

Special Edition

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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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No One Can 'Win', but Donald J. Trump Must Lose This War

By Paul Barker, Editor of PCIA Advocacy Bulletin

This edition of the Advocacy Bulletin coincides with the day that [Donald J. Trump has promised to destroy all of the bridges, power plants and energy infrastructure of Iran](#). If he does, Iran can be expected to unleash its still significant reserves of drones and missiles against energy and other infrastructure in Israel and across most countries surrounding the Persian Gulf. The damage to all countries involved in the war will be devastating and long lasting. The economic miracles of the Arab countries on the south and west sides of the Gulf may be permanent. The Islamic Republic may well



Donald J. Trump  
@realDonaldTrump

Tuesday will be Power Plant Day, and Bridge Day, all wrapped up in one, in Iran. There will be nothing like it!!! Open the Fuckin' Strait, you crazy bastards, or you'll be living in Hell - JUST WATCH! Praise be to Allah. President DONALD J. TRUMP

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survive the war, but perhaps not the ensuing 'peace' as Iranians are forced to deal with the devastation that the policies and behaviors of the Islamic Republic of Iran have brought to their country. Freedom of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz may never again be assured and the global economy will suffer a deep and lasting setback. Donald Trump will still be President when the American armadas depart the region, but he and his party seem headed to a devastating defeat in November elections.

It is not a war of necessity (responding to an attack or imminent threat) or a war of choice (implying an informed, deliberative thinking process). It is a war started on a whim and in contravention of the US Constitution and laws and in [violation of the UN Charter](#). In order for America to 'win' the war in Iran, [Donald Trump must lose it](#). The cost of Donald Trump being seen to 'win' this war would be to bless and further entrench his autocratic, anti-democratic, norm-breaking, treaty-wrecking, ally-spiting beliefs and behaviors.

Of all the justifications that Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu have offered since launching their war against Iran on 28 February 2026, the one with the most resonance among Iranian Americans and opponents of the regime in Iran was regime change. The myriad shortcomings, human rights abuses and economic failures of the Islamist regime provide fertile ground for opposition. Killing regime leaders and destruction of repressive forces like the Besij militias and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, plus attacks on Iranian military assets and infrastructure that threaten other countries in the region may have seemed like legitimate and welcome developments to many regime opponents, even if the process of starting the war was patently illegal.

Had the heavy bombing of the symbols and pillars of the Islamic Revolutionary Government of Iran been the sole targets of the war, the US/Israeli campaign might have been able to garner support among constituencies in Iran, the US and other countries. Alas the tens of thousands of bombs and missiles dropped and launched at Iran hit an ever expanding spectrum of targets, including [115,000 civilian structures, over 700 schools, 21 universities, a stadium, gymnasiums, 300 health care centers, pharmaceutical infrastructure, bridges](#) and oil and gas infrastructure and storage facilities.



The Karaj bridge, several kilometers west of Tehran, which was destroyed during U.S.-Israeli military operations in Iran, on April 3, 2026. Photo by Morteza Nikoubazi/NurPhoto via Getty Images.

If the war is intended to spark regime change, destruction of civilian infrastructure will leave a shattered and bitter population in Iran, regardless of whether or not the current clerical regime is still standing.

While neither Trump nor Netanyahu nor the Islamic Republic of Iran can win the war, any one of them can drag it out interminably. International structures like NATO and the UN as well as the global economy deteriorate further every day that this war continues.

There are level heads across multiple continents who are actively working to find off ramps from the war and to nudge belligerents, particularly Donald Trump, to seize them

and salvage what can be saved from the unfolding disaster. Iran's US educated former Foreign Minister, [Javad Zarif, has put forward what look to me like the pillars of a process and agreement to end the war](#) with breakthroughs which would be beneficial to both the US and Iran. Some of these ideas are found in the articles found in this Advocacy Bulletin.

If there is a long-term 'victor' from the war it may be the overdue realization that only locally produced and sustainable electric energy sources can free us from the tyranny of petrostate politics.

