

AIPAC Statement on Proposed Iran Nuclear Agreement

<http://www.aipac.org/learn/resources/aipac-publications/publication?pubpath=PolicyPolitics/Press/AIPAC%20Statements/2015/07/AIPAC%20Statement%20on%20Proposed%20Iran%20Nuclear%20Agreement>

AIPAC has consistently supported diplomatic efforts to end Iran's nuclear weapons program, and we appreciate the commitment and dedication of President Obama and his administration throughout these negotiations. Unfortunately, this proposed agreement fails to halt Iran's nuclear quest. Instead, it would facilitate rather than prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and would further entrench and empower the leading state sponsor of terror.

During these negotiations, we outlined criteria for a good deal that Congress itself had set in five critical areas: inspections, possible military dimensions, sanctions, duration, and dismantlement. In each of these areas, the proposed agreement has significant flaws:

- The proposed deal does not ensure “anytime, anywhere” short-notice inspections;
- The proposed deal does not clearly condition sanctions relief on full Iranian cooperation in satisfying International Atomic Energy Agency concerns over the possible military dimensions of Tehran's program;
- The proposed deal lifts sanctions as soon as the agreement commences, rather than gradually as Iran demonstrates sustained adherence to the agreement;
- The proposed deal lifts key restrictions in as few as eight years;
- The proposed deal would disconnect and store centrifuges in an easily reversible manner, but it requires no dismantlement of centrifuges or any Iranian nuclear facility.

In return for this flawed agreement, Iran will receive over \$100 billion in sanctions relief. Tehran will use these funds to fuel its hegemonic ambitions, support the killing of civilians in Syria, fund the terrorist organizations Hamas and Hezbollah, and spur deadly conflicts throughout the region.

This agreement not only fails to achieve its objectives in the nuclear arena, but it releases Tehran in a matter of years—regardless of Iranian behavior—from ballistic missile sanctions and an arms embargo imposed by the United Nations Security Council. This late, unexpected concession will provide additional arms for terrorism and proxy wars, while strengthening Iran's capabilities against our regional allies.

This accord threatens the future of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. By leaving Iran on the threshold of a nuclear weapon—despite its history of violating international obligations—other countries in the region will have a dangerous incentive to initiate their own nuclear programs. The

resulting nuclear arms race would severely destabilize the region.

Proponents of the proposed agreement will argue that the only alternative to this agreement is military conflict. In fact, the reverse is true. A bad agreement such as this will invite instability and nuclear proliferation. It will embolden Iran and may encourage regional conflict.

We strongly believe that the alternative to this bad deal is a better deal. Congress should reject this agreement, and urge the administration to work with our allies to maintain economic pressure on Iran while offering to negotiate a better deal that will truly close off all Iranian paths to a nuclear weapon.

Congress should insist on a better deal.

Rabbinical Assembly

RA Leadership Voices Concern; Calls for Thoughtful Review of Iran Agreement

<http://www.rabbinicalassembly.org/story/ra-leadership-voices-concern-calls-thoughtful-review-iran-agreement?tp=25>

NEW YORK – The United States, along with its P5+1 partners, announced Tuesday that a deal with Iran had been reached to curtail that country from obtaining nuclear weapons. In response, the Rabbinical Assembly, the association for Conservative/Masorti rabbis released the following statement from its president, Rabbi William Gershon, and executive vice president, Julie Schonfeld.

The Rabbinical Assembly has long been supportive of a diplomatic solution to ensure that Iran does not develop nuclear weapons and we recognize the hard work by the Obama administration and Secretary John Kerry, notwithstanding our reservations about the deal as it is currently being reported.

President Obama and his team of negotiators have repeatedly said that any deal with Iran must shut down Iran's uranium enrichment pathway to a weapon, cut off all four of Iran's potential pathways to a bomb, and track Iran's nuclear activities with unprecedented transparency and robust inspections throughout its nuclear supply chain. With time, details of this deal will be fully reviewed and any deal that does not at least meet these parameters should be rejected. Iran, a leading state sponsor of terror, must not be able to acquire nuclear weapons. A nuclear armed Iran would be a grave danger to the national security interests of the United States and its allies around the world including Israel. We must not enable this dangerous regime to increase its power through nuclear weapons.

Now, we turn to Congress to carefully review and assess this proposed agreement and call on our representatives to ensure that Iran will be prevented from obtaining a nuclear weapon.

Orthodox Union

Statement of the Union Of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America and the Rabbinical Council Of America; We Have Assessed Proposed Iran Deal and Found it Wanting – Preparing to Mobilize Synagogues Across the U.S.

