



# IRAN TODAY & TOMORROW

## WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

The Committee in Support of Referendum in Iran (CSRI), a 501(c)(3), non-profit and independent group, is committed to advance change in Iran through an internationally monitored referendum as the only peaceful means to bring democracy and establish a secular and representative government in Iran.

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### Iran's Nuclear Ambitions

#### IAEA Envoys Wrestle With Iran Resolution



[Associated Press Sep 17.](#) - U.S. and European diplomats tentatively agreed Thursday to demand a new Iranian freeze on uranium enrichment by fall as they fine-tuned a draft resolution meant to deprive Iran of technology that could be used to make nuclear weapons.

But negotiations over the text being prepared for the International Atomic Energy Agency's board of governors were overshadowed by a U.S. charge that the U.N. atomic watchdog had kept silent about its concerns over a possible nuclear weapons-related test site in Iran.

#### U.S. Says New Images Show Iran Plans Nuclear Bomb

[Reuters Sep.16-](#) A senior U.S. official said on Thursday that satellite photographs of a suspected nuclear industrial site in Iran demonstrated its intention to develop atomic weapons, an allegation Tehran dismissed as "a new lie." A prominent international expert said on Wednesday that new satellite images showed the Parchin military complex southeast of Tehran may be a site for research, testing and production of nuclear weapons. Iran denies having an atomic bomb program. "This clearly shows the intention to develop weapons," a senior U.S. official told Reuters on condition of anonymity. He also accused the U.N. nuclear watchdog



of suppressing information on Parchin in its latest report on Iran -- a charge denied by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). But another senior U.S. official, reflecting the differing views within Washington, was more guarded when asked if Parchin provided definitive information about Iran's intentions, saying: "It's something worth keeping under observation. There are things there that people need to keep their eyes on."

#### Back to Arms Control

[The Wall Street Journal ,Sep.14](#) -Who says we aren't getting a foreign-policy debate this election season? In addition to Iraq, the Kerry-Edwards campaign has decided to make an issue of how to handle two other members of the original "axis of evil," Iran and North Korea. In a phrase, they are proposing to take us back to the future of arms control. Some of us were hoping that that doctrine had died along with the Cold War, but Mr. Kerry is bidding to revive it as the centerpiece of his anti-nuclear proliferation policy. The idea -- much loved during the "detente" with the Soviet Union during the 1970s -- is that the way to make the U.S. secure is to persuade adversaries to sign treaties promising not to build more weapons, or in the present era not to become nuclear powers in the first place. We will then dispatch U.N. inspectors to verify compliance, and everyone can sleep better at night....The same arms-control mentality also marks the Kerry strategy toward Iran. Mr. Edwards recently said that a Kerry Administration would allow Tehran to fire up its Russian-built nuclear reactors, and even provide them with fuel, so long as the mullahs agreed to let the international community repossess the weapons-usable byproducts.....This too is the triumph of hope over

experience. Just yesterday the member countries of the International Atomic Energy Agency were meeting in Geneva to discuss the next steps in response to nearly 20 years of Iranian deception. Two years ago an Iranian resistance group alerted the world to Iran's previously undeclared nuclear sites, and subsequent inspections have provoked a familiar pattern of bluster and lies that practically screams "bomb program.".....Henry Sokolski of the Nonproliferation Policy Education Center points out that the fresh nuclear fuel that Messrs. Kerry and Edwards want to give the mullahs is already halfway along the enrichment process toward being weapons-usable. With sophisticated and hidden enrichment capabilities of the type we know Iran already has, the country could be within days of having a bomb core were it to seize and divert the reactor fuel. In any case, the mullahs are currently ruling out the possibility of a Kerry-Edwards type deal, demanding to be recognized as a normal nuclear nation with a right to control all stages of its nuclear fuel cycle....

### **Rice: Iranian group exposed the Iranian uranium-enrichment facility at Natanz**

CNN.com. Aired, Sep. 12, 2004 - 12:00 ET, (parts of Blitzer's interview with Dr. Rice)

BLITZER: The third member of the axis of evil, Iran. Is the military option on the table if Iran moves forward and develops a nuclear bomb?