John Limbert, Barbara Slavin Interviews

[“We’re in a Greek Tragedy.”](#) Top Diplomat Warns of Iran War Disaster. John Limbert interviewed by Mohammad Manzarpour, 2026/4/2

[NewsMax panel](#) with John Limbert, 2026/3/19

[Newsmax Panel re Iranian Nuclear Threat](#) with John Limbert, 2026/3/26

[“Bombing Without a Plan”](#) – Barbara Slavin on Trump's Iran Strategy. interviewed by Mohammad Manzarpour, 2026/4/3

Paths to End the War

[How Iran Should End the War. A Deal Tehran Could Take.](#) M. Javad Zarif, Foreign Affairs, 2026/4/3

[Iran's Zarif draws fire after floating proposal for peace with the US.](#) Amwaj, 2026/4/6

[‘You Are Not Our Enemy’ – Iran's President Sends Message to Americans – FULL TEXT.](#) Palestine Chronicle, 2026/4/1

[An Iran Exit Plan.](#) There's still time for a sensible compromise between Washington and Tehran. George Beebe and Trita Parsi, Foreign Policy, 2026/3/26

[What is Iran's End Game?](#) Ali Vaez, Foreign Policy Live, 2026/3/31

[What options does Iran have now?](#) The Strait of Hormuz blockage has put Iran in a position of power in the war with the US, but what will Trump do next? The Iranians know they have won, but President Trump doesn't get it yet. Gwynne Dyer, The Telegram, 2026/4/1

[Trump Is Serious About Accepting a Humiliating Defeat.](#) The disastrous war could end in a geopolitical nightmare. Jennifer Rubin, The Contrarian, 2026/4/2

[Iran War: Regional Shockwaves & the Search for an Exit.](#) Quincy Institute Webinar, 2026/3/31

[Can America and Iran Reach a Cease-Fire?](#) Both Sides Want to Dictate the Terms – But Neither Truly Can. Ellie Geranmayeh, Foreign Affairs, 2026/3/27

Leadership and Policy Options for Iran

[Iran's Not So New Leaders May Strike a Hard Bargain.](#) Israel's assassination campaign has led to the promotion of IRGC old-timers who are likely to prove more hostile to the U.S. and less nimble in negotiating an end to the war. Barbara Slavin, Stimson Center, 2026/3/26

[Limited US Ground Operations in Iran Will Not Shift the War's Balance](#). Brendon Carr and Trita Parsi, Quincy Institute, 2026/4/1

[From Evin Prison to the White House: Mostafa Tajzadeh Warns Trump of War's Consequences and Iran's Enduring National Resolve](#). NIAC Insights, 2026/4/5

[Mehdi Interviews Iran's Foreign Ministry Spokesman on the War](#), Mehdi asks Esmaeil Baghaei about the future of negotiations with the US, about Iran's attacks on Gulf nations, and challenges him on the country's crackdown on protesters earlier this year. Zeteo, 2026/3/26

[Reza Pahlavi's Movement Is Dangerous. I've Seen It Up Close](#). Pahlavi attempts to portray himself as a democrat who could be a 'transitional' leader in a post-regime Iran, but the movement he 'leads' has exhibited alarming behavior, writes ex-ally Alireza Nader. Alireza Nader, Zeteo, 2026/3/17

[The Distant Promise of Iran's Would-Be-King](#), Azadeh Moaveni, New Yorker, 2026/3/22. Pahlavi remains the most prominent figure among the various dissidents jockeying for a leadership role in a post-Islamic Republic Iran. But, despite his seemingly good intentions, the pounding of Iran's cities, the bombing of its palaces and cultural heritage sites, the food and gas shortages, the toxic smoke-filled skies, the dead schoolchildren, and the buzz of low-flying drones overhead all risk transforming his image from the leader of a unified future to the agent of his country's ruin. In the ancient kingship tradition, endangering the empire would cause a king to lose his *farr*. No monarch in two and a half millennia of Persian history has invited a foreign power to attack the land of Iran, and nowhere in the long literary tradition of royal counsel—known as *andarznameh*, or “mirror for princes”—has an exception been made for the cause of ending domestic tyranny. This is the current predicament of Pahlavi, whose royal charisma has never been more on the line.

