



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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Amidst the Chaos and Destruction in DC, Any Way Forward with Iran?

Note from the Editor, Paul Barker

The first month of Donald J. Trump's term as the 47th president of the United States has gotten off to a disruptive, destructive, and memorable start. Our constitutional order had evolved over 236 years, but one is left to wonder how well it will survive the challenges of the coming four. International institutions which were crafted to ensure a more peaceful and prosperous world in the wake of WW II are now being challenged and undermined with abandon. Indeed, the Trump #47 administration seems now to be above board in aligning with Russia against Ukraine and the European nations which have been our allies for 80 years.

Yet the focus of this monthly bulletin is to focus on the possibilities for promoting peace and reconciliation between the American and Iranian nations. On that front there might be slivers of reasons for hope intermixed with anxiety. Shortly after his inauguration, Trump did reinstitute harsh 'maximum pressure' sanctions against Iran, but he also

added words about his personal discomfort in doing so and declared his hopes for a better future for the Iranian people. He fired Brian Hook who had pushed hard for maximum pressure in #45's administration, despite Hook's efforts in helping with #47's transition from #46 at the State Department. On the other hand, during his meeting with Netanyahu in Washington, #47 reportedly promised support for an Israeli strike on targets in Iran. Unless restrained by Trump, the likelihood of an Israeli led strike on Iran in the near future seems likely.

For many Iranian Americans and Iranians hoping to visit or study in the USA, #47's hard lines on immigration and asylum seekers have ushered in a new era of bad news.

Three years and eleven months remain of the #47 administration. The coming few months may be the most critical of those months in establishing the environment in which the #47 team will or won't be able to force its way. If you are interested in the establishment of a more peaceful, stable, and open relationship with Iran, look for ways to encourage President Trump to earn that Nobel Peace Prize that he seems to covet.

Presidents' Day February 17, 2025: Negotiating with Iran?

Carolyn Yale, Shiraz 1974-76

By Presidents' Day, 2025, it was clear that we Americans can expect four years of surprising and unsettling changes in federal policies and programs. Not the least will be in international relations, where President Trump and appointees have broken with long-held norms and assumptions. The President has inherited alliances and conflicts, and faces volatile geopolitics, particularly in the Middle East, where Eastern, Western and regional interests intersect and compete. Trump has already demonstrated that he does not care to follow the track of his predecessors and is showing interest in reshaping international alignments.

Trump claims that he's interested in negotiating with Iran, the apparent focus being limiting Iran's nuclear capabilities, (having scuttled US participation in the Nuclear Agreement negotiated under Obama). However, the prospects for negotiation that genuinely recognizes the interests of both countries are murky. Iran's president, Masoud Pezeshkian, has said he is open to negotiation but has doubts because US statements and actions still reflect great hostility toward Iran. Although Supreme Leader Khamenei has not rejected diplomacy out of hand, he doesn't trust the US and is extremely skeptical of negotiating. The Iranians quite pointedly reject negotiations based on demands and threats on the part of the US: Their interests must be respected. They would like to see a repositioning of the US – Iran relationship: Both Khamenei and Pezeshkian have said that US needs to rethink its hostility vis-à-vis Iran.

Statements coming from the Trump administration show as yet little rethinking of the US-Iran relationship (or lack thereof) – only an intent to meet. Early in February the President ordered restoration of maximum pressure on Iran-- possibly a prelude to tough negotiation. In a press conference after visiting with Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu, Secretary of State Marco Rubio declared that "the common theme in all these challenges (in the Middle East) is Iran. It is the single source of instability in the region." This pronouncement must have pleased Netanyahu, as well as Americans who consider Iran a unalloyed menace.

Attributing all conflicts in the Middle East to Iran's influence and assistance is quite a reach, but, among other things, it helps legitimize unqualified US support for Israel. The Trump administration has vowed to strengthen our bond with Israel and has pledged continued material support. It remains to be seen if Trump's intent to initiate dialogue can be reconciled with the current Israeli government, its militarized version of security, and Iran as number one enemy.