RICE: It is never the case that the president's going to get into hypotheticals about the use of military force. And the president never takes any option off the table. It's just the way that foreign policy ought to be done. But again, we believe that this is something that is best resolved by diplomatic means, and that can be resolved by diplomatic means. The IAEA has been very tough with the Iranians. It turned out that an Iranian group, a kind of rejectionist group, actually exposed the Iranian uranium-enrichment facility at Natanz. And the world is again united in saying to the Iranians that it is not acceptable for them, under cover of a civilian nuclear program, to engage in activities that might allow them to build a military program.

### **Iran using EU to buy time to get atomic bomb**

Reuters, Sep. 9, Vienna - Iran is using negotiations with the European Union's "big three" on suspending sensitive nuclear activities to buy the time it needs to get ready to make atomic weapons, an Iranian exile and intelligence officials said... "Iran continues to use existing differences between the U.S. and Europe to their advantage and tries to drag out talks with the EU to buy time," Alireza Jafarzadeh, an Iranian exile who has reported accurately on Iran's nuclear programme in the past, told Reuters.



"They feel they have bought at least 10 months," Jafarzadeh said. He said he was citing sources in Iran familiar with the results of a recent high-level meeting on Iran's nuclear programme attended by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Jafarzadeh said officials at the meeting also decided to allocate an additional \$2 billion from Iran's central bank reserves to supplement some \$14 billion already spent on what he called Iran's "secret nuclear weapons programme"...An intelligence official said a failure to act now as Washington would like, could be decisive for the development of an Iranian nuclear weapons capability.

### **Top G-8 officials gather in Geneva to discuss nuclear tensions with Iran**

The Associated Press, Sep. 9 - With pressure building to curb Iran's nuclear program, top disarmament officials from major countries gathered Thursday for two days of meetings that the United States says will focus on Tehran in the campaign to stop the spread of atomic weapons. The discussions will give the officials a chance to sort out differences over the approach to next week's meeting of the board of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which could trigger Security Council action. U.S. Undersecretary of State John Bolton, a leading critic of Iran, is hosting the Geneva session with his counterparts from Russia,

Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan, who were holding separate consultations following their arrival Thursday. The full meeting is planned for Friday.

### **Iran still buying centrifuge parts abroad: intelligence officials**

AFP, Sep. 9- Iran is continuing to buy parts for centrifuges abroad,



often skirting sanctions and export controls, as it seeks to supply a program which the United States charges is secretly developing nuclear weapons, Western intelligence officials said...A non-US intelligence official said Iran has been getting



material not only from Pakistan. "There are companies all over Europe involved. The Iranians want to keep these channels open for ongoing operations and future operations," the official said. The official said the Iranians have "for centrifuge production, kept purchasing materials in recent months." This was in Russia but also "Iranian scientists, including nuclear scientists, are coming and going also to and from China," the official said....An intelligence official said it would be "most probably less than a year before the Iranians will be in control of the technology to enrich uranium." And he said "by that time they would have enough feed material for their centrifuges so that they won't be dependent on foreign inputs." Another source, a diplomat close to the IAEA, said the Iranians were "almost self-sufficient" in centrifuge technology, but lacked magnets needed to turn the rotors.

### **Nuclear reactor faces more delays, Russian official says**



Reuters, Sep. 9- A senior Russian nuclear official said yesterday

that an atomic reactor Moscow is building for Iran, long a stumbling block in Russian-US relations, faced further delays. Diplomatic sources and specialists in Moscow have said President Vladimir Putin's growing recognition of Washington's concerns over Iran's nuclear program have pressured the Kremlin into delaying until the International Atomic Energy Agency determines that Iran's nuclear program is in compliance with the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

## **Threatening the world**

### **Tehran response will not be just diplomatic**

Pravda, Sep. 9- Iran's chief nuclear negotiator, who has just come back from several days of talks in Europe, has confirmed that Iran has offered to suspend its uranium enrichment activities. But he says Iran will decide to suspend these activities only after the meeting of the board of governors of the IAEA. He also has a warning - if the Europeans do not respect their commitments or present, in his words, an illogical or harsh resolution, Iran will go ahead with its response. He says that response will not be just diplomatic.

