Very Long:** The international sanctions on Iran only really began to bite in 2012, when the Europeans put sanctions on Iranian oil. (*Professor Matthew Kroenig, Hudson Institute, 04/24/15*)
- **Iran's Poor Human Rights Record:** The Iranian regime's persecutions is increasing and continuing:
 - A human rights group leader has [stated](#) that "human rights abuses have not only continued, but also increased in many respects." He [noted](#) the "persistent and pervasive assault on women."
 - Open Doors International's list for 2013 [says](#) Iran is one of the top 10 countries for Christian persecution.
 - *The Huffington Post* [ran an expose](#) on anti-gay discrimination in Iran, quoting one refugee bluntly evaluating that "either you want to leave, or you want to die." The punishment for sodomy under Iran's criminal code is death.
 - Iran is one of the world's most repressive countries as regards freedom of information. It is [ranked](#) 173rd of 180 countries in the 2014 World Press Freedom Index compiled by Reporters Without Borders.
 - Since Rouhani took over, Iranian discrimination against the Baha'is has "[worsened](#)."
- **No Spap-back for the Sanctions:** Mark Dubowitz, the Executive Director of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, has written, "The president's much-hyped "[snap-back](#)" economic sanctions, now the only coercive instrument Mr. Obama has against Iranian noncompliance, will also surely fall victim to the Security Council's politics and human greed. Already the Russians are resisting any snap-back provision that will neutralize their rogue-regime-protecting veto... And once strictures are loosened, with major international, especially European, corporations competing for the Iranian market, it will be politically impossible to demand that these companies leave again."
- **No Immediate Spap-back for the Sanctions:** Senator Robert Menendez (D-N.J.) has said that "all of the sanctions ... always have to have at least a 6-month period of time in order to give countries and companies the notice required and the time for you to do the regulations necessary to proceed." Obama Administrations officials have [confirmed](#) the truth of this statement.
- **Inspections are Limited:** "(W)eapons inspectors can be [no tougher](#) than the body that empowers them—in this instance the UN Security Council. And herein lies the agreement's fundamental weakness—and perhaps its fatal flaw. Do we really want to depend on Vladimir Putin? Because Russia will be able to decide what to enforce in any deal—and what not to."
- **Diplomacy Tried Before:** During the 2000s, Europe and the U.S. [negotiated](#) with Iran, then led by the "reformist" President Khatami. Between 2000 and 2005, EU trade with Iran doubled, on the idea that diplomacy and more trade would lead to political liberalization. During this time, the Iran took advantage of the talks and money to advance the nuclear program, the ballistic missile program, and started funding Iraqi militias who killed U.S. soldiers in Iraq.
- **A Good Deal:** The U.S.-based Institute of Science and International Security has [calculated](#) that any deal purporting to realistically put off Iranian weaponization would minimally require the country to remove 15,000 centrifuges, shut down its underground military bunker at Fordow, downgrade the reactor at Arak, and agree to a 20-year inspection regime.
- It makes little sense for Iran to develop peaceful nuclear energy, [considering](#) the costs involved.
- The IAEA and the ADL have [reported](#) on how unlikely it is that Iran is seeking a peaceful nuclear program.
- U.S. intelligence reports—including those [authored](#) by the Pentagon—have determined that the U.S. is not "organized or fully equipped" to detect when foreign countries, like Iran, are developing weapons or secretly advancing their programs.
- The Iranian regime's persecution of Iranian women, gays, religious minorities, and press is [increasing](#) and continuing:
 - Iran [executed](#) 753 citizens in 2014, "the highest annual figure since 2002." After the JPA talks and after it was removed as a terrorism threat from the "Worldwide Threat Assessment of the US Intelligence Communities," it was [reported](#) that there were approximately 55 executions in fewer than 3 weeks across Iran.
 - President of the Research Institute on Contemporary Iran, Mohsen Sazegara has [stated](#) that "human rights abuses have not only continued, but also increased in many respects." He [noted](#) the "persistent and pervasive assault on women on a continued basis on the pretext of disrespecting Hejab, education and employment segregation."
 - In November of 2014, a 26-year-old Iranian woman, Reyhaneh Jabbari, was [hung](#) for allegedly killing the man who raped her. The trial of Jabbari lacked fair and due process.
 - Iran [has](#) the world's highest death penalty rate per capita.