The weeks-old Trump administration has stunned our sense of reality. Nothing that was, is certain, the future even more uncertain. We observe that the President Trump prefers transactional relationships (the Deal). This approach differs radically from the "rules based" order for foreign relations that previous presidents subscribed to.

An [article by Samuel Moyn and Trita Parsi](#) contends that there may be promise in breaking away from the rules-based order because, from the perspective of weaker countries, the rules (and prerogative of ignoring them) have often served only US interests to the detriment of the weaker nations. The US has used the military on a global basis to enforce or "secure/protect" US interests. The Islamic Republic is among the nations that have resisted the US-led version of an international order, but this doesn't justify continuing to isolate Iran and treat it as a pariah. President Trump has the opportunity to break the silence between our countries lasting over four decades.

On the 46th Anniversary of Iranian Revolution:

An Interview with Amb. John Limbert

Fariba Amini, Informed Comment, 2025/02/02

*"No one should be surprised that the Iranian Revolution took a religious form. The fact that God appears on almost every page does not reflect religious convictions of my own, nor for that matter any conscious design at all, but simply arises from the circumstance that in any description of the fabric of Iranian life God is an endlessly repeated motif." — Terence O'Donnell**

Ambassador John Limbert is a career foreign service official who was taken hostage by student radicals in Iran in 1979 and held for 444 days. He emerged in Washington as a voice of reason and dialogue on Iran. The interview has been edited regarding the order of the anecdotes and observations.

Fariba Amini: This year will be the 46th anniversary of the Iranian revolution. What are your thoughts? We used to say that in six months, things will change. Well, they didn't. What happened and why?

John Limbert: In the summer of 1979, six months after the revolution, often hearing the question, "When are THEY leaving?" Events in Iran for the last 5 decades have defied expectations. Few expected the Shah to fall when and how he did; few expected a revolution fueled by militant political Shi'ism; few expected that Iran would become a theocracy with direct rule by clerics; and few expected that Iran would go in the brutal, harsh, and authoritarian direction it did. Why? The militant clerics and their allies who followed Khomeini's vision had a plan and they followed it. They took advantage of weaknesses and divisions among their rivals. They took advantage of miscalculations by others.

You were one of the hostages in Iran during the Revolution. Can you tell us about your experience.

John Limbert: As the saying goes, مثنوی هفتاد من کاغذ دارد. [Rumi's long poem the Mathnavi had a hundred pages to write. It's worth noting that many of the hostage takers are now admitting that they made a big mistake and what they did has brought enormous suffering to their compatriots.

Fariba Amini: Khamenei [now Iran's clerical Leader] was a young cleric when he paid a visit to you and the other hostages at the Embassy. He became the Supreme Leader later. What did you tell him during that visit?

John Limbert: Khamene'i visited us in April 1980. My message to him, in diplomatic language, was "You totally and royally f...ed up." In my view I was still an accredited diplomat, so I needed to convey that message politely. As the saying goes, you cut off heads with cotton. I'm sure you can find a video of the visit on the net somewhere.

Fariba Amini: In these days, many pro-monarchists blame President Carter or the 57th niners as they are called for the Iranian Revolution. What are your thoughts about this allegation? I know that we, Iranians always blame "others" for what happens in our country. Who is to blame?

John Limbert: I believe it was the poet Shahriyar who composed the famous line از ماست که بر ماست: "Whatever happens it is our [own] doing." I don't agree with those who blame President Carter, but I can understand their view considering Iranians' experience with interference by foreign powers. President Carter was not well served by his advisors about Iran. One told him that Khomeini's victory would bring democracy. Another told him that victory would bring the communists to power.

Fariba Amini: You have always been about dialogue with Iran. Do you think that would be possible under a Trump administration?

John Limbert: To quote the Athenian Alcibiades, "At some point, somebody has to trust somebody". US-Iran relations are unfortunately a partisan issue on both sides. It should not be, since they involve national interests on both sides. And those interests are not served by the prevailing hostility. There must be a better way. Getting there is hard. Trump could do it, since he would love to claim credit.

