



“Iran’s malign behavior hasn’t abated since before during or after the nuclear deal in the domains in which I see — which is their development of ballistic missiles, their activities in Syria and Yemen, and in other [Mideastern] nations,” Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Kenneth McKenzie, [told lawmakers](#). McKenzie has served as the director of the Joint Staff since August 2017. He also called Iran the region’s “most significant long- and short-term threat.”

## Iranian Aggression & Bad Actions Since the JCPOA

- Iran has planned terror attacks:
  - An Iranian diplomat and three others, [Belgian’s of Iranian descent, were arrested](#) for plotting a bomb attack on a rally held by an exiled Iranian opposition group – the People’s Mojahedin of Iran (MEK) – in France. Germany [charged](#) the diplomat – a “third counselor” based in Vienna, Austria – with “activity as a foreign agent and conspiracy to commit murder.” The diplomat [coordinated](#) with officials in Tehran. Both the U.S. and the French government [confirmed that Iran was responsible](#). The Belgian authorities found 500 grams of the powerful homemade explosive TATP and an ignition mechanism hidden in a car. Among those who attended the rally [were](#) Americans such as former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, former New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, former FBI Director Louis Freeh, former Homeland Security Advisor Frances Townsend and former U.S. Army chief of staff Gen. George Casey. Other prominent attendees were the former Canadian prime minister, Stephen Harper, and former French foreign minister Bernard Kouchner. There [were](#) about 25,000 people at the rally.
  - Denmark [has arrested](#) a Norwegian national of Iranian descent on suspicion of helping prepare assassinations of Iranian Arab separatists.
  - The Dutch government [has accused](#) Iran of hiring criminal gangs to murder two Iranian dissidents in the Netherlands, one in 2015 and the other in 2017. Both of the victims were Iranian Arab separatists.
  - From the summer of 2017 to the spring of 2018 Iranian agents [crisscrossed](#) Orange County and the United States, videotaping participants at MEK rallies in New York and Washington, D.C., and photographing Jewish centers in Chicago. These Iranian operatives [are compiling](#) what are known as “target packages” to undertake prospective future assassinations and terrorist attacks.
  - Iran’s ambassador and first secretary to Albania [were found](#) to be intelligence agents plotting attacks on the 2,500 Iranian dissidents from the MEK who have set up a compound near Tirana.
  - Masked agents of Iran [physically beat](#) an opponent of the Iranian regime in Berlin, Germany, according to a German police report.
- Iran threatened the Persian Gulf oil route (through which 30 percent of the world’s oil passes each year). After supposed “moderate” Iranian President Rouhani [hinted at it](#), he later [explicitly told](#) state television, “if someday, the United States decides to block Iran’s oil [exports], no oil will be exported from the Persian Gulf.” Not one, but two, prominent Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corp (IRGC) leaders also explicitly threatened it. “If they want to stop Iranian oil exports, we will not allow any oil shipment to pass through the Strait of Hormuz,” IRGC commander Ismail Kowsari said. And Qasem Soleimani, the IRGC Quds force commander [wrote in a letter](#) to Rouhani that was made public that the IRGC “is ready to implement a policy that hinders regional oil exports if the United States bans Iranian oil sales.” Iran has conducted a naval exercise by Iran’s Revolutionary Guard forces involving over 50 small gunboats in the Strait of Hormuz to rehearse “swarm” tactics which could potentially shut down the waterway.
- Google, Facebook, and Twitter [have uncovered](#) a disinformation attack from Iran. Facebook has said that this campaign [has been ongoing](#) since 2011.
- Iran is [aggressive](#) in the Persian Gulf. U.S. forces operating in and around the Strait of Hormuz were often approached by Iranian warships and aircraft in an [“unsafe or unprofessional manner.”](#) [According to the](#)

[Navy](#), this happened 22 times in 2015, 36 times in 2016, 14 times in 2017, before stopping in 2018. However, Iranian boats [continue to shadow U.S. ships](#).

