

WJC STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION
'OPTIONS FOR ACTION'
- DRAFT -

ISSUE	Iran
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BACKGROUND	<p>The World Jewish Congress, recognizing the growing sense of urgency as Iran races toward nuclear weapons capability, is dedicating much energy to its advocacy program in support of sanctions and other measures to stop the Iranian regime from achieving its goals.</p> <p>As Iran continues determinedly to achieve nuclear capability, the regime argues that this is directly linked to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. It is important to remember that this is a patently false linkage. The Arab-Israeli dispute predated the Iran nuclear crisis and the Iranian regime has unequivocally declared its intentions and ideological commitment to destroy the Jewish state, unconnected to any other issue. Indeed, it acts upon these repeated threats by funding and fostering proxy terror groups such as Hamas and Hezbollah, who continually attack Israel, in order to accomplish this mission.</p> <p>Keeping Iran non-nuclear is not only in the interests of Israel and the Jewish people, but of the entire world, particularly its immediate neighbors, as well as Europe, and beyond. Arab countries of the Persian Gulf are equally as threatened by a nuclear Iran and strongly oppose its activities. Iran's aggressive nature is illustrated by its violent actions internally, as this regime denies basic freedoms to its own citizens. The rights of women, children, religious minorities, gays and other groups are brutally suppressed. It is crucial for the World Jewish Congress to educate media, governments, and civil society as to the dangers of this rogue regime possessing nuclear weapons.</p>

<p>OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>It is of utmost importance that the WJC pursue a policy of prevention such as sanctions and similar punitive measures. Despite the criticism of sanctions, these measures have succeeded in the past, as in the case of Libya where sanctions helped end its weapons of mass destruction program. In this case and others, non-violent efforts were used to bring about change. The WJC will continue to meet with high level officials in all venues in order to encourage the passage of legal measures that will limit trade and investment in Iran’s energy sector.</p> <p>The WJC will seek to expose the violent nature and crimes of the Iranian regime and work to utilize legal means to help stop Iran’s violation of international laws such as urging state parties to international conventions to refer the Iranian regime to the UN Security Council for incitement to genocide and for its abuse of human rights.</p>
<p>OPTIONS FOR ACTION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iran continually threatens Israel with genocide which is a crime. WJC should urge state parties to the Genocide Convention to refer this matter to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for deliberation and call upon it to hold Iran accountable for violation of the Genocide Convention. Countries like Canada, the United States and others are parties to the Genocide Convention and can initiate complaints before the International Court of Justice against Iran and ask the UNSC to help refer this case to the International Criminal Court for investigation and prosecution. • WJC should call for sanctions which are needed to target the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and those who do business with them. Sanctions should target gasoline and other refined petroleum imports to Iran and punish and/or fine the shipping and insurance companies that facilitate them. These profits support the IRGC. It is extremely important to monitor and enforce arms embargoes particularly in light of the terrorist groups that Iran supports and into whose hands these arms can fall. The Central Bank of Iran, which is the most important center of Iran’s banking industry, must also remain a target for sanctions as has been done by the US Treasury Department. Likewise, companies that enable Iran to suppress and repress its own people such as those communications companies that allowed Iran the technology with which to monitor dissidents should be sanctioned. Landing rights can be denied to Iran’s transportation industry. • WJC affiliate communities should urge their governments to regularly condemn Iran’s human rights violations. WJC communities can push for support for the democratic movement in Iran and urge their countries to impose limits and travel restrictions on Iranian officials that are engaged in repression. This issue should be foremost on the international agenda and raised in any meetings with foreign officials. UN officials should be urged to pass a resolution that would condemn Iran for these human rights

abuses – this has yet to be done. As Iran is advocating strongly to be elected to the Security Council, we should raise our voices and make sure that our governments do not allow that to occur.