- In 2014, 120 people of the Baha'i community, as well as 49 Christians, have been [documented](#) to be in prison in Iran solely for religious practices. Some members of the Arab community, characterized as “cultural rights activists,” as well as juveniles, have also been put to death.
 - Regarding discrimination against Baha'is, a religious minority, Director of the U.S. Baha'i Office of Public Affairs Anthony Vance has [stated](#) that “the situation has worsened during the year and a half since Iran’s new and self-described reformist President, Hassan Rouhani, took office.”
 - Open Doors International’s list for 2013 [says](#) Iran is one of the top 10 countries for Christian persecution.
 - *The Huffington Post* [ran an expose](#) on anti-gay discrimination in Iran, quoting one refugee bluntly evaluating that “either you want to leave, or you want to die.” The punishment for sodomy under Iran's criminal code is death.
 - In March 2014, the European Parliament [passed](#) a resolution urging Iran’s leaders to improve its human rights situation, noting that “the situation of women in Iran remains marred by unacceptable discrimination, in particular on legal matters, as well as with regard to family law and women’s participation in economic and political life.” The EU parliament expressed “alarm with regard to the high number of executions in 2013 and 2014, including of minors ...condemns the restrictions on freedom of information, freedom of association, freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, freedom of religion, academic freedom, freedom of education and freedom of movement, as well as the repression and discrimination on the basis of religion, belief, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation that persist...”
 - As of July 2014, [65 news providers were behind bars in Iran](#), according to Reporters Without Borders, and Iran remains “one of the world’s most repressive countries as regards to freedom of information.”
 - The Washington Institute for Near East Policy has [published](#) a report detailing Iran’s efforts to spread anti-semitic discourse. “In today’s Iran, anti-Judaic and anti-Semitic discourses are sometimes mixed in textbooks, media, religious/political propaganda, and secular intellectual literature,” said the report.
- The deal has [not resulted](#) in the release of innocent Americans imprisoned in Iran.
 - Former senior U.S. State Department official Robert Einhorn, now at the Brookings think-tank, [said](#) there was "considerable logic" to tackling the ballistic missile issue in the context of what he called the nuclear weapons threat posed by Iran. "Given the inaccuracy of early-generation, long-range ballistic missiles, such missiles only have military utility if they carry munitions with a very wide radius of destruction, mainly nuclear weapons," Einhorn said in a new report.
 - There continue to be suspect explosions in Iranian facilities that may be connected to the nuclear program. On October 5, 2014, a massive blast Sunday night in Parchin [rocked](#) buildings more than 10 miles away and killed at least two people. The blast may be related to nuclear development in Iran, according to the Los Angeles Times. Iranian officials in the past have strongly denied such claims that it has a secret nuclear enrichment facility in Abyek, near the major city.

Iranian Actions Post-Deals: Showing Bad Faith

- There are at least five ways in which Iran has [explicitly violated](#) the interim agreement:
 - **Trying to buy equipment for plutonium reactor at Arak, breaking commitment to suspend work.** The Obama administration actually [complained](#) about the purchases to the UN Security Council, *even as it told the world that Iran had “lived up to its end of the bargain.”* Iran’s defense—adopted to some extent by the State Department – is that the agreement did not apply to work *offsite*, or to onsite work unrelated to the reactor.
 - **Feeding uranium hexafluoride gas into a plant where it had agreed to suspend nuclear enrichment.** The Institute for Science and International Security [noted](#) that Iran had begun enrichment at the Pilot Fuel Enrichment Plant at Natanz. It notified the Obama administration, which complained to the Iranians, which then claimed to have stopped the enrichment activity.
 - **Withholding camera footage of nuclear facilities, defying the International Atomic Energy Agency.** A leading International Atomic Energy Agency official recently [said](#) the agency was “not in a position to provide credible assurance about the absence of *undeclared* nuclear material and activities in Iran” (original emphasis). The interim deal was to provide surveillance footage of Iranian nuclear facilities—but Iran has only provided what it wants to reveal.
 - **Testing new IR-8 centrifuges, advancing its enrichment program and making cheating much easier.** A violation of the spirit, if not also the letter, of the agreement, the development of a new centrifuge that can work *sixteen times faster* than its first-generation centrifuges would make cheating far easier and verification far more difficult. The new device essentially nullifies the verification process agreed to in the interim deal.