- U.S. Navy ships [fired warning shots](#) and [had interactions](#) with Iranian vessels in 2017.
- The Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps [threatened](#) to “drown” any U.S. ships near Iran. “Americans are aware that Iran would destroy their warships if they take a wrong measure in the region.”
- The navy of the IRGC [fired](#) several rockets near a U.S. aircraft carrier and a destroyer. The Navy described Iran’s move as “highly provocative.”
- Iran [violated](#) international law by [grabbing](#) two U.S. Navy ships and ten sailors until releasing them the next day. The sailors [surrendered](#) to protect the Iran nuclear deal. Iran’s army chief [said](#) the seizure should be considered a lesson to Congress trying to impose new sanctions. While in custody the sailors were, [intimidated](#), [humiliated](#) and made to “apologize.” Iran has [bragged](#) that it ([illegally](#)) extracted a lot of [information](#) from the confiscated phones and laptops and that it has humiliating films. It has [released](#) some embarrassing pictures.
- Iranian ships [threatened](#) a U.S. [helicopter](#) and [ships](#) in “unsafe and unprofessional” incidents.
- Iran [has claimed](#) that it has seized more American Naval personnel.
- Iran has violated UN Resolution 1929 and the “[spirit of UNSCR 2231](#)” by [testing as 23 ballistic missiles, with at least 16 nuclear capable](#).<sup>1</sup> This includes testing intermediate and long-range ballistic missiles, which “only [make economic, political, and military sense](#)” to become a nuclear weapons power. Iran [has](#) the largest and most diverse ballistic missile arsenal in the region.
  - Iran twice [violated](#) the UN ballistic missile testing restrictions on it **prior** to Implementation day.
  - In 2016, Iran [fired](#) 10 to 11 missiles than can be considered nuclear-capable.
  - In 2017, Iran [fired](#) four such tests of medium-range missiles and one test launch of a short range missile.
  - In 2018, Iran [fired](#) at least 7 medium-range missiles and at least 5 short-range missiles & cruise missiles.
  - In 2019, Iran [conducted](#) a failed satellite launches and rocket test. This technology is also useful for missiles carrying a nuclear weapon.
  - Iran [vowed](#) to [expand](#) and [enhance](#) its missiles and is [doing so increasingly](#).
  - Iran already [revealed](#) a new underground missile depot, a [Syrian rocket site](#), and [a new missile line](#).
  - On March 8 and 9, 2016, Iran [conducted multiple](#) missile tests, and called the U.S. the “main enemy”. The missiles [had printed](#) on them the slogan “Israel must be wiped out.”
  - Iran is [cooperating](#) with North Korea.
  - Iran [is still](#) growing its stockpile of ballistic missiles and [testing them](#).
- Iran, through its proxy forces in Yemen, is [turning](#) the Bab el-Mandeb waterway into a militarized chokepoint that threatens freedom of navigation. Forty-four IRGC and Hizballah operatives [have been killed or captured](#) in Yemen. On October 9 and 12, 2016, Iran supported Yemen’s Shia Houthi rebels fired anti-ship missiles at the destroyer USS *Mason*, off the coast of Yemen. The missiles failed to hit their target. On October 13, U.S. cruise missile strikes destroyed three Houthi coastal radar installations. The missiles fired by the Houthis were [likely](#) supplied by Iran, and the technical expertise necessary to operate and fire them would almost certainly have required Iranian assistance if not control. Iran [deployed](#) two warships to the Gulf of Aden in response to the U.S. strikes. Saudi Arabia [has been targeted](#) by a total of 80 ballistic missiles fired by the Houthis, and in January of 2017, the Houthis [attacked](#) a Saudi frigate off the coast of Yemen, which U.S. defense officials believe it may have been meant for an American warship.
- Iran is also funding and training Shia radical terror groups [in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia and Morocco](#).
- Iran is the “[biggest state sponsor of terrorism](#)” or the “[leading sponsor of terrorism](#)” or “[the central banker of international terrorism](#).” [Iran spent](#) a portion of the more than \$10 billion the U.S. gave it to fund terror. They also [used](#) part of the \$1.7 billion for that.
  - It [established](#) the al Sabirin terror group in Gaza & the West Bank, with a \$10 million annual budget.
  - Iran funds Hezbollah, annually, [\\$800 million to \\$1 billion](#), a boost (from \$200 million) after the JCPOA.
  - Iran funds [Hamas \(annually \\$100 million\)](#) & [Palestinian Islamic Jihad \(annually \\$100 million\)](#).

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<sup>1</sup> The U.S. [originally](#) insisted the deal contained “the exact same language” as UN resolution 1929 prohibiting ballistic-missile development. Iran has since revealed a loophole— which it’s been exploiting. The U.S. now says it isn’t a violation.

