

Press Releases: Maximum Pressure Campaign on the Regime in Iran

Fact Sheet
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC
April 4, 2019



MAXIMUM ECONOMIC PRESSURE

- The U.S. sanctions have cut off Iran's access to billions of dollars in oil revenue and are driving its exports lower than ever before. Since last May, **1.5 million barrels** of Iranian crude have been taken off the market and purchases of Iranian crude will soon be at zero.
- Starting with the re-imposition of our sanctions on November 5, 2018, Iran's access to revenue from the sale of crude oil was immediately restricted. Overall, our sanctions have denied the regime direct access to as much as **\$10 billion** in oil revenue since May 2018.
- More than **20 countries** that were once regular oil customers of Iran have zeroed out their imports. **Three jurisdictions that were granted waivers in November are already at zero.**
- The Trump Administration has designated over **970 Iranian entities and individuals** in more than **26 rounds of sanctions** – more than any other Administration in U.S. history.
 - Just last week a vast network of front companies based in Iran, the U.A.E., and Turkey was sanctioned for procuring and transferring more than a billion dollars and euros to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.
 - We have designated Evin Prison, where the Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS) and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps maintain permanent wards to hold political prisoners, and subject prisoners to brutal tactics.
 - In response to ongoing censorship activities by the regime, we have designated the IRGC's Electronic Warfare and Cyber Defense Organization, Iran's Supreme Council for Cyberspace and the National Cyberspace Center.
 - We have also sanctioned more than **70 Iran-linked financial institutions** and their foreign and domestic subsidiaries. **SWIFT has disconnected every sanctioned Iranian bank** from its system and even disconnected the Central Bank of Iran.

- More than **100 corporations** have exited the Iranian market, taking with them billions of dollars in investment.
- The Iranian economy is in a tailspin because of the regime's poor policies, its continued commitment to terrorism, and our targeted pressure. **The rial has lost two-thirds of its value**, reports indicate Iran is in a recession, and **inflation has hit a record 40 percent**. Iran's total trade has declined by nearly 25 percent since March 2018.

INCREASING DIPLOMATIC ENGAGEMENT

- **Europe has pushed back against Iranian terror activity.** After a foiled bomb plot in Paris and a thwarted assassination plan in Denmark last year, the European Union in January sanctioned Iran's Ministry of Intelligence and Security and two of its agents for their roles.
- Countries, including the **United Kingdom, Germany, France, Denmark, the Netherlands, Albania, and Serbia**, have acted on their own to address the threat of Iranian terrorism, whether by recalling Ambassadors, expelling Iranian diplomats, denying landing rights to Mahan Air, or eliminating visa-free travel.
 - **Germany** recently announced its decision to deny Mahan Air landing rights.
 - **Panama** issued a Presidential Decree to pull registration and de-flag Iranian vessels following the United States' exposure of an oil-for-terror network.
 - **Albania** expelled Iran's Ambassador to Tirana and another Iranian diplomat for involvement in thwarted terrorist plots.
- The United States, along with the U.K., France, and Germany, continue to hold Iran accountable for defying its international obligations. Our countries expressed strong concern to the UN Secretary General following **Iran's launch of a medium range ballistic missile** in December and its attempted **satellite launches** in January and February. These launches and others defy UN Security Council Resolution 2231.
- The EU Foreign Affairs Council's conclusions in February underscored its concern regarding Iran's ballistic missile program, support of terrorism in Europe, human rights conditions in Iran, and the regime's ongoing role in regional conflicts.

RESTORING DETERRENCE

- We have exposed the lethal aid that Iran is sending to militants in Yemen, Bahrain, and Afghanistan; including ballistic missiles, attack UAVs, and explosive boats. Representatives of over **70 countries toured the Iran Materiel Display**, seeing clear and tangible evidence that Iran is sending weapons to its militant partners, which were used to attack international shipping and civilian infrastructure in the Gulf.
- We are continuing to disrupt the Qods Force's illicit shipments of oil, which benefit terrorist groups like Hizballah as well as the Assad regime. More than **75 tankers** involved in illicit shipping schemes have been denied the flags they need to sail.
- The United States continues to build the partner capacities of several regional nations to defend themselves against the threats posed by Iran.

The Office of Website Management, Bureau of Public Affairs, manages this site as a portal for information from the U.S. State Department. External links to other Internet sites should not be construed as an endorsement of the views or privacy policies contained therein.