- **Exporting more energy than allowed under the interim agreement, blunting residual sanctions.** The deal capped Iran’s exports of crude oil to 1 million barrels per day. But early on, Iran was already breaking that agreement, [according to](#) the International Energy Agency—nearly doubling the allowed amount.
- The National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI) said in a [report](#) that it has found concrete evidence of an “underground top-secret site currently used by the Iranian regime for research and development with advanced centrifuges for uranium enrichment.” The site has [operated](#) in secret since at least 2008.
- Iran has [cheated](#) in the deal (unless the hidden full JPA contradicts Obama Administration statements) – “Not content to let the year play out slowly, the Iranians advanced their nuclear program and boosted their economy beyond what was envisioned by the JPOA. They fed gas into IR-5 centrifuges and tested IR-8 centrifuges, technology generations ahead of their current infrastructure. They sought and illicitly acquired parts for their heavy-water reactor.”
- On Jan. 20, 2015, President Obama [said](#) that “we’ve halted the progress of its nuclear program.”
 - The *Washington Post* [gave](#) this claim “Three Pinocchios” for being incorrect.
 - In a hearing on Jan. 21, 2015, Sen. Bob Menendez D-NJ, [forced](#) Deputy Secretary of State Tony Blinken to concede that “the Iranian nuclear program had not been halted, was continuing apace, and that the White House is keen to overlook the regime’s regular skirting of the terms of agreements with Western powers.” Blinken also [admitted](#) the White House is no longer negotiating to stop Iran from breaking out to nuclear weapons, but only to get a better “alarm” if the rogue nation tries to make the leap.
 - The Institute for Science and International Security says Iran has produced enough enriched uranium [for almost two bombs](#) in 2014, by enriching it to the 3.5% maximum (which is 60% of the work required to enrich to bomb grade).
 - The AP reports that Iran has continued [construction for the Arak reactor](#) which is now [87% complete](#).
 - Another report [says](#) that Iran continues to “vigorously” pursue a nuclear weapon.
 - The head of the IAEA has [stated](#) that Iran still refuses to explain its research into an atomic weapon.
 - In January of 2015, Tehran [announced](#) it was building two new nuclear reactors in the Bushehr region. It is also [dispersing](#) its nuclear infrastructure and materials into Syria to build a nuclear facility; Syria is hiding 50 tons of enriched uranium.
- Iran has [grabbed](#) American citizens (and [here](#)) on trumped on charges, even while negotiations are ongoing. Iran is [prosecuting](#) one on trumped on charges, even while negotiations are ongoing.
- Iran sponsors terror groups throughout the region and has [bragged](#) that it controls the capitals of four Arab nations. In 2014, Iran [continues](#) to be the State Dept’s leading State Sponsor of Terrorism. 2014 marks its 30th year on the list.
 - Tehran uses the al-Quds Force of its Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps as its “primary mechanism for cultivating and supporting terrorists abroad” with the intent of destabilizing the Middle East and fomenting anti-Israel attacks.
 - Yemen’s Houthis, a Shiite rebel group that is [supported](#) by Iran, have taken [control](#) of the capital Sanaa.
 - Iran continues to be a [major supporter](#) of the Assad Regime in Syria that has killed hundreds of thousands of Syrians.
 - Iran has [waged](#) a covert campaign to turn Iraq into a virtual client state. Reports of “Iran arming Iraqi insurgents and attempting to destabilize the government emerged in [2009](#), [2010](#), [2011](#), [2012](#), [2013](#), and [2014](#).” “Iran [cannot](#) hold Iraq together, but it can drive it apart, and its policies of 2012-2014 almost did so.” Also see [here](#).
 - Iran [provides](#) “calibrated lethal aide to the Taliban” in Afghanistan to help the group conduct attacks on U.S. forces.
 - Iran has [become](#) the primary supplier of weapons to the genocidal regime of Sudan.
 - Iran is [cooperating](#) with Sudan to train and support jihadists in Libya.
 - In Latin America, Iran has [engaged](#) in money laundering, drug and arms trafficking, counterfeiting, promoting jihad, and plotting terrorist attacks.
 - [According](#) to an advisor to President Rouhani, Iran is once again an empire, as it was in the past, and its capital, Iraq, is “the center of Iranian heritage, culture, and identity.” Delineating the borders of the Persian Empire, or, in his words, “greater Iran,” he included countries from China, the Indian subcontinent, the north and south Caucasus, and the Persian Gulf. He added that since the very dawn of its history, Iran had been an empire and a melting pot of different cultures, languages, and peoples.
 - Iran virtually [birthed](#) Hezbollah, which largely [controls](#) Lebanon, and “[before 9/11](#), had the dubious honor of having killed more Americans than any other terrorist organization.”
 - Iran has [increased](#) support for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which in 2014 attacked a Jerusalem synagogue and killed three Americans and two others.
 - Iran and Hamas have [rebuilt](#) warm relations, overcoming a temporary break in relations caused by the Syrian war.