[Israel's Killing of Ali Larijani Could Allow Military to Tighten Grip on Iran](#), As Iran's top national security official, Mr. Larijani had a reputation for acting as a bridge between hard-line figures in the armed forces and more moderate political factions. [Yeganeh Torbati](#) and [Farnaz Fassihi](#), NYT, 2026/3/17

[From revolutionaries to royalists? Why some of Iran's former leftists now back Reza Pahlavi](#). Nearly half a century after the Islamic revolution, a number of former leftist revolutionaries are arriving at a conclusion that would once have seemed unthinkable. Alex Winston, The Jerusalem Post, 2026/3/20

[What the War Has Done to Iranians](#). A civilian in Tehran chronicles a country trapped between bombardment and repression – too terrorized to move, let alone start an uprising. Cora Engelbrecht, The New Yorker, 2026/3/20

[The Shareholder State - How Iran's Political Architecture Absorbs Pressure](#). Iran functions as a shareholder state where strategic decisions require cross-institutional alignment, making it resilient to pressure and limiting negotiations to bounded, incremental outcomes. Ksutilya, 2026/3/25

[Iranian President Letter to Americans](#), Brian Resists, 2026/4/1

[Ali Vaez: Iran's Evolving War Plan.](#) Interview by Ravi Agrawal, Foreign Policy, 2026/3/31

[Trump Underestimated Iran: Talks are the Only Way Out,](#) Amin Saikal, Informed Comment, 2026/4/1

[Is Iran war really "America First?" Iranian president asks in letter to US public,](#) CNN, 2026/4/1

[Living in Hell.](#) War crimes coming: A horrifying update. Paul Krugman, 2026/4/5

US Policy Options

[It's OK to Want Trump to Lose This War.](#) America and the world will be better off if he does, Peter Beinart, Beinart Notebook, 2026/4/6

['An Operational Success and a Huge Strategic Failure'](#), Nicholas Kristof, NYT, 3036/4/4

[Threatening to Send Iran to the "Stone Age:" The Dangerous Targeting of Civilian Infrastructure in Iran.](#) NIAC Insights, 2026/4/6

[Iran Just Did the Unthinkable – US & Israel Respond,](#) John Helmer, Middle East on Fire, 2026/4/

[From "Maximum Pressure" to Maximum Disorder: A War Failing Its Objectives While Expanding Civilian Harm and Global Instability.](#) NIAC Insights, 2026/4/4

[The Trump Doctrine: A Conversation with Aslı Ü. Bâli and Aziz Rana,](#) Quincy Institute, 2026/4/1

[The Path to the Trump Doctrine.](#) From Syria to Lebanon to Gaza, the coercion central to the new regime has been incubated in the Middle East., Aslı Ü. Bâli ad Aziz Rana, Boston Review, Winter 2026

[The Price of Strategic Incoherence in Iran.](#) For America the War's Benefits Won't Outweigh Its Costs. Richard Betts and Stephen Biddle, Foreign Affairs, 2026/3/27

[On the Iran War, a Deep Disconnect Between Experts and Policymakers.](#) Marc Lynch and Shibley Telhami, Foreign Policy, 2026/3/25. Many Americans opposed going to war against Iran, including some Republican voters, but among academics who study the Middle East, the opposition was overwhelming. Only 5 percent of academic experts polled in the days leading up to the Feb. 28 U.S.-Israeli attacks supported launching a war and only 1 percent thought that a broad assault would produce a pro-American democratic regime in Iran. Some 94 percent of experts thought the Trump administration's approach to Iran was making such a war more likely—an overwhelming consensus. Expert knowledge is often dismissed by this administration but in retrospect it seems that academics understood better than policymakers the cohesion of Iran's regime and its ability and willingness to fight back.

