



The Cyrus Cylinder **استوانه کوروش** or Cyrus Charter **منشور کوروش** was discovered under the foundation of a Babylonian palace in 1879, making it perhaps the oldest time capsule on record. It commemorates Cyrus' victory over Babylonia in 539 BC and sets out the rights of subjects in his expanding empire. It is often commemorated as the oldest charter of human rights in the world.

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## **Too Many Signs Point to an Israel-Iran War**

**Note from the Editor**

**by Paul Barker, Bidokht, Shiraz, Tehran 1971-76**

As of this writing, Israel has not yet launched a military attack on Iran in retaliation for its 1 October missile attacks on Israeli military and security sites, which were in retaliation for various Israeli attacks which were in response to provocations associated with Iran which . . .

So that was the good news. The bad news is that a significant Israeli attack, possibly with direct US military participation, on Iranian military (and possibly nuclear and/or energy) sites is still deemed highly likely. It is almost certain that Iran would then feel compelled to answer any such attack, perhaps also targeting facilities in any Arab state that facilitated such Israeli and/or US action. All of this may start to unfold before the US November 5 elections with destabilizing implications for global energy prices, commerce and security. [Is Iran Next?](#) Is a question with serious implications.

Or maybe not. Some underlying American assumptions are questionable. Starting with the Trump administration and continuing under Biden, the US and Israel have placed much hope and confidence in the Abraham Accords, agreements that seek to normalize relations between Israel and participating Arab countries in exchange for concessions, security guarantees and arms sales from the U.S. But do the Arab signatories of these accords really want to be parties to an anti-Iran alliance that includes Israel, especially in the context of a world in which Israel is carrying out a plausible genocide (per the International Court of Justice) in Gaza and expanding the devastation to the West Bank and Lebanon? Apparently not. Over the past year all members of [the Gulf Cooperation Council have held meetings with Iranian diplomats](#) in efforts to normalize their relations and create a more secure and prosperous region. It is doubtful that any of these countries would willingly provide logistic support or over-flight authorization for Israeli or American forces to strike Iran. Would Israel and/or the United States use these countries' air space without host country approval? Israel has almost certainly overflown Arab country airspace for previous attacks on Iran without tripping an Iranian response against said Arab countries, however Iranian threats of retaliation this time seem more serious.

In her [interview](#) with 60 Minutes, Kamala Harris said that Iran is America's "greatest adversary" presumably because Iranian leaders have "American blood on their hands" due to their support to militant groups, some of which have killed American citizens. By this yardstick Israel also has American blood on its hands due to the number of American citizens that have been killed by its army and right-wing settlers in the Occupied Territories, deaths which have never been independently and properly investigated or brought to justice. If Iran is to be America's "greatest adversary", then Russia with its nuclear arsenal and its largely unprovoked war against Ukraine is not so bad, and neither is China with its provocative moves in the South China Sea and its rising military and economic challenges. And what should we think of the nuclear, missile and bombastic threats from North Korea? [Sina Toosi observes](#) that "If we continue down this path of reflexively demonizing Iran, we are doomed to repeat the mistakes of Iraq—locking ourselves into a cycle of endless conflict with no clear benefit to US security or stability in the region." Surely there must be better conceptual models for understanding and tools for responding to nations that pose challenges to our national interests.

The board of the Peace Corps Iran Association continues to urge the United States to pursue all diplomatic options to contain and shrink the scale and scope of fighting in the Middle East. A letter sent by the board to President Biden follows in this Advocacy Bulletin.

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5 October 2024

**President Joseph R. Biden**

White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

**Subject: Do Not Let Israel-Iran Hostilities Expand and Ensnare the United States**

Dear President Biden:

Our organization was created to celebrate and build on the memories and experiences of 1,700 Peace Corps Volunteers who lived and worked in Iran between 1962 and 1976. Our mission is to "advance peace and understanding between Americans and Iranians," and our vision is to promote "cultural understanding and peaceful relations between the U.S. and Iran."

