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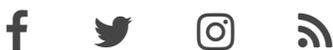
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Iran Pulse

Trump's new Iran policy seeks perennial conflict

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[Seyed Hossein Mousavian](#) October 18, 2017

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Article Summary

The Trump administration's new Iran strategy not only shuts the door to diplomacy with Iran but also alienates ordinary Iranians.

📷 REUTERS/Joshua Roberts

US President Donald Trump speaks to the Heritage Foundation's President's Club Meeting in Washington, Oct. 17, 2017.

After nine months of disavowing the Obama administration's Iran policy, US President Donald Trump has finally unveiled his strategy toward the Islamic Republic: all-out confrontation. His Oct. 13 speech announcing the policy was nothing short of war mongering and marks the elimination of any prospects for successful US-Iran diplomacy.

[Trump's address](#) and the White House [fact sheet](#) detailing his Iran policy centered on traditional US rebukes of Iran over its regional influence, defensive capabilities (such as its ballistic missile program), its domestic policies and the role of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). Of course, he also followed through with his threat to decertify Iranian compliance with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), against the wishes of his senior advisers and [European allies](#), and even as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has repeatedly verified Iran's compliance with its obligations under the nuclear deal. Trump also said that if a "solution" to the JCPOA was not reached with Congress and US allies, "then the [agreement will be terminated](#)." Furthermore, while he stopped short of designating the IRGC as a terrorist group, he imposed new sanctions on the organization.

Trump's Iran policy is based on an amalgamation of the most hard-line talking points on Iran uttered by every US administration since 1979, with the sole exception of President Barack Obama's second term. Every US president since 1979 has accused the Iranian government of being a state sponsor of terrorism, destabilizing the region and transgressing the rights of its people. US policies all evoked a desire for regime change through attempting to isolate Iran and mobilize regional and international powers against it,

exporting arms to regional states hostile to Iran, supporting violent opposition groups and separatists inside Iran, and engaging in covert war aimed at sabotaging Iran's economic and military capabilities.

Trump's speech was notable given that it was light on actual strategy. Instead, he relied on polemics and insults [bound to offend](#) Iranians of every political stripe, particularly through use of the term "Arabian Gulf" to refer to the historically and internationally recognized name for the body of water that separates Iran's southwestern coast and the Arabian Peninsula. Of note, the United States [officially refers](#) to the latter as the Persian Gulf, as does the United Nations. Consequently, such rhetoric reinforces to the Iranian people the disingenuousness of Trump's references to their "proud history ... culture ... [and] civilization"; this, coupled with Trump's outright ban on Iranians entering the United States, negates any Trump claim of siding with them.

With respect to the JCPOA, Trump's speech and his newly laid-out policy reveal that he seeks to goad Iran into withdrawing from the deal. Given international support for the landmark accord, he is in a bind, and thus aims to kill the deal by attempting to create international consensus over sanctioning Iran for non-nuclear reasons that have to do with purported Iranian malign "behavior" in the region.

While Trump's speech won him immediate official acclamations from the [Israeli](#), Saudi, [Emirati](#) and Bahraini governments, traditional US allies in Europe all publicly declared their strong support for the JCPOA and intention to continue diplomatic engagement with Iran. The IAEA [reiterated that Iran](#) is fully in compliance with its obligations under the deal. Thus, it appears that the United States is experiencing unprecedented [international isolation](#) on Iran. Indeed, after Trump's speech, EU foreign policy chief [Federica Mogherini](#) said, "The international community, and the European Union with it, has clearly indicated that the deal is, and will continue to be, in place."

The situation could also quickly deteriorate given the Trump administration's increasingly frequent declarations of [regime change](#) as an overarching foreign policy objective. Secretary of State [Rex Tillerson](#) reiterated Oct. 15 that Washington's "endgame" is for the Iranian government to be toppled. By committing to a regime change policy, Trump is not only contradicting his own campaign rhetoric, which castigated US policies of regime change under Obama and President George W. Bush, but is violating the UN charter and reviving memories in the Iranian public of the 1953 CIA-orchestrated coup that overthrew the democratically elected government of Mohammad Mossadegh. Such attempts by Trump to create cleavages between the Iranian public and government, or even within the government in Tehran, are futile — and fatal to any endeavor to negotiate with Tehran on any issue.

Trump's decertification of the JCPOA and his ultra-hawkish, anti-Iran rhetoric have not only alienated US allies, but predictably united a usually divided Iranian public behind their government. Moreover, with his vociferous attacks on Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and the IRGC, Trump has ruled out any possibility for negotiations with Tehran and put the two countries on a dangerous trajectory toward war.

After nearly 40 years of pursuing confrontational, zero-sum strategies toward Iran, the United States has only seen its regional influence wither and its autocratic allies prove unsustainable, while Iran has emerged as a major regional power.

For Trump to now take such a hostile stance toward Iran — and especially Ayatollah Khamenei and the IRGC — positions the United States to be perpetually at odds with the Islamic Republic and remain entangled in costly interventions in the region at unnecessary cost to its human and material resources and global standing.