- On November 20, 2014, it was [reported](#) that Iran continues to “vigorously” pursue a nuclear weapon, despite repeated assurances to the contrary to the West. The [analysis](#), authored by former U.S. Ambassador to the UN John Bolton, former U.S. Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Robert Joseph, and former European Parliament Vice President Alejo Vidal Quadras, bolsters research conducted by the United Nations indicating that Iran continues to hide a great deal of its nuclear work. The findings of the report coincide with comments [issued](#) by the head of the U.N.’s nuclear agency, the International Atomic Energy Agency, stating that Iran still refuses to explain its research into an atomic weapon. It has been reported that Iran has [used](#) the loosening of the sanctions to violate the accord by buying parts for their plutonium-producing reactor at Arak, a fact which the Administration has acknowledged privately.
- In November of 2014, an IAEA report [declared](#) that Iran was still denying the agency access to sites where military-related atomic work is thought to have taken place, threatening any post-deal verification regime. The IAEA needs to benchmark the full scope of Iran's program now, so that all components of the program can be built into an agreement which the IAEA will monitor following an agreement.
- In December of 2014, President Rouhani [announced](#) a new Iranian budget that boosts military spending by 33.5 percent.
- Iranian hackers have [targeted](#) at least 50 companies and government organizations, including some in the U.S. The U.S. companies include chemical and energy companies, defense contractors, universities and transportation providers. The Iranian group is the same one that breached the U.S. Navy’s unclassified computer system in September 2013.
- On February 28, 2014, *USA Today* [catalogued a range of indications](#) that "Iran [is] advancing its nuclear program despite [a] pact with West," describing how the Islamic Republic was "moving ahead with a nuclear program that U.S. officials said would be frozen" even as the sanctions relief granted under an interim agreement was eroding Washington's leverage in nuclear negotiations. The Institute for Science and International Security has [released documentation](#) showing that Iran has resumed work at a military base where it is believed to have conducted experiments linked to the development of nuclear warheads. Also, Iran is still attempting to [buy](#) banned components for its nuclear and missile programs during the period when it struck an interim deal with major powers to limit its disputed atomic activity.
- Tehran [is continuing to deny](#) international nuclear inspectors access to the country’s Parchin military base.
- In Mid-January 2014, Iranian naval warships [were sent](#) close to U.S. maritime borders. According to *The Free Beacon*, an Iranian Admiral said: "The Americans can sense by all means how their warships will be sunk with 5,000 crews and forces in combat against Iran and how they should find its hulk in the depths of the sea." The Admiral also [said](#): "...Americans and all the world know that one of the operational goals of the IRGC Navy is destruction of the US naval force.”
- Iran has long [waged](#) a covert campaign to turn Iraq into a virtual client of Tehran — and in the process alienated Sunnis and pushed them toward extremism. Because of this, al-Qaeda and its former affiliate ISIS have seized part of Iraq and violence and [deaths](#) have increased. There is a [Reuters report](#) revealing that Baghdad had inked a weapons deal with Iran worth \$195 million, breaking a U.N.-imposed arms embargo on the Islamic republic. *The Washington Free Beacon* reported that Tehran [provided shelter and protection](#) to Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, who founded al Qaeda in Iraq, the predecessor to ISIS. *The Free Beacon* has also noted that reports of “Iran arming Iraqi insurgents and attempting to destabilize the government emerged in [2009](#), [2010](#), [2011](#), [2012](#), [2013](#), and [2014](#).” Also see [here](#). [According](#) to a former top U.S. military official, the Iranian regime is responsible for more than a third of American troop deaths in Iraq.
- Iran has [already](#) spent billions of dollars propping up Assad. On January 7, 2014, State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki [said](#): “...Iran has done nothing but helped the regime, help bring foreign fighters in, help the regime's efforts to brutalize the Syrian people.”
- Iran [provides](#) “calibrated lethal aide to the Taliban” in Afghanistan to help the group conduct attacks on U.S. and Western security forces operating in the country, according to a new Pentagon report.
- Iran continues to spew hatred and act in hostile ways towards the U.S. and Israel.
 - Supreme Leader Khamenei [taunted](#) President Obama, claiming that the U.S. no longer has the guts for battle by proclaiming that 'military attack is not a priority for Americans now.'
 - President Rouhani [described](#) his country’s diplomacy with the U.S. as an active “jihad” that is just as significant to Tehran’s advancement as the slew of new weapons and missiles showcased by the Islamic Republic’s military.

