

MEMMO

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Words of Hate: Iran's Escalating Threats

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and other top Iranian leaders are issuing increasingly 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.

Threatening the United States and Europe

- “[America] should understand that the message from the peoples of the region ... is manifested in a single slogan. With clenched fists here the people of Eslamshahr [the location of the speech], as the representatives of the Iranian people and all the nations of the region, shout their slogans. [The crowd chants, “Death to America!”]—**Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad** (*Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran Radio 1, Oct. 20, 2006*)
- “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

- “Today the Palestinian scene is the setting for the struggle of Islam against infidelity. It is the scene for the Jihad of the Muslims.”—**Chairman of Expediency Council Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani** (*Islamic Republic of Iran News Network (IRINN), Oct. 22, 2006*)
- “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*)
- “The victory of Hizballah indicated that if all Muslims participate with unity in the scene, the final victory on the Zionist regime would not be out of reach.”—**Chairman of Expediency Council Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani** (*IRNA, Oct. 19, 2006*)

Pursuing Nuclear Weapons

- “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-Press, Sept. 18, 2006*)