[Trump's "New" Mideast: False Promises of Peace Through War.](#) Daniel Martin Varisco. Informed Comment, 2026/3/2

[We Told You So: The Costs of Attacking Iran Far Outweigh the Benefits.](#) Trump says he was surprised by Iran's response to his attacks. He shouldn't have been. For

years, experts have warned of the catastrophic risks. Joe Cirincione, Strategy & History, 2026/3/31

[Trump, Iran, and the Shadow of Suez.](#) *As Iran imposes a chokehold on the Strait of Hormuz, squeezing the global economy, Trump faces a crisis that echoes one of history's most revealing strategic failures.* [Ishaan Tharoor](#), New Yorker, 2026/3/30

['Regime change' might be biggest failure in Operation Epic Fury.](#) The new generation that has moved into place in the wake of US-Israeli assassinations is more hardline than the first. Muhammad Sahemi and Amirhassan Boozari, Responsible Statecraft, 2026/4/1

[Trump Is Serious About Accepting a Humiliating Defeat.](#) The disastrous war could end in a geopolitical nightmare. Jennifer Rubin, The Contrarian, 2026/4/2

[Former Us Hostage Troubled By Donald Trump's War Of Choice In Iran.](#) Storer Rowley, Illinois Delivered, 2026/3/22

[Trump Willing to End War on Iran without opening Hormuz Strait?](#) Juan Cole, Informed Comment, 2026/3/31

[The Iran War You're Not Hearing About.](#) Inside the clandestine effort to bring about regime change. Krn Klipprndyrin, 2026/4/1

[The West cannot understand Iran.](#) Complacent commentators are obscuring the realities of the conflict. Ali Ansari, The New Statesman, 2026/3/28

[Trump Is Losing the War in Iran.](#) One month in, the Islamic Republic is winning merely by surviving. Ravi Agrawal, Foreign Policy, 2026/3/30

[Sec. of War Crimes Hegseth's Christian Death Cult & Iran.](#) Dan Dinello, Informed Comment, 2026/4/1

War Policy Decisions

[The Iran War Has Escaped Its Authors.](#)

Escalation is already shattering Washington's illusion of control. [Robert A. Pape](#), New Yorker, 2026/3/

[Over 100 International Law Experts Warn: U.S. Strikes on Iran Violate UN Charter and May Be War Crimes.](#) Just Security, 2026/4/2

[Poll: Iranian American Views on Iran War.](#) NIAC and Zogby, 2026/3/24-27

[No, Iranian Americans Don't Support This War.](#) Jamal Abdi, Zeteo, 2026/4/1

[Why This War Happened and Why Iran Isn't Backing Down.](#) Sina Toossi, The Nation, 2026/4/2

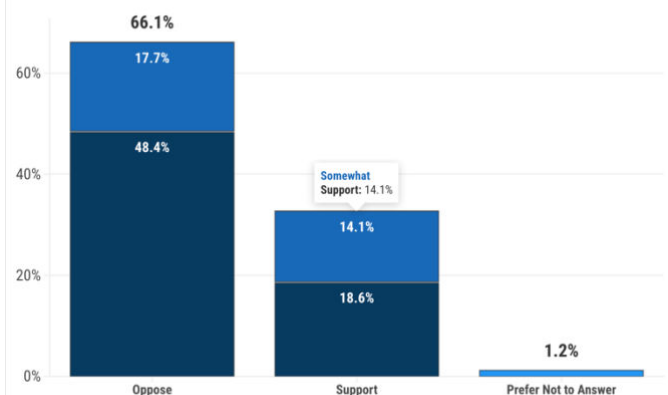
Trump [faces a stark choice](#): cut a deal and get out of Iran or risk a lengthy conflict that could consume his presidency. Reuters, 2026/3/27

FIGURE 1: Views of Iranian Americans

Views on US-Iran War

What is your position regarding the United States war on Iran?

■ Strongly Oppose ■ Somewhat Oppose ■ Prefer Not to Answer



The National Iranian American Council (NIAC) commissioned Zogby Analytics to conduct a mixed-mode online and live-operator telephone survey of 508 Iranian-Americans between March 24-27, 2026. www.iranianamericanspoll.org
NOTE: Based on a confidence interval of 95%, the margin of error for 508 is +/- 4.4 percentage points.