Rouhani also praised the country's military leaders for standing "against the enemy on the battlefield" and said as president, he would carry out this "jihad" on the diplomatic front.

- Khamenei [stated](#) on July 23, 2014 that the only solution for the region is the destruction of Israel.
 - "Jihad will only end when society can get rid of America," [threatened](#) Iran's Khamenei.
 - On April 17, 2014, President Rouhani [said](#) Iran had the might to deter any attacks as its military, while he presided over an annual parade of drones and missiles in Tehran, with soldier participants chanting "God is Greatest," and holding banners saying "Death to America" and "Death to Israel."
 - On January 9, 2014, Khamenei [said](#): "We had announced previously that on certain issues, if we feel it is expedient, we would negotiate with the Satan (the United States) to deter its evil."
 - On March 21, 2014, Khamenei [declared](#) that "Waiting for "the enemy" to lift the sanctions is a road "to hell," he stressed — and Iranians need to "look to what we can do ourselves.""
 - On March 21, 2014, Khamenei [questioned](#) the Holocaust in an address marking Nowruz, the Persian New Year. The "Holocaust is an event whose reality is uncertain and if it has happened, it's uncertain how it has happened." Meanwhile, the crowd of listeners [chanted](#) "Death to America!"
 - President Rouhani [declared](#) that Iran would continue bolstering its atomic program "forever."
 - The Chief Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, Major General Mohammad Ali Jafari, has [stated](#) that "we are ready for the big fight with the United States."
 - Iranian General Jazzayeri has [said](#), "The low-IQ US president ... speak of the effectiveness of 'the US options on the table' on Iran while this phrase is mocked at and has become a joke among the Iranian nation, especially the children."
 - Gen. Naghdi said, [according to Fars News Agency](#). "Our ideal is not [nuclear] centrifuges but the destruction of the White House and the annihilation of Zionism [Israel]."
 - On January 6, 2014, it was [reported](#) that a top Iranian lawmaker and cleric said that the country's uranium enrichment program could allow it to build a nuclear weapon "in two weeks" in order to "put down Israel."
 - [Reuters published](#) photos taken January 14, 2014, right when the final deal was announced, showing "Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif... lay[ing] a wreath at the grave of assassinated Hezbollah military commander" Imad Mughniyeh, who began his career as the mastermind of the deadly 1983 attacks on the U.S. embassy and Marine barracks in Beirut, killing more Americans than any terrorist except Osama Bin Laden.
 - On January 2014, Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Araghchi said: "The USA is still the Great Satan in our view."
 - On January 7, 2014, Iranian state TV [ran](#) a documentary featuring a computerized video of Iran's drones and missiles bombing Tel Aviv and carrying out simulated strikes on the American aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln. Iranian television later [showed](#) a real attack on a mock carrier. At the mock attack, an Iranian commanded [claimed](#) that "The Americans, and the entire world, know that the American Navy is one of our targets, and it will take us 50 seconds to destroy every US warship."
 - In a [sermon](#) Ayatollah Movahedi-Kermani accused U.S. leaders of insolence and lies, and the crowds responded with chants of "Death to America." He also said "(w)e know that the military threats that all options are on the table serve America's domestic interests. They are joking. They don't have the guts to do it, and they know it."
 - "Most of the Muslim world's problems are the result of the arrogant and expansionist performance of the hegemonic powers, headed by the U.S., and the tragedies that Islamic countries have faced, are so much that we cannot have even an iota of trust in the Americans," Iranian Brigadier General Massoud Jazayeri, deputy chief of staff of the Iranian Armed Forces," [said](#) on November 24, 2014 [according to Fars](#).
 - A senior analyst and strategy specialist for Leader Khamenei, who speaks with the blessing of the Islamic regime, has [stated](#) that "Elongation" is Iran's sole doctrine, in which the Geneva negotiations between the P5+1 and Iran were "never supposed to be brought to a successful conclusion ... whether positive or negative." Those talks began in 2006 and have been extended several times.
 - Supreme Leader Khamenei [said](#) on Twitter to call for the destruction of the "barbaric, wolflike & infanticidal regime of Israel."
 - Foreign Minister Javad Zarif, often considered a "moderate", has [said](#) that Israel should be "annihilated."
 - In statements on February 26, 2015, both Leader Ali Khamenei and Ali Shirazi, his representative in Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) elite Qods Force, [stressed](#) the need to instill the values of jihad and martyrdom in Iranian society, and reiterated the ideological principles of the Islamic Revolution – enmity towards the U.S. and opposition to American hegemony and the existing world order.
 - Iranian military officials have [endorsed](#) a nuclear electromagnetic pulse explosion that would attack the U.S.
 - Leader Khamenei [called](#) for "Death to America", a day after President Barack [Obama appealed to Iran to seize a "historic opportunity"](#) for a nuclear deal and a better future.
- The Iranian regime continues [celebrates](#) a yearly "Death to America" day.