Fariba Amini: As a seasoned diplomat under many administrations, do you think we will see peace in the Middle East?

John Limbert: It's hard to see now under current conditions, but those conditions could change quickly and in unexpected directions. As for predictions, I will paraphrase the late Harvard professor J.K. Galbraith who said that the only purpose of prediction is give astrology a good name.

Fariba Amini: What do you think about the situation in this country?

John Limbert: Very sad. We are in for some very tough times. I am hopeful that our system is strong enough to resist the attacks of those who would ignore what makes this country special and impose their views on the rest of us. The good news is that the current group provides excellent material for our comedians.

You wrote your first book, *Shiraz in the Age of Hafiz*. What prompted you to write this book?

The book started as my Ph.D. thesis, which I finished in 1973. As a historian I was curious less about Hafez's poetry, and more about the setting (fourteenth century Shiraz) in which he composed his amazing verses. I spent four years in Shiraz doing the research. A few years later my good friend Professor Richard Bulliet encouraged me to turn it into a book and helped me find a publisher (University of Washington Press). In 1979 I was revising the work for publication when I had to stop work while a prisoner in Tehran. In the 1980s and 90s, I found the new word-processing technology a great help in preparing the book. The book found its true home when the late Homayoun Sanatizadeh prepared a superb Persian translation of the work.

Fariba Amini: You met your wife in Iran when you were a peace corps volunteer in Iran. How was your experience during those times. I believe you lived in Sanandaj.

John Limbert: Yes, I was assigned as an English teacher in Sanandaj. My wife's family is Sanandaji, and her father was a well-respected doctor in the city. She and I both taught in high schools there. I don't think I was a great teacher, but those years were the beginning of a life-long fascination with the Persian language and with Iranian history and culture.

Fariba Amini: You also met Terence O'Donnell who had lived in Iran, and I believe you used some of his books in your classes at the Naval Academy. You also dedicated your first book to him. Can you tell us more about him.

When we first went to Shiraz in 1968, until we found an apartment, we stayed for a few weeks at Terry's Garden outside the city. I still remember spending *sizdah-be-dar* at that garden and sitting with Parvaneh's family near his fireplace while her niece sang some beautiful Kurdish songs. In my teaching, I used his beautiful story "The Holy Men of Isfahan" to illustrate the diversity and the fragile balance of Iranian society.

*John Limbert is a former U.S. diplomat who joined the foreign service in 1973. He was an official at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran in 1979. Limbert was one of the 52 hostages who were held for 444 days at the American Embassy in Tehran by radicals. He had postings in various Middle Eastern countries and served as Ambassador to Mauritania with postings in various Middle Eastern countries. In 2009, he was briefly appointed as deputy assistant secretary of State for Iran under the Obama administration. Limbert taught at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis before retiring. He is the author of three nonfiction books: *Iran: At War with History*; *Shiraz in the Age of Hafez: The Glory of a Medieval Persian City*; *Negotiating with Iran: Wrestling the Ghosts of History*. He has also co-authored a novel with Mark Grossman, called *Believers: Love and Death in Tehran*. He speaks fluent Persian.*

**Terence O'Donnell was an American teacher and writer who went to Iran in the 1960's. He taught English in Shiraz and Isfahan and settled in an abandoned orchard in Shiraz (Garden of the Brave in War) which he turned into a running farm. He wrote a few evocative books, beautifully describing the Iranian society. He went back to Portland, Oregon, his birthplace where he died. A plaque in front of the Oregon Historical Society reads, "Friend of Persians." That inscription was his wish.*

Israel Cannot Survive on its Own

Broadcast on WAMC on 2025/1/29

Stephen Gottlieb, Shiraz 1965-67

The cease-fire between Israel and Hamas, if it holds, may moderate the implications of the war we've been crying over, but I think it's important to revisit the stakes anyway.