- The Iranian parliament [passed](#) a bill that authorizes the country to join [the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism](#) (CFT), one of several prerequisites for Iran's removal from the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) blacklist of states that [engage in](#) systemic money laundering and terror finance. But the bill [carves out exemptions](#) for the specific purpose of facilitating funds to support Hamas, Hezbollah, and other groups designated abroad as terrorist organizations.
- Iran has [supported](#) the Islamic State (IS) in the Sinai, through its funding of Hamas.
- Bin Laden once [described](#) Iran as al Qaeda's "main artery for funds, personnel, and communication" and Iran [has continued](#) to assist al-Qaeda.
- Since the nuclear deal was reached, Iran's military budget [has grown](#) by nearly 40%.
  - Iran [gave](#) the \$1.7 billion sent to them by the U.S. to the [Iranian military](#). The IRGC [benefitted](#) from it. Iran [raised](#) the Quds Force budget more than \$300 million beyond that of the IRGC.
    - This money was given to Iran on January 16, 2016. It was [supposedly](#) to settle a lawsuit with Iran. However, it was released the same time the sanctions on Iran were waived and the frozen oil funds were released to Iran, and the exact same time that four U.S. citizen hostages were released by Iran.
    - The entire \$1.7 billion amount [was paid](#) in cash - Swiss francs.
    - In 2000, the Clinton administration [agreed](#) to pay the \$400 million to Americans who had won judgments against Iran for terror attacks. U.S. officials assured the victims that the Treasury would be reimbursed from the seized Iranian funds. "We all believed that Iran would pay our damages, not U.S. taxpayers," says Stephen Flatow..."now, 15 years later, we find out that they never deducted the money from the account. It makes me nauseous. The Iranians aren't paying a cent."
    - Some of this money [was passed along](#) to Hezbollah.
- The IRGC [is sending](#) assets to infiltrate the U.S. and Europe at the direction of Leader Khamenei. Some of these spies [have threatened](#) the international press, including VOA, to ensure positive coverage.
- Iran [launched cyber-attacks against the U.S., the UK, and other targets](#), including [once right after the deal](#). Iran [has developed](#) a new "highly active" espionage group that is breaking into networks of government organizations and firms located in the Middle East. It also pushes propaganda on social media. One Iranian fake source [fooled](#) Pakistan into issuing a nuclear threat against Israel.
- The head of Iran's Quds Force, Qassem Soleimani, who is subject to a UN travel ban, [has defied](#) this ban [multiple times](#).
- Under President Rouhani, Amnesty International has said that Iran [has conducted](#) "a staggering execution spree", murdering so many dissidents that Iran has per capita the highest execution rate in the world. During his first term, Rouhani presided over more than [3,000 executions](#). (His predecessor, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, [executed](#) at least 1,095 people during his first term and at least 2,322 during his second.)
  - Child executions [have also](#) increased. A [majority](#) of those executed are drug sellers or users. Iran [executed](#) the entire adult male population of a village for drug offences.
- Iran [has escalated its involvement](#) in Syria. Iran [has sent more](#) than 50,000-90,000 Shia troops into Syria: 10,000-16,000 Iranians, a majority of which are IRGC, and [1500](#) of which are part of the Quds force; up to 10,000 fighters from Hezbollah; about 20,000 Iraqi militiamen; 15,000-20,000 Afghans; and 5000-7000 Pakistanis. Iran [uses Iran Air, Mahan Air](#) and other "civilian" Iranian airlines for this. Iran [pays](#) for and [extensively trains](#) these troops.
  - Iran is [building](#) a military base in Syria, 31 miles from Israel, and has [created](#) a Shia Syrian militia.
  - Iran has helped [create](#) an Alawite militia named the National Defense Forces, of up to 100,000 men.
  - Iran [spends probably](#) \$15 to [\\$20](#) billion annually in Syria.
  - 2000 Iranians [have died](#) in Syria.
  - The U.S. has determined that Iranians are [waging](#) "ethnic cleansing" campaigns in the [areas of Syria controlled by Assad](#) to eradicate or [send into exile](#) Sunni Muslims and replace them with Shia Muslims. The Shia Muslims [are coming](#) from Iraq or Lebanon or elsewhere. Iranian-led troops [have been responsible for](#) mass executions, and attacks on civilians, including on women and children. Or, the Iranians [pressure or bribe](#) Sunnis to convert.
  - Iran is [trying to build](#) an air base in Syria and [a missile factory](#), and provide additional weaponry to terrorists in Lebanon in an apparent effort to threaten Israel from two directions.