- Iranians [chanted](#) “Death to America,” “Death to Obama,” and “Death to Kerry.”
 - Iranians [set up](#) a booth for Iranians to throw shoes at President Obama.
 - Iranians [hung](#) President Obama in effigy
 - Iranians [walked on](#) and burned U.S. flags.
 - Iranians [used](#) an image of President Obama to throw darts at.
- Agence France-Presse (AFP) [conveyed](#) statements from various Iranian officials laying out "red lines" in the context of upcoming nuclear negotiations:
 - Regarding ballistic missiles – which Wendy Sherman had said would be addressed in final talks – Iranian Deputy FM Araçchi declared that "defence-related issues are a red line for Iran" that would not "discussed in future talks."
 - Iranian nuclear negotiator Majid Takhte Ravanchi said that Iran had ruled out closure of “any of its nuclear sites.” Iranian state media coverage of Ravanchi's statement is [here](#).
 - Iran’s nuclear chief Salehi [told](#) Iran’s state broadcaster that Iranian scientists had developed a new generation of centrifuges 15 times more efficient than its previous technology, boasting that the achievement had been enabled by Iranian negotiators out-maneuvering Western negotiators in sealing an interim nuclear agreement.
 - A spokesman for Iran's delegation to the U.N. [ruled out](#) downgrading Iran's heavy water reactor at Arak. Changes to the Arak reactor had [earlier been rejected](#) by Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif.
 - The *Daily Beast* has [conveyed analysis](#) from a U.S. intelligence report warning that “the comprehensive nuclear deal Iran is negotiating with the West could be undermined by increased Iranian cooperation with North Korea.” North Korea has also [supplied](#) several shipments of missile components to Iran during the nuclear talks and the transfers appear to violate United Nations sanctions on both countries, according to U.S. intelligence officials.
 - Omri Ceren [has said](#): “in every meaningful sense, the North Korean nuclear program is an Iranian nuclear program, albeit beyond Iran’s territorial borders. The Iranians pay for the program. The Iranians receive knowledge and technology from the program. The Iranians are on hand to observe every major nuclear and missile test. Etc. Seen in this light, the nuclear deal with Iran will become a multi-billion dollar jobs program for North Korean nuclear engineers, who will use the money to create and miniaturize more nuclear warheads, which they will then give back to Tehran. The deal doesn’t stop Iran’s nuclear weapons program. It finances the program.”
 - Russia will sell to Iran S-300 a surface to air missile system, which would improve Iranian defenses against an air attack, and can also be used to [threaten](#) its neighbors. President Putin [declared](#) that he revoked the ban on the delivery of the system to Iran due to progress in the nuclear talks, contradicting U.S. officials who claim that there is no connection between the Russian announcement and the current talks. While the U.S. [opposes this sale](#) and has made its position known to Russian officials, the Russians [said](#) the system will be delivered “promptly.” *The Wall Street Journal* Editorial Board has [asserted](#) that the transfer would make “Iran’s nuclear installations far more difficult and costly to attack should Tehran seek to build a bomb.”