Found in: [Iran deal](#), [US President Donald Trump](#)



[Seyed Hossein Mousavian](#) is a Middle East security and nuclear policy specialist at Princeton University and a former spokesman for Iran's nuclear negotiators. He is the author of "The Iranian Nuclear Crisis: A Memoir" (2012) and "Iran and the United States: Insider's View on the Failed Past and the Road to Peace" (2014).

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Mario S Nusbaum • 4 days ago

"German security officials have accused the Iranian regime of pursuing its goal to build missiles armed with nuclear warheads, the Berlin daily Der Tagesspiegel reported.

"Despite the nuclear agreement [reached with world powers in July 2015], Iran has not given up its illegal activities in Germany. The mullah regime also made efforts this year to obtain material from [German] firms for its nuclear program and the construction of missiles, said security sources," Der Tagesspiegel wrote on Friday.

The paper added, "Iran has [according to the security sources] clearly not given up its long-term goal to become a nuclear power that can mount nuclear weapons on rockets."

Unfortunately (tragically actually) many governments don't want to see what's so clear that is becoming ridiculous to deny it.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Justnfree → Mario S Nusbaum • 4 days ago

IAEA supposed to inspect and verify such matters and so far they found no evidence of such claim.

Did German security explain how they acquired such information in the article you mentioned? Or just like Americans, they are not going to show the compelling evidence because of some vague reason?! Why German security don't share their evidence with IAEA or UNSC instead of some barely known tabloid?!

Many governments don't want to see Zionist racist occupying regime which isn't member of NPT, already has nuclear weapons, keeps attacking its neighbors while threatening them with nuclear weapons.

Main accusers of Iran about nuclear weapons is US that already used nuclear weapons against hundreds of thousands of civilians, twice and Zionist regime that isn't member of NPT and has hundreds illegal nuclear weapons and nuclear capable submarine that Germany has given them for free.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Mario S Nusbaum → Justnfree • 3 days ago

"The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) recently stated that it could not verify that Iran was "fully implementing the agreement" by not engaging in activities that would allow it to make a nuclear explosive device. Yukiya Amano of the IAEA told Reuters that when it comes to inspections – which are stipulated in section T of the agreement – "our tools are limited." Amano continued to say: "In other sections, for example, Iran has committed to submit declarations, place their activities under safeguards or ensure access by us. But in Section T I don't see any (such commitment)."

It is well established that Tehran has consistently denied IAEA inspectors' access to military sites and other research locations. This is in direct contravention to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and bipartisan legislation set out by Congress, which compels the president to verify that "Iran is transparently, verifiably, and fully implementing the agreement." Yet, according to the Institute for Science and International Security, as of the last quarterly report released in August, the IAEA had not visited any military site in Iran since implementation day."

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

IranMan → Mario S Nusbaum • 3 days ago

"It is well established that Tehran has consistently denied IAEA inspectors' access to military sites and other research locations. "

True! IAEA inspectors' direct access to Iran's military sites was not an integral part of the JCPOA. Therefore, it is not in contravention of anything. You can let your vivid imagination come up with all sorts of nonsense. That is certainly your opinion and your prerogative.

Get a clue, and stay away from topics you are not intellectually capable to handle.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Justnfree → IranMan • 3 days ago

Not really, IAEA inspected Parchin twice before and found nothing!!

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

IranMan → Justnfree • 3 days ago

Then it was a favor in the spirit of cooperation, and done in advance of format negotiations.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Justnfree → Mario S Nusbaum • 3 days ago

Parchin military facility was inspected by IAEA twice before, they found nothing. Iran won't allow its military sites inspected by IAEA again unless other countries allow it too. The law supposed to be the same for all. Iran already allowed most intrusive inspection in history of IAEA way beyond NPT. If that is not enough, they can

But we don't need inspections to know Zionist racist occupying regime possess nuclear warheads. Thanks to Mordechai Vanunu we know they have it. So let's deal with the real danger rather the imaginary one.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Mario S Nusbaum → Justnfree • 3 days ago

So what you are saying is that the IAEA is lying when it says that it could not verify that Iran was "fully implementing the agreement" by not engaging in activities that would allow it to make a nuclear explosive device.

If so, why do you trust them about the inspections????????? Do you even think before writing? I'm not saying that Israel hasn't nuclear warheads, but listen to yourself: "Thanks to Mordechai Vanunu we know they have it. "

According to you everything he says is true, and some of the the IAEA says are but others aren't.

"Zionist racist occupying regime "

This is the hate speaking

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Justnfree → Mario S Nusbaum • 3 days ago

I didn't say IAEA inspectors lied about Iran. You may read my comments again. IAEA has inspected Iran more than any other member state beyond rules of NPT. So far they didn't find remote evidence that can relate Iran to development of nuclear weapons and they said so. But due to pressure from western countries they always say they can't be 100% sure, because they didn't inspect every centimeter of Iran. That's not problem of Iranian government. They just have to follow the rules they signed.

Recently due to pressure from western countries they are trying to gain access to Parchin facility which is not a nuclear facility and Iran isn't obligated to let them inspect it based NPT, additional protocols or JCPOA. Although Iran has let them inspect that facility before and they found no trace of any nuclear activity in them.

