

MEMMO

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Iran's Sponsorship of Terrorism Undiminished

Iran's state sponsorship of terrorism remains "undiminished" according to the newly-released 2014 State Department Country Reports on Terrorism. The report highlights Iran's continued support for Hamas, Hezbollah, various groups in Iraq, and Syria's Assad regime. As the nuclear talks between the P5+1 and Iran head towards a conclusion, the report is a reminder that any agreement with Iran must be grounded in long term, verifiable actions by Iran that eliminate all potential pathways to a nuclear weapon.

Below are excerpts from the State Department report:

Iran's state sponsorship of terror remains undiminished.

- "In 2014, Iran's state sponsorship of terrorism worldwide remained undiminished through the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-Qods Force (IRGC-QF), its Ministry of Intelligence and Security, and Tehran's ally Hezbollah, which remained a significant threat to the stability of Lebanon and the broader region."
- "Iran continued its terrorist-related activity in 2014, including support for Palestinian terrorist groups in Gaza, Lebanese Hezbollah, and various groups in Iraq and throughout the Middle East."
- "Iran used the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-Qods Force (IRGC-QF) to implement foreign policy goals, provide cover for intelligence operations, and create instability in the Middle East. The IRGC-QF is the regime's primary mechanism for cultivating and supporting terrorists abroad."

Iran continues to support terrorism against Israel.

- "Iran also attempted to smuggle weapons to Palestinian terrorist groups in Gaza."
- "Although Hamas's ties to Tehran have been strained due to the Syrian civil war, in a November 25 speech, Supreme Leader Khamenei highlighted Iran's military support to "Palestinian brothers" in Gaza and called for the West Bank to be similarly armed. In December, Hamas Deputy Leader Moussa Abu Marzouk announced bilateral relations with Iran and Hamas were "back on track."
- "In March, Israeli naval forces boarded the Klos C cargo ship in the Red Sea off the coast of Sudan. On board, they found 40 M-302 rockets, 180 mortars, and approximately 400,000 rounds of ammunition hidden within crates of cement labeled "Made in Iran" and believed to be destined to militants in the region."

Iran continues to support Hezbollah and Syria's Assad regime.

- "In 2014, Iran continued to provide arms, financing, training, and the facilitation of

primarily Iraqi Shia and Afghan fighters to support the Assad regime's brutal crackdown that has resulted in the deaths of at least 191,000 people in Syria, according to August UN estimates."

- "Iran has provided hundreds of millions of dollars in support of Lebanese Hezbollah in Lebanon and has trained thousands of its fighters at camps in Iran. These trained fighters have used these skills in direct support of the Assad regime in Syria and, to a lesser extent, in support of operations against ISIL in Iraq. They have also continued to carry out attacks along the Lebanese border with Israel."

Iran has increased its support of Iraqi Shia militias.

- "This year, Iran increased its assistance to Iraqi Shia militias, one of which is a designated Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO), in response to the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) incursion into Iraq, and has continued to support other militia groups in the region."
- "Iran increased training and funding to Iraqi Shia militia groups in response to ISIL's advance into Iraq. Many of these groups, such as Kata'ib Hezbollah (KH), have exacerbated sectarian tensions in Iraq and have committed serious human rights abuses against primarily Sunni civilians."
- "The IRGC-QF, in concert with Lebanese Hezbollah, provided training outside of Iraq as well as advisors inside Iraq for Shia militants in the construction and use of sophisticated improvised explosive device (IED) technology and other advanced weaponry. Similar to Hezbollah fighters, many of these trained Shia militants have used these skills to fight for the Assad regime in Syria or against ISIL in Iraq."