 - China and Russia have [agreed](#) to help Iran build new nuclear reactors. Oil-rich Iran has little need for the one nuclear power plant it already has, in Bushehr, but it wants five more. The reactors open more paths to nuclear-weapons.
 - In 2015, it was [reported](#) that Iranian computer hackers have “expended their attack infrastructure more than fivefold over the course of just 13 months.”
 - The JPA has prompted Iran to double down on aggression and terrorism:
 - Director of American Enterprise Institute’s Critical Threats Project Frederick Kagan has [claimed](#) that “the global Iranian threat—independent of the status of its nuclear program—is greater today than it has ever been.”
 - Vice President of American Foreign Policy Council Ilan Berman has [argued](#) that sanctions relief provided during the Joint Plan of Action has allowed Iran to increase its support for terror, asserting that “in the interim, in the year and a half that Iran has had greater breathing room... it has also, as the State Department has noted, stepped up its sponsorship of global instability as manifested in places like Syria, Yemen.”
 - Director of Research at the Center for Middle East Policy at the Brookings Institution Daniel Byman has warned that a nuclear-armed Iran would increase its sponsorship of terror, [stating](#) that Iran could “exploit the perceived protection it would gain if it developed a nuclear weapon to step up support for militant groups in the region.”

Iranian President Rouhani is neither a “moderate” nor a “pragmatist”

- Rouhani has a [documented](#) history of engaging in deceptive rhetoric towards the West.

- [Rouhani](#) was on the Iranian committee that plotted the 1994 [bombing](#) of a JCC in [Buenos Aires](#) that killed 85 people.
- Rouhani has [expressed support](#) for the 1979 seizure of the U.S. Embassy, for the fatwa against Salman Rushdie, and for the use of terrorist violence against the U.S.
- Rouhani [appointed](#) as his defense minister a general who was implicated in the 1983 bombing that killed 241 American servicemen in Lebanon. He also [appointed](#) as Vice President the woman who, in 1979, spoke for the Iranian revolutionaries who seized Americans at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran.
- Rouhani [named](#) a member of the group that held U.S. hostages in Tehran to be its next ambassador to the U.N.
- The number of [executions](#) in Iran has increased during Rouhani's presidency - [753](#) in 2014, 665 in 2013 and 522 in 2012. During the 14 months since [Iranian](#) President [Hassan Rouhani](#) took office, Iranian authorities have carried out at least 936 executions, according to data compiled by the Connecticut-based [Iran Human Rights Documentation Center](#).
- On April 23, 2015, Al-Monitor [wrote](#) that Rouhani has “neglected” the reform agenda — a long list of domestic, social and political demands made by the Iranian people and the Reformist camp.