Some hardliners have been calling on the Iranian Government to withdraw from the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty - a step which will end all UN inspections of its nuclear installations, informs ABC News.

### **Iran to sign up human shields for nuclear reactor**

Reuters, Sep. 8- Thousands of Iranians are expected to volunteer to act as human shields in case of a military attack on one of the country's key nuclear facilities, the group organising the effort said on Wednesday. The volunteers would protect a nuclear reactor under construction with Russian help in the southern port city of Bushehr, said the Committee for the Commemoration of Martyrs of the Global Islamic Campaign. "Thousands of Bushehr's people will sign up to protect the reactor," said a spokesman for the group. He said the group,

which has no links to any official organisation, had collected the names of 25,000 "martyrdom-seeking" volunteers across Iran since June. The ceremony was to be held on Thursday in Bushehr.

## Tehran poses world danger

### Time for action on Iran's plans

**The Washington Times** [The Washington Times, By Dick Lugar, Sep 12](#) - The international community has dithered long enough. It is time for decisive action. When the IAEA meets this week, it should vote to report Iran's violations to the United Nations Security Council, which has authority to impose diplomatic and economic sanctions and, if necessary, call for the use of force. The world has been more than patient in the face of Iran's repeated violations of the NPT and lies to the IAEA. It secretly built a large pilot uranium enrichment complex, a far larger, weapons-scale underground enrichment plant, and conducted a clandestine laser isotope separation program, all clearly banned by the treaty. It has also conducted plutonium separation experiments and is reportedly seeking deuterium, both primarily useful in nuclear weapons. As an oil-rich state with a single, unfinished nuclear power plant, there can only be one explanation: Iran is constructing a weapons complex. ...Not only does Iran itself have extensive and well-documented ties to terrorists, such a dispersal of weapons technology would increase exponentially the threat of nuclear terrorism from any number of Muslim extremists in the region. ... Failure to act now also would deal a blow to the already fragile nonproliferation regime. The safeguards and inspections under the NPT have succeeded, albeit belatedly, in proving Iran's failure to comply with the treaty. Only by prompt enforcement can the treaty stop the spread of nuclear weapons. ...The Europeans should reject it out of hand. The international community understandably wants to avoid a military confrontation. It must realize the best way to do so is to face the Iranian violations today. Putting it off does not buy time; it only buys greater risk in the future. *Dick Lugar, Indiana Republican, is chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.*

### Weapons experts say Iran has the ability to build a nuclear bomb

 **Associated Press** [Associated Press Saturday, Sep. 11](#) - It's a nightmare scenario for the West - a hostile Muslim state develops nuclear weapons, throwing the Middle East and the world into turmoil. American officials warn that fear could soon turn into reality with Iran. In Teheran, government authorities deride such concerns and threats as US propaganda. Pointing to faulty US intelligence that prompted the invasion of Iraq to save the world from apparently nonexistent weapons of mass destruction, Iran insists it doesn't want nuclear arms - and doesn't have the means to make them. It's difficult to measure Iran's intentions and test its assertions that it is only interested in the atom to generate electricity. But weapons experts agree that nearly two decades of covert activities have given the Islamic Republic the knowledge and technology to make nuclear bombs, activities that have mostly come to light in the past two years. If Iran translates those skills into action, the Middle East could become the stage for a nuclear confrontation. After running its own secret program for decades, Israel - Iran's declared mortal enemy - is thought to have as many as 100 nuclear warheads.

