

Iran Nuclear Agreement

*“If this agreement goes through, Iran gets a cash bonanza, a boost to its international standing, and a lighted path toward nuclear weapons. With sweeping sanctions relief, we have lessened our ability to challenge Iran’s conduct across the board. As Iran grows stronger, we will be weaker to respond...**Are temporary constraints on Iran’s nuclear program worth the price of permanent sanctions relief?**” – Chairman Royce*

Why It Matters: The Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps Strengthened

The Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) is working to destabilize the entire Middle East. It fuels the Assad regime in Syria with weapons and military personnel. It has backed the Houthi rebels in Yemen that have overrun the country. And it is responsible for the deaths of hundreds of American troops in Iraq. The IRGC exports terrorism, holds sway over Iran’s nuclear program, and brutally represses internal dissent.



And as part of the Iran agreement, the IRGC is about to be bolstered -- in a big way. The agreement will help Iran build up its tanks, fighter jets and intercontinental ballistic missiles, while many European sanctions on the IRGC – including the elite Quds Force - are lifted. The Administration signed-off on these concessions. The deal will allow sales of aircraft and parts to Iranian airlines, which the Quds Force uses to move its people and weapons throughout the region. The IRGC controls key parts of the Iranian economy – the largest construction company, the telecom sector and shipping. Approximately [90 current and former IRGC officials and companies](#) will be taken off sanctions lists as a result of the deal.

Even sanctions on the head of Iran’s elite Quds Force, Qasem Soleimani, will be coming off. Soleimani had been involved in the plot to assassinate the Saudi ambassador on the streets of Washington, D.C. While still under a U.N. travel ban *today*, Soleimani traveled to Moscow on July 24th – just 10 days after the Iran nuclear agreement was announced - and held meetings with the Russian Defense Minister and President Vladimir Putin. [Chairman Royce wrote](#) President Obama demanding a swift response to this sanctions violation.

Key Points

- **The IRGC is the biggest sponsor of terror throughout the Middle East, and even tried to carry out a terrorist attack in Washington, DC in 2011.**
- **Under the nuclear agreement, as Iran is reconnected to the global economy, the IRGC will be one of the biggest winners.**
- **The agreement helps legitimize Qasem Soleimani — and give additional resources to the mastermind behind the world’s foremost state-sponsor of terrorism.**
- **Eyeing future weapons sales, Russia teamed with Tehran to lift the arms embargo. Whose side will Moscow take when Iran tests the agreement?**

