



Iran's Nuclear Ambitions

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

In November 2011, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) published a list of 12 critical steps it believes Iran has taken to develop a nuclear weapon. Pursuant to mandatory U.N. Security Council resolutions, Iran is obliged to answer IAEA questions about these steps, but has declined to respond to all but one allegation.

❌ 1. Program Management Structure

Alleged to have formed administrative teams to oversee bomb development

❌ 2. Procurement Activities

Alleged to have used private companies for illicit procurement cover

❌ 3. Covert Acquisition of Bomb Fuel

Alleged to be making bomb fuel, disallowed by the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT)

❌ 4. Uranium- 235 Metal Core

Alleged to have explored how to build the core of a nuclear bomb

❓ 5. Detonators

To date, Iran has provided only limited information on its use of detonators

❌ 6. Bomb-Firing Test

Alleged to have studied long cables required for nuclear weapons testing

❌ 7. Explosive Lenses

Alleged to have experimented with compressing bomb fuel

❌ 8. Computer Modeling

Alleged to have simulated chain reactions with subatomic particles

❌ 9. Neutron Initiator

Alleged to have designed a spark plug necessary to initiate chain reaction for nuclear explosions

❌ 10. Fuel Compression Experiment

Alleged to have made and tested mock bomb components




❌ 11. Re-Entry Vehicle

Alleged to be working on a nose cone that shields missiles while traveling through the atmosphere

❌ 12. Fusing, Arming and Firing System

Alleged to be working on a missile head that could arm and fire a nuclear bomb

WHAT WE DO KNOW:

-  Seven out of Iran's eight major nuclear facilities were constructed in secret and discovered despite Iranian efforts to conceal them
-  Iran has stockpiled enough low enriched uranium that - if further processed - is enough for six nuclear weapons
-  Iran currently has approximately 19,000 centrifuges