[**Five myths destroyed by Israel's wars on Iran**](#), Amwaj, 2026/3/26. Myth 1: Iran's 'forward defense'; Myth 2: Abraham Accords as security architecture; Myth 3: US military bases as security guarantees; Myth 4: Mediation as a shield; Myth 5: GCC unified defense

[**"Back to the Stone Age": Systematic Destruction of Iran's Civilian Infrastructure Amid War Escalation**](#). NIAC, 2026/4/2

[**Ex Pentagon officials fear broken national security process could lead to risky Iran ground escalation**](#), Laura Rosen, Diplomatic, 2026/3/26

[**Iran Thinks It Can Win a Long War**](#), Dina Esfandiary and Ziad Daoud, NYT, 2026/3/28

[**Khamenei's killing renews questions about U.S. assassinating foreign leaders**](#), Ryan Lucas, NPR, 2026/3/17

[**I Wargamed Iran for Obama. This Is the Worst-Case Scenario**](#). As a former US official, Ilan Goldenberg spent years gaming a conflict with Iran. Here are 5 lessons he learned that Trump hasn't. Ilan Goldenberg, Zeteo, 2026/3/18

[**Four Strategic Patterns Now Visible in the Iran War**](#). Robert A. Pape's substack, 2026/3/12

[**Now that the Iran war is here, the US must complete its mission**](#), Frederick Kempe, Atlantic Council, 2026/3/18

[**The Defiant Message Iran's New Leaders Are Sending the US**](#). Mojtaba Khamenei, and the younger hawks around him, think that Iranian restraint only encouraged American aggression. Trump could come to regret his regime change. Vali Nasr, Zeteo, 2026/3/19

[**The Israel Lobby's Responsibility for the Iran War**](#). Advocates for the U.S.-Israeli special relationship have played a special role. Stephen Walt, 2026/3/17

[**Attack on South Pars Signals a Dangerous New Phase in the War with Global Consequences**](#), NIAC, 2026/3/18

[**The REAL Reason Trump is Trapped in Iran**](#). And why American consumers are up Shit's Creek, Robert Reich, Substack, 2026/3/20

[**Trump's Illegal, Unnecessary, and Now Escalating War**](#), Rob Malley, Sina Toossi and Joe Cirincione, Substack, 2026/3/20

[**What Trump May Do if He Loses in Iran**](#). The president's go-to playbook in the face of defeat would be especially dangerous in the context of war. Suzanne Nossel, Foreign Policy, 2026/3/20

[**With the House Eyeing Another Iran WPR Vote, Pro-Israel Democrats Explore Routes to Delay**](#). Anti-war advocates have openly speculated about whether the Democratic establishment would deliberately allow the war to drag on to benefit the party politically in the 2026 midterm elections. Julian Anderone, 2026/3/20

[**"Iran was an Obstacle to Israeli Hegemony" – Juan Cole & Friends at Rutgers CSSR**](#), Juan Cole, Sahar Aziz and Mojtaba Mahdavi, Informed Comment, 2026/3/17

[**War Isn't a Zero-Sum Game**](#), Robert Wright, Earthling, 2026/3/21

['How Will We Rebuild What We Have Lost?'](#) A Tehran-based journalist maps the human toll of the mass destruction US-Israeli strikes have caused on the country's health and education systems. Mahmoud Aslan, Zeteo, 2026/4/1

[Get Ready for a Weaker but Nastier Iran.](#) What the war's most likely outcome means for the United States and the Middle East., Thomas Juneau, Foreign Policy, 2026/3/19

[Is Iran the 'Leading Sponsor of Terrorism', with John Kiriakou,](#) Chris Hedges Report, 2026/4/2

[Confirmed: United States Sent 'A Lot Of Guns' To Rioters In Iran Prior To Full Scale War.](#) Trump Confirms That The CIA And Mossad Armed Rioters In Iran Prior To The War. The Dissident, 2026/4/5

[The Trillion-Dollar Illusion.](#) We spend all that money and are still unable to defend our Persian Gulf bases. George O'Neill Jr. The American Conservative, 2026/4/3