In this context we appreciate the efforts of your administration to support the aspirations of the Iranian people, and we are distraught that hostilities involving a number of armed groups and nation states between the Mediterranean Sea and the Persian Gulf are spiraling out of control with unprecedented loss of life and property in Israel, Gaza, the West Bank, and Lebanon. We mourn the loss of life, dreams and property on all sides. We condemn acts of terror and war crimes regardless of the perpetrator. We are convinced that acts of catastrophic violence will not contribute to a peaceful region wherein the hopes, aspirations and dignity of all persons can be assured.

The election in Iran of President Pezeshkian, who embodies two important Iranian ethnic minorities and who campaigned on a platform of improving relations with the West, should be welcomed by the United States as a rare opportunity to redefine its relationship with Iran and calm regional tensions. That regional crises have unfolded in different directions is tragic. The United States should now invest its leverage in walking belligerent nations back from the edge of a horrid conflict that all will regret.

We call on the United States to use its influence, directly and indirectly, with all parties to pursue diplomatic, and not military, means to pursue their objectives. We urge all arms suppliers to halt future shipments of offensive military weapons to the region until such time that binding ceasefires are in place.

Pursuing diplomacy, and eventually restoring diplomatic relations, would benefit the peoples and governments of both the USA and Iran.

Charles Kaminski

President, Peace Corps Iran Association

CC Secretary of State, Antony Blinken

Kamala Harris, Vice President

Lloyd Austin, Secretary of Defense

Jake Sullivan, National Security Advisor

Linda Thomas Greenfield, Permanent Representative of the US to the UN

***Peace Corps Iran Association advances peace and understanding between Americans and Iranians through education, outreach and advocacy, and upholds the legacy of the Peace Corps in Iran.***

## Iranian Politics

**[New Iran president's entourage in NY signals Iran preparing to negotiate](#)**: Veteran diplomats Javad Zarif and former nuclear negotiators accompanying new Iran president Masoud Pezeshkian on his debut trip to UN in NY suggest Iran positioning itself to negotiate. Laura Rozen, Diplomatic Substack, 2024/9/23

**[Iran's Year of Living Dangerously: How the Failure of Tehran's Strategy Is Raising Its Appetite for Risk](#)**, Ali Vaez, Foreign Affairs, 2024/10/14

For Iran's leaders, the sudden exposure of its vulnerabilities may be fueling an increased appetite for risk—risks that they may hope will compensate for mounting failures and prevent future ones. Yet a change to its nuclear doctrine is unlikely to resolve the Islamic Republic's strategic dilemmas. A move toward a nuclear weapon would likely bring conflict in the short term. In the longer term, even obtaining the ultimate deterrent would not necessarily safeguard the regime against enemies at home and abroad, who will continue to exploit its inferior intelligence, weakness in conventional weapons, failing economy, and eroding legitimacy.

**[Why Iran Struck Israel Despite the Risks](#)**, The continued lack of decisive action from Iran, while Israel steadily "salami sliced" the leadership of the Axis of Resistance, risked diminishing Iran's influence in the region and over its partners and proxies, Arman Mahmoudian, The Stimson Center, 2024/10/4

**[Iran's 'Axis of Resistance' Outmatched By Israeli Intelligence And Weapons](#)**: With Hezbollah decapitated and in disarray, Iran may have no choice but to continue a policy of "strategic patience," Mohammad Mazhari, Stimson Center, 2024/9/30

**[Iranian President Pezeshkian Checks the Boxes in New York](#)**: Unlike his predecessor, who argued that Asia was the 'future' and the West the 'past,' Pezeshkian is seeking better relations with the U.S. and Europe to ease crushing economic sanctions on Iran, Barbara Slavin, Stimson Center, 2024/9/26

**[Iran's New President Makes His U.N. Début as the Middle East Is in Flames](#)**, Robin Wright, New Yorker, 2024/9/26

**[First Press Conference: Pezeshkian's Commitments and Controversial Remarks](#)**, NIAC, 2024/9/30

**[First Sunni Governor Appointed in Iran After Four Decades](#)**, NIAC, 2024/9/30

**[Iran's New Outreach to the West Is Risky](#)**, Masoud Pezeshkian says he wants to rekindle the nuclear deal. The ball is now in the West's court. Sina Toossi, Foreign Policy, 2024/9/27