<http://advocacy.ou.org/2015/statement-union-orthodox-jewish-congregations-rabbinical-council-america-assessed-proposed-iran-deal-found-wanting-preparing-mobilize-synagogues-acros/>

In the wake of announcements by the government of the United States, its five negotiating partners and the Iranian regime of a deal with regard to Iran's nuclear weapons program, the following statement was issued jointly by the leaderships of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America and the Rabbinical Council of America (respectively, the largest Orthodox Jewish umbrella organization and the largest national rabbinic membership organization nationwide):

The leaders of the Orthodox Union and Rabbinical Council of America are gravely concerned about the deal announced yesterday between the U.S. and its five negotiating partners and the Iranian regime.

Given the gravity of Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons and this complex agreement, we did not—despite our skepticism—formulate a position or issue a policy statement about it immediately after President Obama announced the deal at 7:00am on Tuesday. Rather, we took the time to read the agreement, hear from senior Obama Administration officials as well as Israeli leaders, and consider the analysis of experts in the field.

Our assessment of the agreement, and of the presentations by government officials and analysts, is driven by one fundamental question: Will the proposed agreement protect the security of the United States, Israel and our other allies?

By this standard, we have found the deal with Iran seriously wanting and will mobilize our member rabbis and synagogues throughout the nation to urge Congress to fulfill their mandate and disapprove the agreement.

At this time, we note two critical concerns about the agreement. First, the inspections regime is insufficient to ensure Iran cannot cheat and surreptitiously develop nuclear weapons, despite President Obama's promise that the deal would be subject to the toughest verification and inspections in the world. This agreement falls far short of providing "anytime, anywhere" inspections by IAEA monitors. Moreover, the agreement gives Iran the ability to deflect inspections at a site for enough time (more than 3 weeks) to remove and hide materiel it does not want discovered.

Second, President Obama asserted that "we are giving up nothing" by testing Iran's compliance with the deal. However, under this agreement Iran will receive billions of dollars in funds that it can use to fuel even more terrorism and destabilizing activities across the globe.

Congress' consideration of this agreement over the next 60 days is likely the most important foreign policy decision of our generation. It must consider the concerns raised above and other critical issues we will raise in the coming days.

The Orthodox Union and Rabbinical Council of America—through the OU Advocacy Center—will work in the coming weeks to mobilize our rabbis and synagogues across the United States to ensure our elected representatives hear our concerns and fulfill their solemn responsibility to protect and defend our vital national security interests.

Centre for Israel & Jewish Affairs

Press Release: CIJA Urges Caution on Iranian Nuclear Agreement

<http://www.cija.ca/centre-publications/media/caution-on-agreement/>

Ottawa, ON – Today, the P5+1 announced that it has signed an agreement with Iran. Under the terms of the agreement, Iran will receive extensive sanctions relief in return for temporary limitations on aspects of its illicit nuclear program.

In response, David J. Cape, Chair of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA), issued the following statement:

“While we share the goal of a diplomatic solution to this crisis, the Iranian regime has a long record of exploiting diplomacy as a cover to advance its nuclear program. The success of today’s agreement depends on Iran’s actions, not its words.”

“The Government of Canada has been a world leader in countering Iran’s nuclear program by severing diplomatic ties with Tehran, engaging our allies, and holding the regime to account at the UN. Canada’s two major opposition parties have supported sanctions and called for strong verification measures to determine Iranian compliance, a non-partisan consensus that should be reaffirmed in the wake of today’s announcement. We urge officials in Ottawa to ensure that any relief of independent Canadian sanctions is strictly contingent on tangible and significant Iranian progress in fulfilling its obligations. We also trust that Canada’s position, now and in the future, continues to reflect an understanding and consideration of the legitimate security concerns of the Israeli people.

“Today’s announcement by no means relieves the international community of the need to hold Iran accountable for its persecution and repression of its own people at home and its promotion of terrorism abroad. Tehran continues to abuse the human rights of its own citizens, particularly women, religious minorities, political dissidents, and LGBT Iranians. Internationally, Iran is the world’s leading state sponsor of terrorism. The regime continues to train, fund, and arm terrorists throughout the Middle East, with particularly disastrous results for the people of Syria, Iraq, Gaza, Lebanon, and Yemen. It has been responsible for deadly terrorist attacks against Jewish community and Israeli targets around the globe, while regularly calling for the annihilation of Israel.

“Hasty sanctions relief will no doubt be used by Iran to fund this reprehensible agenda. Regardless of today’s announcement, Canada and the international community must continue to use economic and diplomatic tools to counter the threat posed by the regime to regional peace, global security, and domestic human rights.”