Israel was created when the European world was on a collective guilt trip after World War II, the Holocaust and its failure make space for Jewish refugees. Although Muslim states in the UN General Assembly didn't accept Israel, it was supported by the US and Europe. And its foreign policy was designed to enlarge the circle of its friends.

Iran was a friend. I served the US Peace Corps in Iran. Hassan, the husband and father of the Muslim, Persian, family I lived with, had studied in Israel and admired much of what it accomplished. Listening together to BBC reports of the Six-Day War, Hassan was torn between his Muslim faith and admiration for Israel.

Jews lived in Iran since the biblical Babylonian exile. There's a tomb for the Biblical [Esther and Mordecai](#) in Hamadan, in north-western Iran. I attended High Holy Day services in Shiraz where I lived and had many Jewish as well as Muslim friends.

But Israel has wasted the patrimony of its birth.¹

Putting so-called "settlers" in land long held by peaceful Palestinians sharpened the enmity up close. American Jews struggle over the tension with The Torah which tells us:

When a stranger resides with you in your land, you shall not wrong him

The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as one of your citizens; you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt²

Practically, Israel would have benefitted from Machievelli's classic advice that:

any cruelty has to be executed at once, so that the less it is tasted, the less it offends; while benefits must be dispensed little by little, so that they will be savored all the more³

Israeli attacks have repeatedly felled civilians in Gaza for well more than a year, upsetting both Muslims and non-Muslims across the globe. Attacks on hospitals, schools, medical staff, and people of many faiths have added to the widespread pain. And while excluding aid from abroad, Israel has brought in little or none of in its own supplies or medical care for survivors and refugees. Attacks on UN and aid conveys from other countries only added to Israel's detractors and enemies.

Those who expect that Israel can continue to depend on American aid assume that American politics won't change – but American support for Israel is already falling away.

¹ <https://www.juancole.com/2025/01/impunity-starting-accountable.html>

² Leviticus 19:33-34 (Jewish Publication Society, THE TORAH, 1967).

³ <https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/877599-therefore-any-cruelty-has-to-be-executed-at-once-so>. For a fuller discussion, see THE PRINCE, chapter 8.

The normally supportive American left is vocal in its anger.⁴ American clerics of different faiths have protested.⁵

Antisemitism is rising particularly among those who don't distinguish between the citizens and leaders of Israel. The late President Jimmy Carter who negotiated the Camp-David Accords has been laid to rest.

Beyond that, a small population, inside a tiny country, is surrounded by hostile peoples and countries, some of whom had once made peace or were willing to, but who no longer find that possible.

The leaders of Israel want to depend on themselves and avoid any need for foreign support. But that is a fantasy. And that fantasy is likely to result in the death of Israel.

I grew up a friend and admirer of Israel. I've visited and traveled there. I now have to steel myself against the consequences of the foolishness of Israel's leaders.

— *If you think I'm on target, please pass it on. For the podcast, please [click here](#). This commentary was scheduled for broadcast on WAMC Northeast Report, on April 28, 2025, and will be available on WAMC.org and on constitutionalismanddemocracy.wordpress.com.*

US Policy

[Trump's Pro-War With Iran 'Understanding' with Netanyahu.](#) As usual, Trump intends to go along with whatever the Israeli government wants. Daniel Larison, Unomia, 2025/2/17

[Netanyahu seeks to draw Trump into future attack on Iranian nuclear sites.](#) Israeli PM urges US to help 'finish the job' as Washington makes early maximalist demand over Tehran's programme. Julian Borger, The Guardian, 2025/2/17

[Trump and Iran Diplomacy Tracker, NIAC](#)

[Trump's Grand Bargain With Iran Shouldn't Abandon Its People.](#) Trump has significant leverage to negotiate a new nuclear deal with Tehran that also protects protesters. Michael Eisner, Foreign Policy, 2025/2/11

[The 'Better Deal' with Iran Is Still a Fantasy.](#) It is a mistake to assume that the Iranian government will be open to making even larger concessions than they did ten years ago. Daniel Larison, Eunomia, 2025/2/19

[Fact Sheet: President Donald J. Trump Restores Maximum Pressure on Iran, White House, 2025/2/4](#)

[Trump Returns to 'Maximum Pressure' on Iran.](#) The U.S. president signed a memo directing agencies to enforce existing sanctions on the country, but his statements suggest he's open to talks. Keith Johnson, Foreign Policy, 2025/2/5

⁴ <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/04/12/us/politics/palestine-israel-democrats.html>.