Western countries are just trying to pressure Iran. Inspection of Parchin is just an excuse. If Iran allow them to inspect again, they will find nothing again and find another excuses. Also they can spy on Iran's military secrets that Iran won't allow.

Iran won't allow them to inspect Parchin again because there is no law that obligates Iran. If other IAEA members allow inspection of their non-nuclear secret military facilities then Iranian might reconsider.

Zionists are "racist", "occupying" and "aggressive" regime that own "nuclear weapons" and "attack their neighbors" against all international laws. They are "not member of IAEA" and "didn't sign NPT ". So they are in no position to complain about Iran's nuclear activities. It's the truth.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Mario S Nusbaum → Justnfree • 3 days ago

You didn't get the point. We are NOT talking about the NPT. The question here is the JCPOA. But there is one thing you are right about: "Iran isn't obligated to let them inspect it based JCPOA." And that's exactly why Trump said it's the worst deal the US has ever signed. "But due to pressure from western countries they always say they can't be 100% sure " Are they?

"Zionists are "racist""

Huge lie

"occupying"

Right

"aggressive"

Highly subjective

" and "attack their neighbors" against all international laws"

Another huge lie]

"They are "not member of IAEA" and "didn't sign NPT ".

And that's exactly why it's nukes are as illegal as the French, Pakistani, Indian, Russian, etc

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Justnfree → Mario S Nusbaum • 3 days ago

Well, so we came to conclusion that Iran hasn't done anything illegal, regarding NPT and JCPOA. Good enough for me.

Trump can tear down JCPOA which has been signed and ratified by US government and 5 other major powers, if he likes. Iranian would never allow others inspect their non-nuclear secret facilities when ever they please. Which country in the world allows that?! Iran has to follow international laws not Trump or Netanyahu's never ending wishes.

France and Russia are members of IAEA as nuclear powers like US, UK and China. Pakistan, India, North Korea and Zionist regime possess nuclear weapons without being member of NPT. But only Zionists complain about other countries nuclear activities which don't have nuclear weapons. Rather laughable!!

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Mario S Nusbaum → Justnfree • 3 days ago

All your "arguments" are based solely on hate. Illegal nuclear weapons? How are they illegal???? Are the American, Pakistanis, Chinese and French also "illegal"?

"IAEA supposed to inspect and verify such matters and so far they found no evidence of such claim"

Really? Did you know that the IAEA can ONLY inspect sites that the murderer ayatolabs allow? Can you imagine the DEA searching a house looking for drugs but not being allowed to search any room the owner says it hasn't drugs? But guess what, even so: "IAEA: Iran Again Exceeds Limits on Heavy Water" AGAIN!!!!!! Is the Financial Times also a some barely known tabloid?

"Iran has attempted to acquire nuclear technology in Germany even after the atomic accord it reached with western powers in Vienna last July, according to the German domestic intelligence agency.

The annual report of the Bundesamt für Verfassungsschutz (BfV) said that illegal Iranian attempts to procure technology "continued on a quantitatively high level by international standards" in Germany in 2015."

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Justnfree → Mario S Nusbaum • 3 days ago

Zionist nuclear weapons are same North Korean nuclear weapons and must treated same way. Except North Koreans don't attack their neighbors with donated weapons repeatedly because they have nuclear threat and veto in their back pocket.

According to NPT, IAEA can only inspect nuclear facilities. REALLY!! If there is any other nuclear

facility that wasn't declared let IAEA know.

"murderer ayatolabs" sounds like hate speech to me.

Berlin daily Der Tagesspiegel is a barely known tabloid at least to me, never heard of it before. You didn't talk about Financial times in first comment.

DEA or any other law enforcement institute need warrants to search houses based on law. They can't just break into houses when ever they please. If they actually look for drugs the better look into US activities in Afghanistan and Latin America, instead of bullying school children and housewives. It's not secret who controls the poppy fields in Afghanistan or Cocaine routes from Latin America and who's the banker of drug kingpins.

Iranian nuclear activities is way beyond German domestic intelligence agency jurisdiction. What kind of information they can have in that regard?!

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Mario S Nusbaum → Justnfree • 2 days ago

"murderer ayatolabs" sounds like hate speech to me" Ok, so what should I call those responsible for this:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/...>

and this

<https://www.hrw.org/middle-...>

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Justnfree • 4 days ago

Everything US has done against Iran made Iran stronger and gained them more allies. I believe Trump would make the process even faster!! Since 2000 if US had done nothing at all against Iran, they would have saved trillions and Iran was in much weaker position!! Great work, Keep it up, LOL!!

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

ilker • 5 days ago

Crusaders have been waging wars against islamic nations since 911, Trump banning muslims, ethnic cleansing of Rovingya, not a word of condemnation from america, this anti muslim policy by america fueled by Netanhayu. Only country that speaks out the injustices is Turkey. Turkey only nation sending aid around the islamic world.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Dumd → ilker • 4 days ago

Muslims happily kill each other. Stop blaming the West for the complete mess Islam finds itself.

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

ilker → Dumd • 4 days ago

deluded

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