Reports About the Emerging Final Deal

- **Non-binding Executive Agreement:** Secretary of State John Kerry has [acknowledged](#) that a potential agreement between the P5+1 and Iran on Iran’s nuclear program would not be a “legally binding plan.”
- **UN Approval:** President Obama’s plan [seems](#) to be to strike a final deal with Iran and submit it to the U.N. Security Council for approval, without allowing any Congressional say.
- **Nuclear Proliferation Assured:** Prince Turki al-Faisal, the former head of Saudi intelligence, [said](#) in November that his country would match the nuclear technologies Iran was allowed to maintain as part of any final agreement.
- **North Korean or Syrian Wildcard:** It is [unclear](#) if the deal will bar [North Korean or Syrian](#)-Iranian cooperation. North Korea has a long-term partnership with Iran on everything from missiles to nuclear technology and components.
- **More Frozen Funds Released:** Iran could receive a [signing bonus](#) of up to \$50 billion in frozen funds.
- **End Arms Embargo:** The final deal may [partially](#) lift the UN embargo on conventional arms to Iran.

The Framework for a Final Deal

- It is not an agreement. It is a “framework” for an eventual agreement to be forged in the period between now and June 30th when the actual “agreement” is to be signed.
- There is [no agreement](#) as to what was agreed. At least three versions of the framework are in circulation: that of the [State Department](#), that of the [French](#) and that of the [Iranians](#). They disagree fundamentally on what was agreed.
- The only thing that can be stated with any definitiveness about the framework is that it confirms that the U.S. has [moved towards](#) the Iranian position on the coming nuclear deal, and not vice versa. For example:
 - Iran can [continue](#) to enrich: Although the exact numbers are still in question, under the terms of the emerging deal, Iran can keep enriching centrifuges. Note that the only way to [prevent](#) Iranian nuclear weapons is to keep the number of centrifuges below 5,000.
 - Iran is [allowed](#) to keep the Arak heavy water reactor, the Fordo bunker, and the Natanz facility.
- **Breakout Time:** Currently, Iran can [produce](#) enough nuclear material to fuel a bomb in as little as two months. President Obama [acknowledged](#) that even if the U.S. view of the eventual agreement is true, after the 13 years of the final nuclear deal, during which Iran would be kept around one year away from a bomb, the Iranian nuclear breakout time will then shrink again. His Administration has since [said](#) that the President’s words were a little “mixed up.”
- **Post-Framework Iranian Actions Show Hostility & Bad Faith:**
 - A day after the framework was announced, at the state-sanctioned, supreme leader-directed weekly prayers in Tehran and every provincial capital, Iranian crowds [chanted](#) “Death to America”, [according to the](#) Iranian press.
 - Iran’s foreign minister has [vowed](#) that Iran will use its latest generation IR-8 centrifuges as soon as its nuclear deal with the world powers goes into effect. This makes a mockery of the framework agreement, since such a move breaches the U.S.-published terms of the deal, and would dramatically accelerate Iran’s progress to the bomb.
 - Iran’s Defense Minister Hossein Dehqan categorically [rejected](#) as a “lie” a report alleging that Tehran has granted the IAEA access to its military facilities under the recent framework agreement.
 - Leader Khamenei has [warned](#) about the “devilish” intentions of the United States and demanded that all sanctions on Iran be lifted at the same time as any final agreement is concluded.
 - On April 19, 2015, thousands of Iranians [celebrated](#) their nation's annual Army Day, with a full-on military parade -- replete with chants of “Death to America” and “Death to Israel.”