- **Advocating strong UN Security Council Sanctions:** In the past, three resolutions were passed by the UN Security Council unanimously imposing sanctions on Iran. They are Resolution 1737, 1747, and 1803. These past resolutions have frozen the financial assets of key individuals and companies supporting Iran's proliferation and the development of its nuclear weapons activities and delivery systems and have incrementally strengthened these measures. As Iran continues to flout these sanctions, there is greater movement on the part of the Perm 5 + 1, particularly, the United States, France, and Germany, to now seek to strengthen UN sanctions so that Iran will be forced to choose between developing nuclear weaponry or global isolation. WJC should call for communities' increased and unrelenting advocacy for stronger United Nations sanctions.
- **Propose state and government sanctions:** As an example, the Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act was recently passed overwhelmingly both in the US House and in the Senate. This legislation would reinforce American diplomatic efforts with Iran with sanctions intended to severely limit Iran's ability to import and produce refined petroleum products such as gasoline used in vehicles. The Jewish community in the United States is urging its representatives to have the President sign this bill as soon as possible so it can be enacted as soon as possible.
- **Convene local working groups on Iran:** This would include Jewish organizations and Jewish religious movements that would unite to promote stronger Jewish community-based advocacy against the Iranian nuclear activity. These working groups can also **form coalitions with other like-minded organizations such as women's groups, human rights groups, or labor unions that would have a common interest in this advocacy.** It would be important for prominent Jewish and non-Jewish leaders to get together to create these coalitions that can help bring this discussion to a wider audience in the broader community.
- **Meet with members of parliament, and other elected officials such as governors and mayors at local and state levels** to express concerns and to keep this issue on the front burner. **Consul Generals** of foreign governments in the communities should also be visited periodically to showcase our concern over this important issue.
- **Written communications should be sent to heads of state and ministers in governments** to underscore why Iran presents a global threat. These communications

should be sent also to United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and to UN ambassadors calling on Iran to cooperate with the IAEA inspectors as per UN resolutions.

- **Media Awareness: Communities should engage the editorial boards of their national and local newspapers** and encourage editorial comment concerning Iran. **Op-Ed pieces** should be written as well as **letters to the editor** in the general press and in the Jewish newspapers on a regular basis. Media outlets including television programs, news broadcasts, radio talk shows, blogs, and online petitions should be monitored and community **members should participate in them.** The media cannot be dominated by others.
- **Partnerships should be created** with civic, political, business, religious, cultural and academic institutions in order **to promote educational programs on Iran's human rights record, on Iran's support for global terrorism, and on the danger of this rogue state** possessing nuclear weapons. This should bolster wide support for the economic initiatives including divestment to help bring about pressure.
- Human rights groups should be contacted to form partnerships as well.
- Where possible **demonstrations or briefings or other programs should be organised** in communities in order to educate the public and raise awareness. WJC can support with recommendations of effective speakers that could appear at these programs.
- **Efforts should be communicate and publicized** to the World Jewish Congress and other communities so that whenever possible, activities can be coordinated or run simultaneously, and advocacy can be leveraged.
- **Local community bodies should be urged to pass resolutions** against the human rights abuses of Iran and its support of state terrorism and in favor of divestment and publicize them in the media. **City council's should do the same.**
- **Rabbis should dedicate sermons** periodically to keep communities active in their advocacy. Those involved in **interfaith activities should engage their partners** in discussions about the danger Iran presents and ask for the help of preventing Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons.
- **Where possible, signs should be displayed publicly** on institutional property saying "Prevent a nuclear Iran", keeping the issue vividly before the public.
- The **Iran Business Registry (IBR)** maintains a database of more than 150 firms reported

	<p>to work in Iran. Adding the names of companies that do business with Iran to this list can help increase awareness and guide people's purchasing or investment decisions by helping to identify these companies. The IBR also provides contact information for these companies so that communities can contact them and urge them to cease doing business with Iran. Citing these companies in written communications to elected officials or in local newspapers can also be ways to help discourage these companies from doing business in Iran. The IBR can be visited at www.unitedagainstnucleariran.com/ibr.</p>
DATE	25 April 2010