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## Words of Hate: Iran's Escalating Threats

**Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and other top Iranian leaders regularly issue belligerent statements threatening to destroy the United States, Europe and Israel. Casting himself as a divine leader with direct connections to God, Ahmadinejad views himself as a revolutionary president charged with hastening the arrival of a messianic era in which the world would be ruled in accordance with the dictates of Islam. These escalating threats further underscore the need to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons.**

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### Threatening the United States and Europe

- “This nation will punch its intimidators in the mouth. You the West, have to know that your resolutions will not be worth a red cent for the Iranian nation.”—**Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad** (*Associated Press, June 13, 2007*)
- “We have advised the Europeans that the Americans are far away, but you are the neighbors of the nations in this region. We inform you that the nations are like an ocean that is welling up, and if a storm begins, the dimensions will not stay limited to Palestine, and you may get hurt. It is in your own interest to distance yourself from these criminals [Israel]. ... This is an ultimatum.”—**Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad** (*Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran Radio 1, Oct. 20, 2006*)

### Rejecting Israel's Existence

- “The Zionist regime is the flag bearer of violation and occupation and this regime is the flag of Satan.”—**Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad** (*Agence France Press, August 18, 2007*)
- “The Zionist regime of Israel is in its worst period of life and its condition is deteriorating. Muslim states are required to support the popular government of Palestine. ... Divine victory, which is the result of resistance and faith of the oppressed Palestinian nation, is imminent. The Palestinian people should be wise and support the Palestinian government-elect, thus preparing the ground for liberation of noble Qods and their freedom from the Zionist regime.”—**Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad** (*Iranian Republic News Agency, March 6, 2007*)
- “The countdown to this regime's [Israel] destruction started through the hands of Hizballah's children.... We will witness the destruction of this regime in the near future thanks to the endeavors of all Palestinian and Lebanese fighters.”—**Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad** (*Agence France Presse, June 3, 2007*)
- “Today there is no justification for the existence of this regime [Israel].”—**Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad** (*Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran Radio 1, Oct. 20, 2006*)
- “This [Israeli] regime is illegitimate in its very foundation, it is forged, it has been imposed on nations of the region and it cannot survive.”—**Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad** (*IRINN, Oct. 20, 2006*)

- “The Israeli regime is falling and the Zionists’ supporters should take the massive support for Palestinians of the Iranian people and the world Muslims as a warning.”—**Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki** (*Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA)*, Oct. 20, 2006)

### Pursuing Nuclear Weapons

- “The process of installing centrifuges could be slow or fast. ... But no one should expect that we will give up our rights and stop the process. ... [Iran seeks] all rights of our nation and there is no room for surrender even to the amount of an iota.”—**Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad** (*Associated Press*, July 11, 2007)
- “I tell them, issue as many [U.N. Security Council] resolutions [against Iran’s nuclear program] until you get tired. There are a few powers that have this [nuclear] technology and are angry that another country has come to join them. They know if Iran passes this peak, it cannot be rivaled.”—**Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad** (*Agence France Press*, May 5, 2007)
- “They should know that the Iranian nation is resisting. The Iranian nation is in the scene while standing united. Using the entire fuel cycle is an essential demand by the Iranian nation.”—**Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad** (*Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran Radio 1*, Oct. 20, 2006)
- “The current situation of the Security Council is devoid of legitimacy and its decisions [prohibiting Iran from enriching uranium] are devoid of legitimacy.”—**Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad** (*Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran Radio 1*, Oct. 20, 2006)
- “Our policy is clear, progress with clear logic and insisting on the nation’s right [to enrich uranium] without any retreat.”—**Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei** (*Reuters*, Oct. 10, 2006)
- “The Iranian people – because of its past culture, its past civilization, its intelligent youth, its human and material potential – has the capacity to quickly become an invincible global power. This will happen as soon as it achieves advanced technologies.”—**Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad** (*Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI) translation of IRINN*, Sept. 28, 2006)

### Fomenting Religious Radicalism

- “The president of America is like us. That is, he too is inspired ... but [his] inspiration is of the satanic kind. Satan gives inspiration to the president of America ...”—**Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad** (*MEMRI Translation of Iran News Agency*, Oct. 14, 2006)
- “Someone asked me: ‘So and so said that you have a connection.’ I said: ‘Yes, I have.’ He asked me: ‘Really, you have a connection? With whom?’ I answered: ‘I have a connection with God,’ since God said that the infidels will have no way to harm the believers. Well, [but] only if we are believers, because God said: You [will be] the victors.”—**Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad** (*MEMRI translation of Iran News Agency*, Oct. 14, 2006)
- “Leaders of the arrogant imperialists have already defined the links of the chain in this U.S.-Zionist project by attacking Iraq. ... The issue of the insulting cartoons and remarks of some politicians about Islam are different links in the conspiracy of the Crusaders, and the pope’s remarks are the latest links in this.”—**Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei** (*Agence France-Presse*, Sept. 18, 2006)