

MEMMO

September 9, 2015

Iran's Bad Behavior

Since the July 14 announcement of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Iran has continued to aggressively exhibit bad behavior, including escalating its anti-Western rhetoric and pledging increased support for its terrorist proxies. Just today, Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said, “there will be no such thing as a Zionist regime in 25 years.” As Congress considers the deal, it should take into account Iran’s intentions to use the billions of dollars freed up to support its malign activities in the Middle East.

Missiles

- **Iran Sponsors Rocket Attacks on Israel:** A Palestinian Islamic Jihad cell operating in Syria, and acting under the orders of an Iranian Quds Force official, launched a rocket attack against Israel—the first launch of rockets from Syria into Israel in over 40 years—according to Israeli defense officials, as reported by Politico on Aug. 24, 2015.
- **Iran to Receive Russian Missiles within Months:** Iran and Russia have contracted for the delivery of S-300 surface-to-air missile defense systems by the end of 2015, as reported by Iran’s Mehr News on Aug. 23, 2015.
- **Iran Unveils New Missile:** Iran rolled out its newest precision-guided ballistic missile, the Fateh 313 with a 500-km range, as reported by Reuters on Aug. 22, 2015. President Rouhani stated, “We will buy, sell and develop any weapons we need and we will not ask for permission or abide by any resolution for that.”
- **Iran Not Bound by U.N. Restrictions:** Iran’s Deputy Foreign Minister and chief nuclear negotiator, Abbas Araqchi, claimed that Iran is not bound by United Nations Security Council (UNSC) restrictions on its arms exports and ballistic missile program, as reported by Iran’s Tehran Times on Aug. 17, 2015. “The restrictions on weapons posed through [U.N. Security Council] Resolution 2231...are not mandatory and we can disregard them,” Araqchi said.

Weapons

- **Smuggled Iranian Arms Seized in Kuwait:** A huge arms cache, smuggled from Iran, was discovered by Kuwaiti authorities, as reported by Reuters on Aug. 16, 2015. Iran is prohibited from exporting conventional arms for five years under the terms of UNSC Resolution 2231.

- **Smuggling Plot Foiled in Bahrain:** An Iranian arms smuggling plot involving two suspects who admitted to receiving explosives, automatic weapons and ammunition from Iranian handlers outside Bahrain's territorial water was foiled by Bahraini authorities, as reported by Reuters on July 25, 2015. Iran is prohibited from exporting conventional arms for five years under the terms of UNSC Resolution 2231.

Inspections

- **Inspectors Denied Access to Iran's Scientists:** Iran continues to stonewall the IAEA probe into suspected military dimensions of its nuclear program, denying access to scientists and military officers, according to IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano, as reported by The Wall Street Journal on Aug. 5, 2015.
- **Iran Attempts Clean Up of Suspected Nuclear Site:** Satellite imagery shows that Iran has built an extension to a building at the Parchin military base, in a possible effort to sanitize the area and cover up past nuclear weaponization activity, according to an August 2015 report by the IAEA. Iran is suspected of carrying out illicit testing of nuclear detonators at the site.

Regional Impact

- **Iran's Foreign Minister Meets with Hezbollah leader in Beirut:** Iran's Foreign Minister Javad Zarif met with Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah. "Zarif said from Beirut that the nuclear agreement between Tehran and the world powers created a historic opportunity...for regional cooperation to fight extremism and face threats posed by the Zionist entity," according to Hezbollah's Al-Manar news service, as reported by The Times of Israel on Aug. 12, 2015.
- **Iranian Commander Defies U.N. Travel Ban:** Iranian Quds Force Commander Qassem Soleimani traveled to Russia in clear violation of a mandatory UNSC resolution banning him from international travel, according to Western intelligence sources, as reported by Fox News on Aug. 6, 2015. As head of the Quds Force, Soleimani directs Iran's support for terrorist proxies in the Mideast and is behind the deaths of hundreds of U.S. troops.

What Iran is Saying:

- "I'm saying [to Israel] that they won't live to see the end of these 25 years...With Allah's help, there will be no such thing as a Zionist regime in 25 years."
–*Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, September 9, 2015*
- "The restrictions on weapons posed through [U.N. Security Council] Resolution 2231...are not mandatory and we can disregard them."
–*Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister and Chief Nuclear Negotiator Abbas Araqchi, August 17, 2015*
- "Iran fully supports resistance in the region, especially the resistance in Palestine, and will support anyone who struggles against Israel and strikes at the Zionist regime."
–*Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, August 17, 2015*

- “We will buy, sell and develop any weapons we need and we will not ask for permission or abide by any resolution for that.”
–*Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, August 22, 2015*
- “Some wrongly think Iran has suspended its ballistic missile programs in the last two years and has made a deal on its missile program...We will have a new ballistic missile test in the near future that will be a thorn in the eyes of our enemies.”
–*Commander of the Aerospace Division of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Brigadier General Amirali Hajizadeh, August 21, 2015*
- “Our positions against the usurper Zionist regime have not changed at all; Israel should be annihilated and this is our ultimate slogan.”
–*Iranian Parliament Speaker’s Adviser for International Affairs Hossein Sheikholeslam, August 25, 2015*