



Iran: One Year In

One year into the Biden administration, Iran is charging forward with its nuclear program, exporting oil to China in violation of U.S. sanctions, and supporting its proxies as they attack the U.S. and our partners.

➤ **Relentlessly Pursuing Nuclear Talks while Ceding our Leverage to Reach a Better Deal**

The Biden administration took office pledging to re-enter the JCPOA, effectively ceding all of the leverage created by the Trump administration through the Maximum Pressure campaign to compel the Iranian regime to agree to a stricter nuclear deal. Through Biden's first year, the administration has maintained its offer to re-enter the JCPOA, even as Iran has increased its nuclear provocations (such as using advanced centrifuges and stockpiling increasing quantities of uranium enriched at 20 percent and 60 percent purity), thereby diminishing the nonproliferation value of the already flawed deal. The administration's desperation to re-enter the JCPOA at any cost weakens the United States and empowers Iran.

➤ **Failure to Mobilize the IAEA to Punish Iran's Nuclear Provocations**

Since the Biden administration took office, Iran began enriching uranium at 60 percent purity and stopped implementing the IAEA's additional protocol to Iran's comprehensive safeguards agreement, further diminishing the world's visibility on Iran's nuclear program. Despite Iran's nuclear escalations, during the Biden administration, the IAEA Board of Governors has not adopted any resolutions regarding Iran's nuclear program. Meanwhile, the world has much less knowledge of Iran's increasingly dangerous nuclear program since Biden was inaugurated.

➤ **Inadequate Sanctions Enforcement Lines Iran's Pockets with Chinese Communist Party Cash**

The Trump administration gave the Biden administration significant leverage over Iran through the Maximum Pressure campaign, which reimposed crippling economic sanctions in order to bring Iran to the table to negotiate a better deal. However, the Biden administration has failed to fully enforce these sanctions, thereby ceding its leverage to extract concessions from Iran regarding its nuclear program and other malign activities. In one egregious example, China's purchases of Iranian oil, in violation of U.S. sanctions, are now worth at least \$1.3 billion per month. Failing to enforce our sanctions empowers both Iran and the PRC.

➤ **Emboldening the Iran-backed Houthis through Concessions**

In February 2021, the Biden administration announced it was reversing the Foreign Terrorist Organization designation of the Iran-backed Houthis in Yemen. The administration received no concessions in exchange for removing this significant source of leverage. On the contrary, after being de-listed, the Houthis only increased their aggression. The Houthis stormed the U.S. Embassy compound in Sanaa and imprisoned several U.S. Embassy Locally Employed Staff. During 2021, Houthi attacks against Saudi Arabia doubled. In January 2022, the Houthis seized an Emirati ship and claimed an attack on Abu Dhabi that killed three people. All the while, Iran continues to smuggle weapons to the Houthis, as evidenced by the U.S. Navy's seizure of a large Iranian weapons shipment in December 2021 along a route historically used to illegally smuggle weapons to the Houthis.