### Tehran's multi-faceted threats

**Los Angeles Times** [The Los Angeles Times, Sep. 9](#) - Iran has trained and armed Muqtada Sadr's militia, which has been attacking U.S. forces in Iraq. Former Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani ... declared that the situation in Iraq posed "a threat because the wounded American beast can take enraged actions, but it is also an opportunity to teach this beast a lesson so it won't attack another country." Why would Iran be worried about being attacked by the United States? Because it is close to producing a nuclear bomb. It is also working on missiles with the range to strike targets in Europe and North America, though the likeliest

vehicles for delivering an Iranian nuke would be its terrorist networks...The mullahs are hellbent on going nuclear; they are not going to give up what one Iranian newspaper editor calls "the rare pearl for which we have labored greatly."...Iran has a robust opposition movement that makes peaceful change from within a feasible alternative... Most people in Iran have lost faith in their rulers. Many have even braved regime goons to protest in the streets...Bush has recognized the need for democratization in the Middle East, yet, oddly enough, he doesn't seem to be doing much to help Iranian freedom fighters.

## Iran won't give up on Iraq

### Iran seeing opportunities to capitalize on turmoil in Iraq



**USA TODAY, Sep. 14 –Barbara Slavin** -Seventeen months after U.S. forces toppled Saddam Hussein, instability in Iraq is creating opportunities for its mainly Shiite Muslim neighbor, Iran. "The real long-term geopolitical winner of the 'War on Terror' could be Iran," concludes a new report by the Royal Institute of International Affairs, Britain's most respected foreign-policy research organization. The report suggests that Iran's refusal to give up its nuclear program — despite U.S. and European pressure to do so — reflects the Iranian leadership's judgment that the Bush administration, bogged down in Iraq, is in no position to "launch a serious military operation against Iran.".....Iran wins in every Iraqi political scenario except a new secular dictatorship, the most unlikely outcome of U.S. intervention, says Kenneth Katzman, a Middle East expert at the Congressional Research Service, a think tank that prepares reports for Congress. "The losers are Kuwait and Saudi Arabia," which face new challenges from Sunni Muslim fundamentalists and restive Shiite minorities, Katzman says. Emboldened by U.S. difficulties in Iraq, the Iranian government has been increasingly assertive about its right to build a nuclear infrastructure and to support radicals in countries stretching from Israel to Afghanistan."I say the presence of Americans (in Iraq) is not a sign of strength," Iranian Defense Minister Ali Shamkhani told the Al-Jazeera television network last month. Bragging about Iranian influence, he said: "We are present from Quds (Jerusalem) to Kandahar (in Afghanistan). We are present in the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan and Iraq."

### Tehran's multi-faceted threats

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### Los Angeles Times

### Tehran sending poison gas into Iraq



ALJAZEERA.NET

**Al-Jazeera TV, Sep. 8** - The Saudi Al-Riadh daily wrote: A senior security official in the city of Tikrit in Iraq said according to his information, a vehicle has entered the city from Iran that carries poisonous gases to be used for terrorist operations. Colonel Jasem Jabara, head of security in Tikrit, said the vehicle entered Tikrit from Iran last week and carries four medium-sized

packages holding poisonous gases, including mustard gas. A smuggler from northern Iraq brought the substance into Iraq from Iran for armed groups, but did not mention the names of the groups.

### "Iran aids rebels" - Rumsfeld

[The Washington Times, Sep. 8](#) - Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld charged yesterday that Iran is fueling the deadly insurgency in Iraq with money and fighters....Military sources have told The Times that Iran's Revolutionary Guard helped fund Sheik Muqtada al-Sadr. The radical cleric's ragtag Mahdi's Army has staged a series of deadly insurrections in southern Iraq and in the Shi'ite slums of Baghdad... Asked for details yesterday on Iranian meddling, Mr. Rumsfeld said, "They have put people in there. They have put money in there. By 'they,' I'm not going to say which element of the government or whether it's even known to the government. But money has come in from Iran. People have come in from Iran. And it's a very difficult thing to stop," he said. "Iran is a country that is not part of the civilized world in terms of its behavior." Asked whether Iran is funding Sheik al-Sadr, Mr. Rumsfeld said, "There's a lot of speculation to that effect."...