⁵ <https://religionnews.com/2024/05/29/mainline-protestant-clergy-are-increasingly-pro-palestinian-their-congregants-may-not-follow/>.

[Here's How Trump Can Make a Strong Deal With Iran.](#) The president will find Tehran more amenable than ever if he tries to drive a bargain. Sina Toossi, *The American Conservative*, 2025/2/1. Sina crafted this article to appeal to a conservative audience – and Trump's ego.

[Trump: Iran Will Be 'Obliterated' if It Assassinate Me.](#) He signs executive order to put 'maximum pressure' on Tehran. 'Newser, 2025/1/4

[Trump's Awful 'Return to Maximum Pressure' on Iran.](#) Ramping up economic warfare against Iran is exactly the wrong thing to do. Daniel Larison, *Eunomia*, 2025/2/4

[The improvement Trump could make to U.S. foreign policy.](#) Samuel Moyn and Trita Parsi, *LA Times*, 2025/1/8

[Trump 2.0 and Iran,](#) Trita Parsi, Benjamin Friedman, Negar Mortazavi, *The Iran Podcast*, 2025/1/25 Trump's only red line with Iran is that it should not get nuclear weapons. There is a historic opportunity recognized by both sides. It would need to be a quick negotiation, perhaps a couple of weeks, with details to be worked out later.

[Steve Witkoff: The real estate investor who sealed the Gaza ceasefire,](#) Trump's Middle East envoy epitomizes the president-elect's disdain for policy wonks and international relations experts, Sean Mathews, *Middle East Eye*, 2025/1/16

[Trump Hands Witkoff the Iran File.](#) The move shows a continued shift in Trump's Iran strategy. Mason Stallings, *The American Conservative*, 2025/1/23

[Trump turns vs hawkish ex aides as he hopes for deal with Iran,](#) "Trump wants to do a deal," an Iran democracy activist said. "He got rid of Hook because he was pushing for folks with hawkish views on Iran to get positions at State. Trump doesn't want that." Laura Rozen, *Diplomatic Substack*, 2025/1/24

[A Fools Paradise: Thomas Friedman and the Middle East,](#) Melvin Goodman, *Counterpunch*, 2025/1/30

[New neocon manifesto: Keep US troops in the Middle East forever.](#) The 'Vandenberg Coalition' wants Trump to prioritize Israel and maintain Iran as enemy number one, Jim Lobe, *Responsible Statecraft*, 2025/1/28

[Gabbard the Iran Hawk?](#) Her endorsement of the Soleimani assassination and her newfound support for Trump's bankrupt Iran policy are major red flags. Daniel Larison, *Eunomi*, 2025/1/31

[Trump wants to "bomb, bomb, bomb... bomb, bomb Iran..."](#) Bill Addis, *Daily KOS*, 2025/2/5

[Senators Letter to Rubio re USA Funding Freeze, Staff Dismissals,](#) 2025/1/4

[Democrats as War Party,](#) by Trita Parsi, 2025/1/12

Andy Mott comment: That's certainly a remarkable and thought-provoking piece! Especially for an advocate of diplomacy after Trump's policies advocated ethnic cleansing in Gaza and ended any collaboration with European allies in creating a fait accompli for Ukrainians and his rejection of American involvement in any security guarantees. Needless to say, both parties are strongly linked to the military/industrial complex