[The Plan Is to Blow Up the Entire Middle East,](#) Trita Parsi Interview, YouTube, 2026/3/19

[The trillion dollar Iran war,](#) Ben Freeman and William Hartung, Tribune News Service, 2026/3/17. In late 2002, as the U.S. was on the precipice of invading Iraq, the president's top budget official estimated that the war would cost as little as \$50 billion dollars. That conflict ultimately cost American taxpayers more than \$3 trillion, and we're still paying the bill. Fast-forward to 2026 and the U.S. has embarked on another war of choice in the Middle East and the price-tag is once again a mere \$50 billion we're told. Sound familiar?

[Christian Zionists: A Fifth Column?](#) Yakov Rabkin, Informed Comment, 2026/3/24

[Iran Can't Accept Trump's Absurd 'Plan'.](#) If the reported details are correct, the so-called plan includes many of the same unrealistic and maximalist demands that the administration has been making for the last year. Daniel Larison, Eunomia, 2026/3/25

[How the US Became an International Serial Killer,](#) Medea Benjamin and Nicholas Davies,

[Iran Is Putting a 'Toll Booth' in the Strait of Hormuz.](#) Some ships are getting through: those that pay, and those that play. Keith Johnson, Foreign Policy, 2026/3/26

[A brief history of sea mines, the weapon likely standing in President Donald Trump's way.](#) Alexander Wooley, WAPO, 2026/3/27

[Iran is exposing the limits of a presidency built on bluff, improvisation and submission rituals.](#) Fareed Zakaria, WAPO, 2026/3/27

[China Gave Iran Every Single Tool Used To Shoot Down The F-35. Here Is The Full List.](#) QUORA, 2026/3/21

[Sec. of War Crimes Hegseth's Christian Death Cult & Iran.](#) Dan Dinello, Informed Comment, 2026/3/30

[Conflicting demands to end the war,](#) the Iranist, 2026/3/27

[How Washington's Iran Groupthink Led to a Global War.](#) And why accountability matters. Sina Toossi, The Nation, 2026/4/2

[**We've Spent Trillions on Our Pentagon Budget. So Why Are We Losing Against... Iran?**](#) Former US army major and defense intelligence analyst Harrison Mann on why the US military is struggling against Iran and how Donald Trump isn't the only one to blame for US failures in this war. Harrison Mann, Zeteo, 2026/4/2

"This War Is Already Lost": Trump's Iran Debacle. Spencer Ackerman & Behrooz Ghamari-Tabrizi, Democracy Now, 2026/4/2

[**A Strongman's Kind Of War**](#) The current clusterfuck in Iran makes the best case for a republic, and its virtues. Andrew Sullivan, The Weekly Dish, 2026/4/3

[**What the Hell Happened with the Rescue of the F-15E WSO in Iran?**](#) Larry Johnson, SONAR, 2026/4/5

[**A High-Risk Rescue: The Costly U.S. Operation to Recover a Downed F-15 Pilot in Iran,**](#) NIAC Insights, 2026/4/6

Region

[**Russia supplies Iran with cyber support, spy imagery to hone attacks – Ukraine says,**](#) Tom Balmforth and John Irish, Reuters, 2026/4/6

[**The War Israel Long Dreamed of: A Squandered Opportunity?**](#) It is becoming increasingly likely that the war will end without any of its primary objectives having been fully achieved — a military success but strategic failure. Chuck Freilich, The Stimson Center, 2026/4/6

[**On Iran's Rugged Frontier, Kurds Yearn to Join the Fight.**](#) These groups' dream has long been to establish federal autonomy, akin to that of their fellow Kurds in Iraq. With Iran's leaders battered and degraded, they hope their moment has come. Erika Solomon, NYT, 2026/3/8

[**Iran's IRGC claims attacks on UAE, Bahrain aluminium facilities.**](#) Iran targets Aluminium Bahrain and Emirates Global Aluminium in retaliation for US-Israeli attacks on its infrastructure. Al Jazeera, AFP and Reuters, 2026/3/29