**[Two years after the death of Mahsa Amini, a 'quiet revolution' is still under way in Iran](#)**: The scale of the protest movement that erupted after the 2022 death of Mahsa Amini and the brutal repression of those demonstrations have left an indelible mark on Iranian society. More and more women are flouting the veil requirement when out in public in what one NGO has described as a "quiet revolution" while men's behavior and awareness have also seen a shift in the years since. Bahar Makooi, France 24, 2024/9/16

**[In a Rare Sermon, Iran's Supreme Leader Praises Oct. 7 Attacks as 'Logical' and Warns Israel:](#)** Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who led Friday prayers for the first time in years, called for pan-Muslim unity against Israel and the United States at a memorial service for Hassan Nasrallah. Farnaz Fassihi and Leily Nikounazar, NYT, 2024/10/4

**[Iran is on the verge of a nervous breakdown: can the regime hold?](#)** The supreme leader was left shaken by the assassination of Hezbollah's Hassan Nasrallah, his friend and ally. The Islamic Republic has never looked weaker, Roger Boyes, Times of London, 2024/10/4

## **US Politics and Policy**

**[Harris' Bizarre Hawkishness on Iran:](#)** For whatever reason, Harris has been determined to paint Trump as too soft on Iran. Daniel Larison, Eunomia, 2024/10/16

**[Is Iran Next?](#)** Fariba Amini, Informed Comment, 2024/10/20

**[Don't Listen to Warmongers on Iran:](#)** The military option that he endorses has never been a real solution to the nuclear issue. For reasons that should be obvious, an attack on Iran would practically guarantee that Iran races for a bomb. Daniel Larison, Eunomia, 2024/10/3

**[Poll: Majority of Americans Oppose Sending US Forces to Defend Israel if Attacked by Iran,](#)** Chicago Council on Global Affairs, 2024/8/6

**[How Trump and Harris Voters See America's Role in the World,](#)** [Mark Hannah](#), [Lucas Robinson](#), [Eloise Cassier](#), & [Ransom Miller](#), Eurasia Group, September 2024

**[Trump Opposes Regime Change In Iran:](#)** Trump indicated that he would oppose Iranian acquisition of nuclear weapons. Mason Letteau Stallings, The American Conservative, 2024/10/17

**[Can Trump Achieve a Diplomatic Breakthrough With Iran?](#)** It will take more than a few campaign gestures. Eldar Mamedov, The American Conservative, 2024/9/23

**[Former US hostage criticizes Iranian presence in New York,](#)** Iran International, 2024/9/25

**[Why Are Iran's Thugs Free to Walk the Streets of New York?](#)** *'The fact U.S. taxpayer dollars provided personal security for Iranian leaders trying to kill senior Americans is simply lunacy.'* Jay Solomon, The Free Press, 2024/9/27

**[Internal watchdog says State Department mishandled Iran envoy's clearance,](#)** Nahal Toosi, Politico, 2024/9/18

**[The Middle East on Fire: How the United States Can Restore Deterrence and Pull the Region Back From the Brink,](#)** [Mona Yacoubian](#), Foreign Affairs, 2024/10/3

**[Is Iran really Washington's 'greatest adversary?'](#)** Robbie Gramer and Eric Bazail-Eimil, Politico, 2024/10/8

[Biden once \[2007\] warned a president: War with Iran without congressional approval is impeachable](#), NBC News

[As Israel contemplates attack, Iranian civil society mobilizes against war](#), AMWAJ, 2024/10/9

[After Israel Killed Hamas Leader, D.C. Pushes to Hand Palestine to Saudi Arabia](#) Bent on a “mega-deal” security pact with Saudi Arabia, Congress and the Biden administration see their chance. Aida Chavez, The Intercept, 2024.10.19

[Biden Has an Opportunity Now in Gaza, but Only if He Pushes](#), Nicholas Kristof, NYT, 2024/10/19