Iran Policy

[What Will Iran Do with Trump?](#) Tohid Asadi, Al-Jazira, 2025/2/8

[Escalating Nuclear Tensions as Iran Leaks Possible Extreme Demands from Washington](#), NIAC, 2025/2/14

[Iran at standstill on talks with Trump](#), Laura Rozen, Diplomatic Substack 2025/3/20

[Will Iran's Next Supreme Leader Be Its Last? Khamenei's Succession Dilemma and the Future of the Islamic Republic](#), Akbar Ganji, Foreign Affairs, 2025/2/13

[Khamenei greenlights nuclear talks, Iranian hackers use American AI](#), The Iranist, 2025/1/31

[Top Iranian politician appeals to Trump to restart nuclear deal negotiations:](#)

Mohammad Javad Zarif says he hopes new Trump administration will be more serious, focused and realistic, Patrick Wintour, The Guardian, 2025/1/22

[Navigating Diplomatic Shifts: Iran's Evolving Stance on Direct Talks with the U.S.](#) NIAC, 2025/1/31

[Iranian media rejoice as US funding freeze jolts exiled dissidents](#), Amwaj, 2025/2/2

[Iran Has Rare Praise For Donald Trump](#), Amir Daftari, Newsweek, 2025/2/5

[According to US Government Data, Iran is Not the Major Sponsor of Terrorism](#), Larry C. Johnson, Sonar21, 2025/2/8

[Majority of the Iranian elite support direct negotiations with Trump](#), European Leadership Network, 2025/2/12

[Iran daily urges Pezeshkian to respond promptly to Trump's overtures](#), Maryam Sinaiee, Iran International, 2025/2/7

[Prospect of Russia-US deal raises alarm in Iran's pro-reform camp](#), Amwaj, 2025/2/20

Region

[Interpreting the 20-year military pact between Russia & Iran. Not just a strategic agreement, they want to send a message that together, the two can end-run pariah status in the West.](#) Michael Corbin, Responsible Statecraft, 2025/1/23

[Is Iran inching closer to recognizing Taliban rule in Afghanistan?](#) Amwaj, 2025/1/27



This AI-generated image of Iranian Vice President for Strategic Affairs Mohammad Javad Zarif begging President Donald Trump has gone viral in Iran (X)

[Diplomatic Moves in a Controversial Context: Araghchi's Visit to Taliban-Led Afghanistan](#), NIAC, 2025/1/31

[Memo to Trump: How Dumping 2.2 Million more Palestinians on Jordan would Destabilize the Middle East even More than the Iraq War Did](#), Juan Cole, Informed Comment, 2025/1/28

[Saudi Arabia Emerges as Key Global Player Under Trump](#), Amir Daftari, Newsweek, 2025/2/14

[Syria spillover for Iran moving towards the Caucasus](#), Rovshan Mammadli, Amwaj, 2025/2/6

[It's Time for the U.S. to Reach Out to the Taliban](#), Javid Ahmad, NYT, 2025/2/17

[Netanyahu says Israel and US are determined to thwart Iran](#), James Mackenzie and Menna AlaaEIDin, Reuters, 2025/2/16

['Positive feeling' in Iran amid talk of Saudi mediation with Trump](#), Amwaj, 2025/2/17

[Trump's Return to the White House and the Crisis Facing Iranian Refugees in Turkey](#), NIAC, 2025/2/19

Advocacy Action

Notes from NPCA Zoom Call 2025/2/6

Peace Corps is funded by congressional appropriations, not USAID. PC continues to operate and recruit new volunteers. Some PCVs working with PEPFAR, SPA grants, PPCPP microfinance, and other USAID related projects have been asked to return to the US, but less than 10% of volunteers are affected. Some of these volunteers may be able to continue service if USAID funding is not required. PCVs have been informed that travel within their countries is halted. Affinity groups for people of color, LGBTQ, other identities have halted. Travel for vacations, medical attention is still allowed.

USG hiring freeze is limiting employment options for RPCVs.

