



PRESS RELEASE

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AIPAC Welcomes Decision by SWIFT Board *Crippling Sanctions on Iran Still Needed*

WASHINGTON — AIPAC welcomes yesterday's announcement by the European Union and the SWIFT Board to cut ties with blacklisted Iranian banks. We applaud the work done by Congress and the administration to press the Board to restrict bank transfers from these Iranian banks and increase the international sanctions campaign against the Islamic Republic for its ongoing pursuit of a nuclear weapons capability.

This welcome step must now be supplemented by additional measures to press the regime to change course. Time is running out to impose further crippling sanctions on Iran before it has a nuclear weapons capability, which would dramatically escalate Iran's challenge to America's national security and our interests around the globe.

We urge the Senate to pass The Iran Sanctions Accountability and Human Rights Act (S. 2101), spearheaded by Sens. Tim Johnson (D-SD) and Richard Shelby (R-AL). The legislation imposes tough new sanctions on Iran and targets sanctions against the Islamic Republic's human rights violators. We also urge the administration to vigorously enforce sanctions on Iran's Central Bank included in the National Defense Authorization Act.

Consistently ranked as the most influential foreign policy lobbying organization on Capitol Hill, AIPAC is a bipartisan American membership organization that seeks to strengthen the relationship between the United States and Israel. For more than 50 years, AIPAC has been working with Congress to build a strong, vibrant relationship between the U.S. and Israel. With more than 100,000 members across the United States, AIPAC works throughout the country to improve and strengthen that relationship by supporting U.S.-Israel military, economic, scientific and cultural cooperation.

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