

Policy Statement, November 10, 2012

LA JEWS FOR PEACE

Iran is a Political Challenge, But Not a Military Threat

- Serious diplomacy is the only way to resolve tensions between Iran and the United States.
- We oppose a United States and/or Israeli pre-emptive military strike against Iran.
- We oppose crippling sanctions, sabotage, and assassinations against Iran.
- All nations must join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) including Israel, India, Pakistan, and North Korea.
- We support a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East.

Iran does not pose a military threat to the United States or Israel. The supposed threat of an Iranian nuclear bomb to the United States and/or Israel has no basis in fact. Both American and Israeli intelligence says that Iran does not have a nuclear bomb program. Even if Iran had a bomb program, Iran has no delivery system. If Iran had nuclear bomb it would not use it against Israel for fear of being destroyed in retaliation, and the canard that Iran would give its bomb to a terrorist group has no factual basis. Finally, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei issued a Fatwa that nuclear weapons are a sin. Iran's uranium enrichment efforts are for civilian purposes and the International Atomic Energy Agency says that none of Iran's the low and medium enriched uranium has been diverted to a military program.

Why are the United States and Israel opposed to Iran's uranium enrichment program? Iran is a regional power that wants to exercise its political power in the Middle East. If Iran succeeds, it will diminish American hegemony in the region, and limit Israel's freedom to attack its neighbors with impunity. The root of the conflict between Washington/Jerusalem and Teheran is not nuclear and military; rather it is political – to constrain Iran's ability to influence events in the region that contains two-thirds of the world's oil reserves.

In addition, the United States still feels "insulted" by Iran for the 1979 hostage crisis, and has not had normal relations with Iran since then. No notice is taken in the United States of the 1953 CIA directed and paid for a coup against the democratic Iranian government.

Furthermore, Israel uses fear of Iran to distract the world from its ongoing, violent occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip including dispossession of the Palestinian people and expropriating their land for segregated, Jewish-only settlements.

United States and Israel governments should stop threatening Iran. Israel must stop threatening a pre-emptive military strike against Iran's uranium enrichment facilities. Israel must acknowledge its 200 or more nuclear bombs and join the NPT.

The United States must reverse its apparent preparation for war with Iran, and call a Middle East free of nuclear weapons. The United States should initiate the nuclear-free zone by dismantling its armada that now surrounds Iran. Some of the 42 military bases and two aircraft carrier task forces in that armada contain deployed nuclear bombs.