Trans volunteers in the field will no longer be able to get gender affirming healthcare. They do have the option of separation due to medical reasons.

No news on succession plan at Peace Corps HQ.

NPCA is advocating for the restoration of foreign assistance funding.

PC has not received any OMB guidance on its future.

DEI cannot be used in recruitment.

It is important that we show that there is a demand for PC service, so people are encouraged to apply to become volunteers.

NPCA is able to share on its website things that are being taken down from PC website. John Garamendi, representing the 8th District in California, is the only currently serving RPCV in Congress.

<https://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/npca-advocacy/email-congress/>

<https://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/pcc2025/>

US Foreign Assistance Survey. The US State Department's [Office of Foreign Assistance](#) (where USAID is being moved under) just posted this [public survey](#), assessing public sentiments about foreign assistance.

Useful Apps for advocacy work:

5 Calls. [This app is turbocharging calls to Congress about Trump's policies](#)

Signal. Signal is an open-source, encrypted messaging service for instant messaging, voice calls, and video calls.

No! Thanks. Scan a barcode. Find out if and why a brand is being boycotted.

Economy

[Is Iran finally moving to exit FATF blacklist?](#) Anwaj, 2025/2/3

[Trump's No-Prisoners Approach to Iran-China Oil Crackdown](#), Simon Watkins, OilPrice.Com, 2025/2/17

[Iran's Dire and Growing Drug Shortage.](#) Pharmacies have been forced to ration an array of products from formula for babies to critical medication such as insulin shots, Mohammad Reza Mousavi, The Stimson Center, 2025/2/18

Human Rights

[Iranian Christians feared death in Iran. Then the US deported them to Panama.](#) Rick Jervis, USA TODAY, 2025/2/20

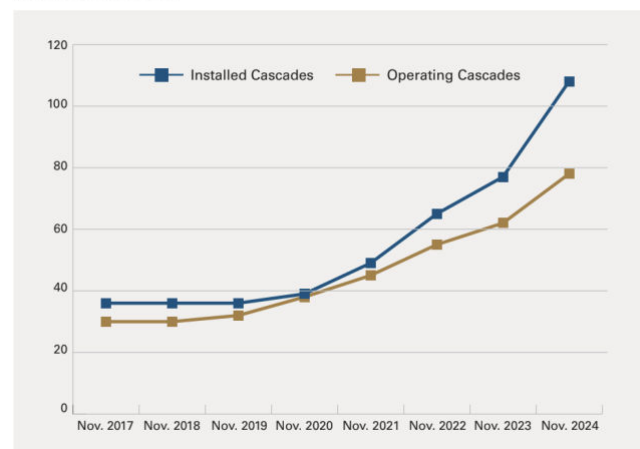
[Iran pardons journalists who covered woman's death that triggered protests,](#) VOA, 2025/2/13

Media

[American Visits Iran for 10 Days.](#) At the time of Israeli attacks.

Nuclear and Missiles

Iran's Deployment of Centrifuge Cascades
(Natanz and Fordow)



Source: International Atomic Energy Agency

[Can Trump and Iran Sign a Verified Nuclear Peace Agreement?](#) NIAC webinar with Trita Parsi, Barbara Slavin, Kelsey Davenport and Ryan Costello, 2024/2/10

[What should a new deal with Iran look like?](#) Oren Setter, Itamar Lifshitz, Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, 2025/2/7

[The P4+1 and Iran Nuclear Deal Alert,](#) Kelsey Davenport, ACA, 2025/2/13

[Iran Unveils "Missile City" in Show of Strength Before Trump Israel Meeting,](#) Newsweek, 2025/2/3

[Trump's Iron Dome Cannot Protect America,](#)

Donald Trump, Pete Hegseth and Project 2025 try to con us into buying an imaginary umbrella full of holes. **Joe Cirincione, Joe Cirincione, Strategy & History, 2025/1/27**

[Trump wants a nuclear deal. Can he be the ultimate negotiator?](#) **Jon B. Wolfsthal, Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, 2025/1/31**

