

HABITHONISTIM

ISRAEL'S DEFENSE & SECURITY FORUM

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We are leaders of HaBithonistim (“Israel’s Defense and Security Forum”), the policy organization that represents Israel’s security establishment. Our membership consists of 2,000 former IDF Generals, high-ranking officers from the intelligence community, Shin Bet, military, and law enforcement. We are gravely concerned by the Biden administration’s campaign to revive the Iran nuclear deal.

In recent years the Jewish state and our Arab neighbors have made enormous progress toward peace for hundreds of millions of people who live in our region. The future is bright for Israel and our neighbors.

The dark cloud hanging over this future is the threat from Iran, including its nuclear program. The Iranian regime explicitly and publicly seeks the destruction of our country and the toppling of governments of the Arab countries with whom we have made peace. Preventing Iran from obtaining the capability to build deliverable nuclear weapons and confronting the regime’s malign activities are essential to preventing catastrophe. This task requires the following policy:

1. No return to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) - The JCPOA failed to eliminate Iran’s enrichment-related capabilities, gave Iran a pass on its undeclared nuclear activities, failed to require inspections of Iranian military facilities, legalized Iran’s development of nuclear-capable missiles under international law, allowed Iran to proliferate precision guided missiles throughout the Middle East, and failed to address the regime’s sponsorship of terrorism. The agreement even as it stood on Implementation Day in 2016 was weak and fatally flawed.

2. No deal that allows critical restrictions on Iran’s capabilities to expire: Any new deal should impose stringent, permanent, and irreversible restrictions. The JCPOA left Iran with enrichment capabilities that the regime could ramp up at any time to move closer to acquiring a nuclear weapon. Iran cannot maintain capabilities that can be used at any time of its choosing.

3. Anytime-Anywhere inspections: The JCPOA spoke to inspections only of sites declared by Iran. In 2018, after a daring intelligence operation revealed Iran’s secret nuclear weapons archive, we learned that Iran is concealing additional nuclear sites, materials, and activities. Considering the regime’s record of repeatedly breaking its nuclear promises, including those spelled out in the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Statute, and the JCPOA itself, any new

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agreement must include comprehensive anytime-anywhere inspections, including of military facilities.

4. The nuclear missile program: The United Nations and international community prohibited Iran from developing nuclear-capable ballistic missiles, until the JCPOA and UNSCR 2231 undid those restrictions. Those restrictions must be restored.

5. Preservation of sanctions related to terrorism, human rights atrocities, and other non-nuclear malign behavior: The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, the Quds Force, Iran's defense industries and its nuclear-related industries must remain sanctioned. Nothing in the JCPOA precluded the United States from imposing sanctions on Iran for non-nuclear conduct.

These measures are criticized by advocates of engagement with Iran as unrealistic. Some of have said they would require the Iranian regime to abandon its entire foreign policy. These characterizations are, unfortunately, likely correct. But they are yet more evidence that Iran has no intention of giving up its nuclear program or ambition to destabilize regional governments and to destroy Israel. **We are troubled that the Biden administration and a handful of European countries are promoting a return to the Iran deal while disregarding the concerns of those closest to Iran, most vulnerable to Iran, and most knowledgeable about Iran.**

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