- The Treasury Department [has added](#) two Iran-backed groups to its official list of terrorists - The Fatemiyoun Division, composed of Afghanis, and the Zaynabiyoun Brigade, consisting of Pakistanis.
- The Treasury Department [has sanctioned](#) at least three airlines that help send weapons to Syria to its official list of terrorists – Mahan Air, Qeshm Fars Air and Armenia-based Flight Travel LLC.
- Post-deal, Gen. Austin [told](#) Congress, “Iran today is a significant destabilizing force in the region.”
- Iran is [dominating](#) Iraq. It is setting up a land corridor from Iran to Iraq to Syria to Lebanon.
  - The Iranians [control](#), train and support the [100,000 – 120,000 man](#) paramilitary Shia force in Iraq. The IRGC maintains a permanent staff of officers overseeing the process of cooperation with these militias. The force is called the Popular Mobilization Force, known in Arabic as the “[Hashid Shaabi](#)”, made up of two major groups - the Badr organization and the Ktaeb Hezbollah - and other groups.
  - In Iraq, Iran [maintains](#) around 1500 men from the Qods force. Iran [has also shelled](#) the KRG.
  - The Iranians have been involved in [ethnic cleansing in Iraq](#) and have [shelled civilians](#).
  - Iran [spends](#) \$150 million per year on the pro-Iran militias in Iraq.
  - Iran [has transferred](#) short-range ballistic missiles to the PMF, and it is helping those groups to start making their own. This violates the JCPOA.
  - The Iranian controlled PMF has conducted rocket attacks on the [U.S. Embassy in Baghdad](#) and [near the U.S. consulate in Basra](#).
- Iran [is supplying funding, weapons, and training](#) to the Taliban in Afghanistan.
- Iran [has arrested](#) and [imprisoned](#) seven U.S. persons, Siamak Namazi, Baquer Namazi, Nizar Zakka (a resident), [Reza “Robin” Shahini](#), [Karan Vafadari](#) (a resident), graduate student [Xiyue Wang](#), Navy Veteran [Michael White](#), and (probably) an eighth, [Robert Levinson](#). Other foreigners have also been [seized and ransomed](#) by the Iranians.
  - Shahini [was given](#) an 18 year sentence for “collaboration with a hostile government,” i.e., the U.S.
  - Zakka was given a 10-year sentence for “[spying](#)” for the U.S. Iran [wants money](#) for his release.
  - Iran [sentenced](#) the Namazis to 10 years in prison on charges of cooperating with the U.S.
  - In August of 2016, the State Department [issued](#) a warning urging U.S. citizens to avoid traveling to Iran.
  - *Post* reporter Jason Rezaian [filed](#) a lawsuit against Iran, claiming he was tortured while he was held.
- Iran [ran](#) a “large-scale” counterfeiting ring for the IRGC worth hundreds of millions of dollars.
- Since the nuclear deal, “Tehran ... [is seeking](#) Moscow’s help to build another 10 nuclear reactors...”
- Iran [has announced](#) a new Holocaust cartoon contest. The prize is \$50,000.
- Iran [threatened personal harm](#) to the IAEA Director if he revealed the 2 side deals to the U.S. Congress.
- Iran’s [forces allowed](#) Iranians to sack the Saudi Embassy to protest the execution of a Shia Saudi cleric.
- Iranian state media [added](#) \$600,000 to a bounty for the killing of author Salman Rushdie.
- Iran [pledged](#) that Palestinian terrorists will receive \$7,000, & \$30,000 if their home was demolished.
- In March 2016, the U.S. [confiscated](#) weapons that were being transported from Iran to Houthi rebels.
- Iran [intends](#) to produce the powerful explosive Octogen for use in the warheads of its missiles to improve their “destructive and penetration power.” Octogen is also used as part of the detonator in an atomic bomb.
- Iran’s Parliament is [demanding](#) compensation from the U.S. for its involvement in “spiritual and material damage”. They cited examples such as the [U.S involvement in the coup of PM Mossadegh](#) in 1953.
- Iran [has laid out](#) a plan to attack the U.S. electrical grid in an Iranian military document.
- Iran is [solidifying its foothold](#) in Latin America.
- Leader Khamenei’s organization, The [Execution of Imam Khomeini’s Order](#) (EIKO), [continues to confiscate](#) the assets of Iranian civilians. EIKO, worth an estimated \$95 billion dollars, “holds stakes in nearly every sector of Iranian industry, including finance, oil, telecommunications, the production of birth-control pills and even ostrich farming.” EIKO has also amassed a vast real-estate portfolio.
- Iran [was to blame](#) for a mortar attack near the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad and a rocket attack on the U.S. Consulate in Basra. The consulate [has since been closed](#) in response to "increasing and specific threats" from the Iranian government and militias under its control.

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