

MEMMO

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IAEA: Iran Violating U.N. Security Council Requirements

The International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) latest report on Iran's nuclear program details Tehran's continued refusal to implement the U.N. Security Council requirement that it suspend uranium enrichment. The Security Council must now impose further sanctions on the regime for its continued defiance. The international community cannot allow Iran to use its grudging and incomplete cooperation with the IAEA to avoid further sanctions while advancing its nuclear program.

The new IAEA report confirms that Iran continues to violate U.N. Security Council demands to suspend its nuclear activities.

- The IAEA Board of Governors' report says that "contrary to the decisions of the Security Council, Iran has not suspended its enrichment related activities," and is now operating close to 3,000 centrifuges at its nuclear facility in Natanz, a tenfold increase over last year.
- Centrifuges, rotating vessels used to enrich uranium, are the key component in producing fuel for nuclear reactors or nuclear weapons. With 3,000 centrifuges operating at full capacity, Iran will be able to produce enough highly enriched uranium for a nuclear bomb in one year.
- The Natanz enrichment facility has a capacity for 54,000 centrifuges—sufficient to produce enough highly enriched uranium for between 20 to 40 nuclear weapons a year.
- The IAEA report also states that Iran is continuing construction and operation of its heavy water production plant at Arak in direct violation of U.N. Security Resolution 1737. The IAEA's conclusion is based on satellite imagery of the plant since Iran does not provide the agency with routine access.



Sanctioning Iran's energy sector is an important tool in pressuring Tehran to end its illicit nuclear program.

Iran is obstructing the work of the IAEA by denying the agency access to key facilities and individuals.

- The IAEA report found Iran is not providing active cooperation and full transparency to the agency, saying Iran's cooperation was "reactive rather than proactive."

- Tehran rejected at least three IAEA requests linked to the report, according to diplomats cited by the Associated Press. Senior IAEA officials were refused interviews with at least two top Iranian nuclear officials who helped develop Iran's enrichment activities and are suspected of possible involvement in a weapons program.
- Iran informed the IAEA that it was working on a “new generation” of centrifuge design, but has barred the IAEA from workshops making P-2 centrifuges. The P-2 centrifuges would dramatically reduce the time needed to produce enriched uranium.

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- The IAEA has been unable to independently confirm the accuracy of much of the information provided by Iran. Given the nearly two decades in which Iran hid its nuclear program from the world, any information provided by Iran must be independently verified.
- The IAEA increasingly is facing difficulties in monitoring Iran’s current nuclear activities. The report says the IAEA has “not received the type of information that Iran had previously been providing. ... As a result, the Agency’s knowledge about Iran’s current nuclear program is diminishing.”
- The IAEA report acknowledges that Iran may possess undeclared nuclear materials, saying it cannot provide “credible assurances” that Iran has no hidden nuclear facilities.

The Security Council should now back its words with actions and sanction Iran for its non-compliance.

- Iran has refused to comply with Security Council demands despite the standing offer of a major incentive package of economic and security guarantees proposed by the five permanent members of the Security Council and Germany.
- Iran’s limited cooperation with the IAEA in answering some questions about its past activities is not sufficient to justify delayed action at the U.N. Security Council on a third sanctions resolution.
- To change Iran’s course, the United States and the international community must exhaust every economic, diplomatic and political tool to increase the economic pressure necessary to persuade the regime to suspend its nuclear program.
- The five permanent members of the Security Council plus Germany and the EU agreed in September to finalize the text of a third Security Council resolution and bring it to a vote if the report of the IAEA and an expected report from EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana—regarding Iran’s willingness to engage in nuclear talks—were negative.