[Biden Sought Peace but Facilitated War](#), Nicholas Kristof, NYT, 2024/10/5

## Region, Israel / Iran

[Walking a Tightrope: How Gulf States are Navigating the Iran-Israel Conflict](#): The GCC states have increasingly prioritized diplomacy over confrontation, engagement over isolation, and regional dialogue over military escalation. Mehran Haghirian, The Stimson Center, 2024/10/11

[Iran warns its neighbors not to help Israel attack](#), “The Gulf Cooperation Council is not interested in being caught in a crossfire,” one diplomat told NBC News. Keir Simmons, NBC, 2024/10/12

[Why Israel Won't Take the Win](#), Robert Wright, The Earthling, 2024/10/18

[Araghchi: “We Do Not Fear War, But We Do Not Seek It”](#) NIAC, 2024/10/18

[Tactical Success, Strategic Failure](#), Peter Beinart, 2024/9/30

[Israel's tactical wins against its enemies may prove strategic losses](#), Sina Toossi, The Guardian, 2024/10/4

[Israel's “Limited, Localized” Invasion Of Lebanon Is Sparking A Regional War](#): Iran fired rockets into Tel Aviv in response to Israel's attacks on Lebanon. What comes next? [Jonah Valdez](#), The Intercept, 2024/10/1

[Cut off the head, get another 'terrorist'](#): Israel seems to forget that Nasrallah was a more effective version of the last Hezbollah leader it assassinated in 1992, Paul Pillar, Responsible Statecraft, 2024/9/29

[Hezbollah: 10 Things You Need To Know](#), Elia Ayoub, Hauntologies, 2024/9/21

[Israel's Expanding War Against Lebanon: The Time of Monsters](#), the dangers of a lame-duck president with spiraling crisis, Trita Parsi interview, The Nation, 2024/9/22

[The extraordinary risk of targeting regional energy assets](#), Colby Connelly, Middle East Institute, 2024/10/9

[Explainer: Iran's Missile Assault on Israel](#), USIP, 2024/10/2

[Who is Hashem Safieddine, the new Hezbollah leader?](#) Bne Intellinews, 2024/9/28

[Why Pressure on Iran Failed:](#) “Tough” policies on Iran have consistently failed to alter Tehran’s behavior. Paul R. Pillar, National Interest, 2024/9/23

[What does the assassinations of the head of Hezbollah and others mean for Iran?](#) Negar Mortazavi interviewed by Leila Fadel, NPR, 2024/9/30

[Iranian Ambassador Injured in Lebanon Blasts as Tehran Accuses Israel of Terrorist Attack,](#) Amwaj, 2024/9/30

[Why Iran is Netanyahu’s next target,](#) Ali Hashem, Amwaj, 2024/9/30

[‘Israel is trying to drag the US and Iran into a shooting war’,](#) Professor John Mearsheimer, Spectator TV, 2024/9/30

[MENA Cooperation Could Bring Important Benefits on Three Key Issues:](#) A lack of regional cooperation on the treatment of ethnic minorities, population growth, and the Palestine issue have undercut the ability of all Middle Eastern countries to address these problems in their interests and those of the wider world, Nader Habibi, Stimson Center, 2024/9/23

[Israel's Netanyahu tells Iranians regime change will happen 'sooner than people think',](#) | Middle East Eye, 2-24/9/30

[“Escalate to De-escalate”:](#) [What Led Iran to Attack Israel: Tehran tests the limits of retaliation as Israel lays siege to southern Lebanon,](#) Murtaza Hussain, Jeremy Scahill, Drop Site News, 2024/10/1

[Actually, We Absolutely Do Need to Escalate in Iran,](#) Brett Stevens, NYT, 2024/10/1

[Gulf states must not allow use of airspace against Iran, Iranian official says,](#) Parisa Hafezi and Andrew Mills, Reuters, 2024/10/9

[Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant was due to brief his counterpart at the Pentagon on Wednesday, but the trip has been abruptly called off.](#) Missy Ryan, Steve Hendrix, Shane Harris and Karen DeYoung, WAPO, 2024/10/9