[**Putin's Persian Problem.**](#) Don't overthink it. The Iran war is bad for Russia. Sergey Radchenko, Foreign Policy 2026/3/30

[**How to Read the Houthis' Late Entry Into the Iran War.**](#) Given the month-long delay, the Houthis' missile launch reads less as an operational decision than as a political one. Fatima Abo Alasrar, Stimson Center, 2026/3/30

[**Meanwhile in Lebanon, Rami Khouri on Israel's less discussed war,**](#) Beinart Notebook, 2026/3/29

[**What the Iran War Means for China.**](#) Beijing Fears American Volatility More Than American Power,. Zongyuan Zoe Liu, Foreign Affairs, 2026/3/30

Media

[**Pro-Israel PR firm promoting Iranian opposition,**](#) Oscar Rickett, Middle East Eye, 2026/3/27

[**Christiane Amanpour Explains the Iran War**](#)

[**Anti-War Video,**](#) More Perfect Union

[A long-delayed update](#). A new job, our first confirmed book tour event, and advance praise for **STOLEN REVOLUTION**, Yeganeh Torbati,

[The Strait of Hormuz Remains Closed](#), Akhbar Infajari. Pro-Iran lego video

[The Team Behind a Pro-Iran Lego-Themed Viral-Video Campaign](#), Kyle Chayka, The New Yorker, 2026/4/2

[Iran Agrees to End War Only if There is Regime Change in U.S.](#) Borowitz Report, 2026/1 April 2026

[The Art of War by Donald J. Trump](#), Carlos Greaves, The Borowitz Report, 2026/4/5

[Better to Die in Iran](#), Jesse Welles, 2026/4/1

Culture

[Courtship in Iran](#), Stephen Gottlieb, WAMC, 2026/3/16

[For Iranian American lawmaker, darkness hangs over a season of hope](#). Rep. Yassamin Ansari, an Arizona Democrat, is celebrating Nowruz, an Iranian holiday that coincides with springtime and the idea of renewal. It feels heavier this year. Elahe Izadi, WAPO, 2026/3/28

[Hard Feelings](#). The Iranian diaspora is fracturing in real time, across dinner tables, on WhatsApp, and in the silence of blocked numbers. [Narges Bajoghli](#), NY Magazine, 2026/3/6

Economy

[The Increasingly Dire Costs of the War on Iran](#), Patricia Hynes, Informed Comment, 2026/3/28

[Costs Mount in War as Steel Facilities in Iran are Struck](#). NIAC Insights, 2026/3/27

[Israel bombs Iranian steel plants as Trump extends Hormuz deadline](#). Amwaj, 2026/3/26

War Darkens Economic Outlook.

- **Slick going:** An equity selloff deepened and Brent crude futures settled at more than \$112 a barrel. Options traders bet that the price [will hit at least \\$150](#) by the end of April. As one analyst said, “Words alone aren’t cutting it right now.” Gas supplies [face a longer recovery than oil does](#) because there are fewer ways to reroute it and less capacity to store it, columnist Gavin Maguire says.
- **Collateral damage:** The Iran conflict is causing trouble all over the place, from [disrupted fuel supplies](#) in Africa to [shortages in Asia](#). Myanmar’s rice farmers [are scrounging for diesel](#), the Thai fishing industry [is nearing a standstill](#), French farmers are considering [switching to less costly sunflowers](#) from corn, and [cholera aid for African countries](#) has stalled.

Human Rights

[Escalating Repression in Iran: Asset Seizures, Coerced Confessions, and Expanding Crackdown on Dissent](#), NIAC Insights, 2026/3/26

[Attacks on Medical and Pharmaceutical Infrastructure in Iran Raise Serious Human Rights and Humanitarian Law Concerns](#), NIAC Insights, 2026/3/26

[Trump coalition destroys the historic Pasteur Institute in Tehran in violation of the Geneva Convention](#), NDTV, 2026/4/2

[More Executions Carried Out in Iran, Deepening Human Rights Concerns](#), NIAC Insights, 2026/4/6