[Iran Is Developing Plans for Faster, Cruder Weapon, U.S. Concludes.](#) As Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel prepares to meet with President Trump, the question of whether to strike Iran's facilities or negotiate with Tehran appears certain to be under debate. David E. Sanger and Julian E. Barnes, NYT, 2025/2/3

[Iran displays Russian-made defence systems in military exercise,](#) Reuters, 2025/2/5

Environment

[27 Iranian Provinces Hit with Closures Amid "Energy Imbalance" and Severe Cold,](#) NIAC, 2025/2/14

History

[Symposium on Biden's foreign policy: The good, bad & ugly,](#) Responsible Statecraft, 2025/1/20

Negar Mortazavi, Senior Fellow, Center for International Policy: Despite the major failure of his wider Middle East policy, there was one catastrophe that Joe Biden prevented and that was a full-scale war with Iran. . . .

Sina Toossi, Senior Non-Resident Fellow, Center for International Policy: One of President Biden's most significant foreign policy failures has been his approach to Iran. Despite campaigning on returning to the Iran nuclear deal, his administration sent the wrong signals upon taking office. . . .

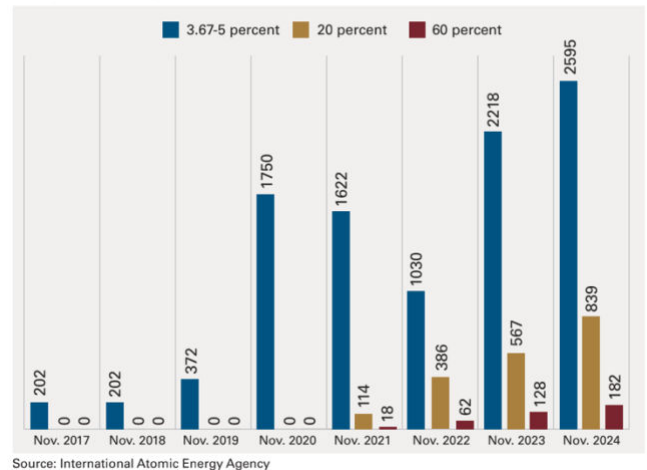
[A Diplomat Risks His Life to Save Americans: Michael Metrinko in Iran,](#) National Museum Of American Diplomacy, 2024/9/5

[The Third World, Global Islam and Pragmatism: The Making of Iranian Foreign Policy,](#) Walter Posch, SWC Research Paper, 2013

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.

Iran's Stockpiles of Enriched Uranium
(kilograms by weight)



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.

GROUND RULES:

1. The Advocacy Bulletin is an opt-out email publication for PCIA members interested in this subject. It is a way to share ideas, information, and opportunities for action. The Bulletin is archived on the website.
2. PCIA members are invited to share articles for publication. The editor decides which articles are selected for publication. Some pieces, particularly when not aligned with PCIA's Mission, Values, and Guiding Principles, or which do not relate to the current state of Iran advocacy issues, may be posted in PCIA's Facebook group.
3. Articles should be addressed to AdvocacyBulletin@peacecorpsiran.org and the release question answered, "I consent/do not consent to the release of my writing beyond the Advocacy Bulletin distribution and PCIA archives." If consent is given, statements issued to the public will be identified as coming from the author, and not PCIA, the Advocacy Committee, or Board.
4. Writers are encouraged to include action recommendations and reference information to help readers understand issues.
5. The Advocacy Bulletin is not an academic journal, but it does aspire to be fact-based. Whenever possible citations and links to web-based articles should be included in the articles.
6. Opinions and ideas from members expressed in the Bulletin do not represent Board positions. However, members of the Advocacy Committee may present a position to the Board and request endorsement. Positions adopted by the Board to be posted in the Advocacy Bulletin will be identified as such.

The opinions in this issue are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the Board of PCIA. Letters and contributions to the Advocacy Bulletin are most welcome and may be submitted to the editor at Paul@peacecorpsiran.org.

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