[Murder for hire: Inside Iran’s proxy war with Israel in the West:](#) The Islamic Republic’s long shadow war with Israel is playing out in the West with a rise in alleged Iran-linked murder and kidnapping plots, often with the help of hired assassins. Renee Maltezou, Cassell Bryan-Low, Yannis Souliotis and Phil Stewart, Reuters, 2024/10/5

[Esmail Qaani under guard and questioned as Iran probes Nasrallah killing:](#) Head of Revolutionary Guard's Quds Force not wounded but swept up in major investigation into Iranian security breaches, sources tell Middle East Eye, Suadad al-Salhy, Middle East Eye, 2024/10/10

[The Roots of Increasing Military Cooperation Between Iran and Russia:](#) Over 45 years, the deep state of security organizations has determined the “big game” of Iran’s foreign policy to the detriment of successive presidential administrations, Javad Heiran-Nia, The Stimson Center, 2024/10/16

## Advocacy

[No War With Iran Action Hour, 24 October, NIAC](#)

[80+ Organizations Call on Biden to Prevent Israel-Iran War Which Could Ensnare the USA, 2024/10/3](#)

[Letter to the Times of London](#)

[By Jane Kinninmont, Policy and Impact Director, European Leadership Network](#)

Sir, Regarding Catherine Philips's article "After latest humiliation, Iran had little choice but to strike Israel" (Oct 1), Iran struck Israel because it saw as many risks from inaction as from action. Israel finds itself in a similar dilemma: a deterrence trap.

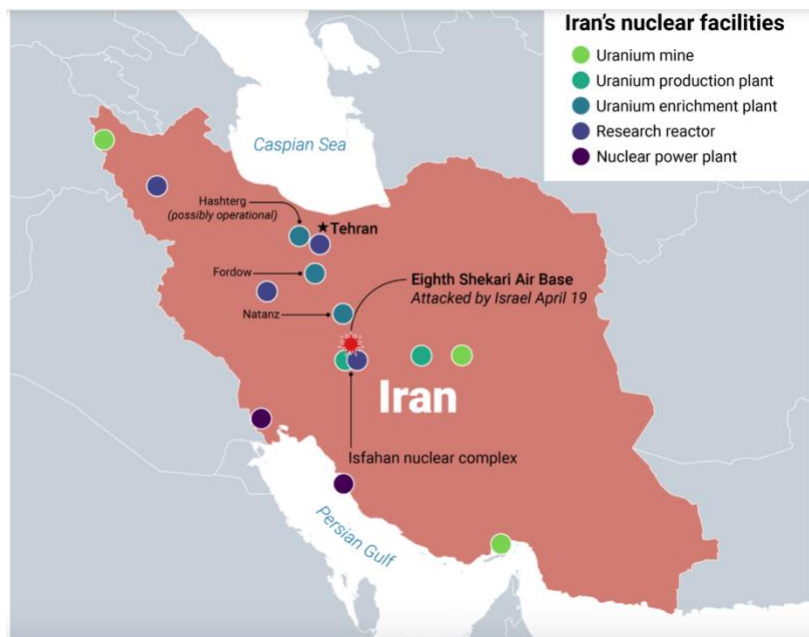
Here even the most cautious elements within the elites feel they must attack to defend, while hawks see opportunities to reshape the regional order with violence. Israel may next strike Iran's nuclear facilities and other strategic military infrastructure.

But any physical setbacks will be temporary, and a direct attack would probably prompt Iran to weaponise its nuclear programme. Some Iranian hawks are already saying that if Hizbollah is compromised, Iran should go for a nuclear bomb as an alternative deterrent.

However, nuclear weapons don't fend off all threats — as Israel can attest. States with nuclear weapons usually position them only to deter existential threats from other states. Serious de-escalation efforts in the Middle East must go beyond restoring deterrence, and remove the sense of existential threat that drives the worst violence.

This must mean a process of mutual recognition that encompasses all states, including a Palestinian one."