US Legislation

[With the House Eyeing Another Iran WPR Vote, Pro-Israel Democrats Explore Routes to Delay](#). Anti-war advocates have openly speculated about whether the Democratic establishment would deliberately allow the war to drag on to benefit the party politically in the 2026 midterm elections. Julian Andreone, Drop Site, 2026/3/20

Nuclear, Missile and Energy Issues

[Has the Nuclear Option Been Normalized in American Discourse?](#) 2026/4/3

[U.S. Negotiators Were Ill-Prepared for Serious Nuclear Talks With Iran](#) Special envoy Steve Witkoff's failure to learn the nuclear file and surround himself with technical experts to negotiate a deal is a diplomatic disservice. Kelsey Davenport, Arms Control Association, April 2026

[Iran's Underground Missile Cities and Launch Tunnels — Impenetrable?](#) Exploring the advanced engineering and strategic role of Iran's secretive under-mountain-based missile infrastructure. James Marinero, Medium, 2026/3/28

[Anatomy of the breakdown of Iran-US diplomacy](#), Amwaj, 2026/3/18

[The South Pars Pulse: Why the 'Energy War' is Actually a Thermodynamic Singularity](#), Steven Newbury, Substack, 2026/3/18

[Energy De-Escalation, Regional Backlash, and the Opening of a Northern Front](#), NIAC Insights, 2026/3/19

[Never Bomb Countries with Oil](#), YouTube (funny song)

[Iran Bushehr nuclear plant missile strike risk raises fears of Gulf-wide water crisis](#), Ben Aris, Intellinews, 2026/3/18

[Iran's Dimona Strike and Israel's Nuclear Secrets](#), Jasim Al-Azzawi, Middle East Monitor, 2026/3/23

[Dimona's Shadow: Israel's Nukes Warp Mideast Security](#), Ronny Sasmita, Informed Comment, 2026/3/31

[He Helped Stop Iran From Getting the Bomb](#). A Former CIA officer says that he recruited scientists as part of the United States' effort to disrupt Iran's nuclear program. David Kirkpatrick, New Yorker, 2026/3/30

Environment

[Nations Rush to Renewables, EVs in face of Iran Forever War](#), Juan Cole, Informed Comment, 2026/3/26

[All Modern Warfare Is Chemical Warfare](#). What we witnessed on Saturday may be the largest release of toxins over a population since the Iran-Iraq War. [Narges Bajoghli](#), NY Magazine, 2026/3/13

History

[Potted History of US-Iran Relations](#)

[Iran's Fortress Geography](#). John Walbridge, Informed Comment, 2026//4/1

[How The Gulf States Got Their Borders — And Why It Still Causes Wars Today](#), YouTube

[The 2009 Elections and Iran's Changing Political Landscape](#), Mehran Kamrava, Academia, Summer 2010

[Kharg Island advertisement](#).

[The Geography of Iran Explained](#), Urban Atlas YouTube.

[Watch Ali Larijani's Interview About June 2025 U.S. and Israeli Strikes](#), Frontline, 2025/9

[How US Imperialism Shaped the Iran We See Today](#). Journalist Rida Ali charts the history of US intervention in Iran from 1953 to the current attack in this video explainer. Zeteo, 2026/3/21

[Flying Back With the Birds to My Hometown of Tehran](#). Since the war began, I feel as if I am living inside a shadow. It has no physical form, yet it follows me everywhere. Leila Seyedzadeh, Hyperallergic, 2026/3/18

[The Entire History of Iran in 20 Minutes](#), YouTube

[Invasion of Iran 1941 – WW2s Forgotten Battle](#), YouTube

[How was Thomas Jefferson influenced by Iran?](#) Afshin Marashi, The Oklahoman, 2026/3/30

[Hormuz, War, and the Survival of Iran: Interview with Historian Rudi Matthee, Fariba Amini](#), Informed Comment, 2026/4/3

[Iranian Professor HUMILIATES and BLASTS Times Reporter to Her Face on Live TV](#). Scale of Power podcast, 2026/3/23

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.

Donations to PCIA Welcome: In order to support the advocacy and other work of the Peace Corps Iran Association, please consider [making a donation](#).