



PRESS RELEASE

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AIPAC APPLAUDS NEW U.N. SANCTIONS ON IRAN

AIPAC strongly applauds today's U.N. Security Council passage of new sanctions against Iran – the sixth Security Council resolution demanding that Tehran immediately suspend all nuclear work and open up to full inspection. We commend the Obama administration's strong leadership effort to secure passage of this important measure.

This latest Security Council action provides yet another indication of Iran's deepening isolation. It indicates that the world understands the brutal and dangerous nature of this regime and the tragic suffering of the Iranian people as we approach June 12, 2010.

The goal of the international community is to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapons capability. The world, led by the United States and our allies, must act now to impose the kind of sanctions on Iran that can persuade Tehran to end its illicit nuclear work.

Since the 2002 exposure of Iran's nuclear program – following 18 years of lying about its efforts to the International Atomic Energy Agency – Iran has continued to conceal its military nuclear infrastructure and weapons-related programs. Iran has built thousands of advanced nuclear centrifuges, installed larger and more sophisticated enrichment cascades and covert nuclear facilities, converted tons of uranium ore into uranium hexafluoride (the gas needed to enrich uranium), and enriched enough material to make two nuclear weapons.

Iran is the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism, and it continues its efforts to export its revolution. The Islamic Republic's acquisition of a nuclear weapons capability would pose a grave and direct threat to the national security of the United States and our allies in the Middle East, Europe and Asia. A nuclear Iran would also destroy the fabric of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and deeply undermine global stability.

AIPAC calls for rapid and universal enforcement of this U.N. Security Council sanctions resolution. We call on our government and our allies – including the European Union – to immediately implement complementary and crippling sanctions, as authorized by this resolution, to stop Iran's pursuit of a nuclear weapons capability before it is too late. AIPAC urges Congress to complete its work on Iran sanctions legislation and urges President Obama to sign and implement that legislation immediately upon its arrival on his desk.

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