## Nuclear and Missiles



[Glimmers of Hope for Renewed Nuclear Diplomacy in Tehran, Sina Azodi, Arms Control Association, 2024/10](#)

[Growing calls for change in Iran's nuclear doctrine, Jane Kinninmont, #european Leadership Network, 2024/10/](#)

[Rethinking U.S. Nuclear Diplomacy With Iran for 2025, Kelsey Davenport, Arms Control Association, 2024/10](#)

[Should the U.S. and Israel should bomb Iran's nuclear](#)

[facilities, Matt Kroenig, Barbara Slavin, Foreign Policy, 2024/10](#)

[Did Israel Intercept Any Iranian Missiles? The available evidence indicates that most of Iran's missiles got through.](#) Joe Cirincione, Subtrack, 2024/10/3

[Iran vs. Israel redux: The enormous difficulties and ramifications if Israel attacks Iran's nuclear sites,](#) Darya Dolzikova, Matthew Savill, Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, 2024/10/1

[Grossi: Tehran Shows Interest in Reviving Nuclear Deal,](#) NIAC, 2024/10/4

[A wargame suggests how a war between Israel and Iran might go nuclear.](#) Henry Sokolski, Bulletin of Nuclear Scientists, 2024/10/2

## Environment

[Iran's Wetlands Facing Crisis: Environmental Mismanagement and Extreme Heat to Blame,](#) Jazeh Miller, Iran News Update, 2024/9/20

## Economy, Sanctions

[Iran-EU Tensions Escalate Amid New Sanctions and Territorial Dispute,](#) NIAC, 2024/10/18

[US expands sanctions to Iran's 'ghost fleet' of oil tankers,](#) Timothy Gardner, REUTERS, 2024/10/11

## Human Rights

[Iran Releases Austrian Citizen Christian Weber After Two Years of Detention,](#) NIAC, 2024/9/30

[Narges Mohammadi on the Anniversary of Her Nobel Peace Prize: "I Despise War"](#), NIAC, 2024/10/11

[What Faezeh Hashemi's Revolt Behind Bars Says About Iran's Political Culture:](#)

As tensions rise in the Middle East, some see a new opportunity to destabilize or possibly overthrow the Iranian government, but even in Iran's prisons, dissidents struggle to find common ground, Sina Toossi, The Stimson Center, 2024/10/3

[Iran overturns death sentence of labor activist Sharifeh Mohammadi,](#) VOA. 2024/10/12

## Media

[From Axis of Resistance to Axis of Cooperation,](#) [از محور مقاومت به محور سازندگی](#), Interview with Iranian media on how the crisis ends, Barbara Slavin, هم میهن ، online, 2024/10/12

## Economy

[Iran's Economic Growth Slows: Challenges and Projections for the Future,](#) Jazeh Miller, Iran News Update, 2024/9/19

[Iran/s 5 Mega Projects,](#) YouTube

## History

[A Review of the Turnaround in Iranian Foreign Policy during President Hassan Rohani's Administration](#), Javad Haghgoo, Zahed, Ghaffari Hashjin, Mohammad Aghaei, Academia.edu, 2024/9/28

### ADVOCACY MISSION STATEMENT

Peace Corps Iran Association advances peace and understanding between Americans and Iranians through education, outreach and advocacy, and upholds the legacy of the Peace Corps in Iran.

### ADVOCACY COMMITTEE PURPOSE STATEMENT

Peace Corps Iran Association advocates for peace and understanding through education, outreach, and cultural diplomacy.

PRINCIPLES: The Board of Peace Corps Iran Association has adopted the following Guiding Principles for our advocacy efforts toward improving relationships between Iran and the United States, and their peoples.

1. Understanding and acceptance of other people and cultures are the building blocks of friendship, inclusiveness and world peace. As citizens of a world power, Americans bear a special responsibility.
2. Tolerance and mutual respect form the foundation for peaceful interactions between countries and their citizens.
3. Bringing countries and their citizens into the global community through cultural and economic ties reinforces international cooperation and reduces the likelihood of armed conflict.
4. Negotiation and diplomacy are essential to resolving international issues.
5. Force is rarely justified in dealing with conflicts. Peace is built and sustained through voluntary agreement and consent.

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