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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 Israel and threatening the United States and Europe. Combined with Iran's continued defiance of the international community's demand that it end its uranium enrichment program, these escalating threats further underscore the need to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons.

Threatening the United States and Europe

- “The hatred of the Iranian nation [for America] is deep-seated. The reason is the various conspiracies by the U.S. government against the Iranian people and government in the past 50 years.”—**Supreme Leader of Iran Ali Khamenei** (*Associated Press, Oct. 29, 2008*)
- “The Zionist regime (Israel) and the American government are the main enemies of Iran, and hatred for America is deepening every day around the globe.”—**Supreme Leader of Iran Ali Khamenei** (*Reuters, July 28, 2007*)
- “[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

- “The only way to save Palestine is resistance. Support and help to Palestinians is a mandatory duty of all Muslims. I now tell all Muslim brothers and sisters to join forces and break the immunity of the Zionist criminals.”—**Supreme Leader of Iran Ali Khamenei** (*Agence France Presse, March 4, 2009*)
- “Another big mistake is to say that the only way to save the Palestinian nation is by negotiations. Negotiations with whom? With an occupying and bullying regime, who does not believe in any other principle other than force? ... Or negotiations with America and Britain who committed the biggest sin in creating and supporting this cancerous tumor [Israel]?”—**Supreme Leader of Iran Ali Khamenei** (*Reuters, March 4, 2009*)
- “The Zionist regime has lost its *raison d'être*, is no longer able to direct U.S. and European policies in the region and is therefore naturally heading for annihilation.”—**Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad** (*Agence France Presse, Aug. 2, 2008*)

- “Those who think they can revive the stinking corpse of the usurping and fake Israeli regime by throwing a birthday party are seriously mistaken. Today the reason for the Zionist regime's existence is questioned, and this regime is on its way to annihilation.”—**Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad** (*Agence France Presse, May 8, 2008*)
- “World powers have created a black and dirty microbe named the ‘Zionist regime’ and have unleashed it like a savage animal on the nations of the region.”—**Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad** (*Agence France Press, Feb. 20, 2008*)
- “It is impossible that the Zionist regime can last. Deterioration is the nature of this regime as it has been built on aggression, lying, crime and wrongdoing.”—**Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad** (*Agence France Presse, Nov. 28, 2007*)
- “The Iranian people and other peoples will not stop until all of Palestinian territory is liberated.... [World powers] should not think the Iranian nation and other nations in the region will take off their hands off the throat of the Zionists and their supporters.”—**Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad** (*Agence France Presse, Oct. 5, 2007*)
- “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*)

Pursuing Nuclear Weapons

- “If they [the United States and the international community] want Iran to give up the know-how it has regarding the nuclear program, they are talking nonsense.”—**Iranian Parliament Speaker and Former Nuclear Negotiator Ali Larijani** (*Agence France Presse, Feb. 2, 2009*)
- “In whichever negotiation we take part ... it is unequivocally with the view to the realization of Iran's nuclear right and the Iranian nation would not retreat one iota from its rights.”—**Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad** (*Reuters, Aug. 2, 2008*)
- “The Iranian nation will never return from the path that they have chosen and they are determined... to continue this path [to obtain nuclear technology]. America has lost in its nuclear challenge with Iran.”—**Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki** (*Reuters, November 29, 2007*)
- “Iran’s nuclear activities continue as planned and scheduled. Those reports are false and the suspension [of uranium enrichment] is unacceptable. It is completely ruled out.”—**Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Mohammad Ali Hosseini** (*Reuters, Aug. 6, 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 of Iran 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 Radicalism

- “The new U.S. president has said he wants to pressure Iran since it seeks to produce atomic weapons and because it supports the terrorists like Hamas and Hizballah. We are proud of supporting Hizballah since they are defending their homeland and you are wrong in calling them terrorists.” —**Iranian Parliament Speaker and Former Nuclear Negotiator Ali Larijani** (*Agence France Presse, Dec. 11, 2008*)
- “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 of Iran Ali Khamenei** (*Agence France-Press, Sept. 18, 2006*)