Some military intelligence sources say Iran is working to impose the same type of Shi'ite rule in Iraq, as it also seeks nuclear weapons.

### Will Tehran overplay its hand?

[Business Week, Sep. 8](#) - Tehran's agenda is ambitious. It's injecting money and manpower into Iraq to try to influence the direction of politics there. Iran's support for terrorist groups such as Hezbollah and Hamas is largely unfettered. Most worrisome, experts believe, is that the mullahs are plunging ahead with development of a nuclear bomb. And Iran's huge oil reserves -- which undermine its claim that it needs to develop commercial nuclear power -- mean Tehran has the rest of the world over a barrel...

If Iran proves a stumbling block because of its support for terrorism, European capitals could change their attitude toward Tehran and join Washington in pressuring Iran to toe the line... Europe feels betrayed. The question is how forcefully it will respond -- and Iran may be surprised... As long as Tehran thinks it can get away with all these things, it has little incentive to moderate its policies.

### Iran's Power Play

[The Wall Street Journal, Sep. 8](#), - ....Like al-Sadr himself, the Najaf standoff was created by Iran and was only part of Iran's latest effort to destabilize Iraq and achieve strategic dominance in the Middle East and Central Asia...Iran already enjoys, and exploits, an excellent geostrategic position and immense oil wealth. If in a few years, Iran possesses nuclear weapons and exerts control over more strategically important territory and even more energy resources, it is likely to flex its muscles in the Gulf States, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. It is imperative, therefore, that we immediately and forcefully check Iran, inside and outside of Iraq. ....Of course, the best way to end the threat posed by Iran is end the mullahs' rule of Iran. To that end, the U.S. and other countries also must revive democratic opposition groups in Iran through both overt aid and covert support. We also should create the nucleus of an armed resistance movement by removing the Iranian exile group, the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq from the State Department's list of terrorist organizations. That group is "the most organized, disciplined, and popular opposition movement in Iran," according to Iranian expert Alireza Jafarzadeh. It's time to rearm its 4,000 trained fighters. We understand these suggestions will strike some as too strong. Considering, however, that Iran is poised to make a play for regional dominance, our countermove must be the strongest we have ever made in our 25-year cold war with Iran. Iraq's success is dependent on it. *Lt. Gen. McNerney and Maj. Gen. Vallely, retired from the U.S. Air Force and Army, respectively, are military analysts for Fox News.*

# Human Rights

## **Iranian Journalist Left Iran for Medical Treatment, Sentenced to One Year in Prison for Talking to Foreign Media**

[Radiofarda, Sep 12](#) - An appeal court in Tehran passed a one year prison sentence for Mohssen Sazgara, a reformist journalist, for endangering the Islamic Republic's National Security and disturbing the public's mind. He has rejected the courts judgment and declared it invalid.

## **Seven hanged in Iran, two of them in public**



[AFP, Sep 9](#). -Seven Iranians convicted of a range of crimes... have been hanged in Iran, two of them in public, press reports said Thursday. The five hanged Wednesday in Tehran's Evin prison were identified as Vali Zareian, Houshangh Ensha-Sefand, Yar Mohammad Ghapeh, Hadi Sabok and Mohammad Reza Vakili, the governmental Iran newspaper said. Another man, only identified by his first name Ghassem, was hanged publicly in the city of Karaj, situated 50 kilometers (30 miles) west of Tehran. In addition, the Fajr newspaper reported the public hanging of [a man], identified as Ayoub M., in the southwestern city of Ahvaz.

## **Political prisoners' hunger strike in Evin, Rajaii Shahr prisons**

[Peik Net website, Sep. 9](#) – Political prisoners in Rajaii Shahr and Evin prisons once again went on hunger strikes. Some of the prisoners are families of political prisoners who were detained on charges of gathering outside the United Nations office in Tehran on August 17.

## **Three people hanged**

[IRNA, Sep. 7](#) – Three people were hanged in Gohardasht Prison. The three convicted of drug trafficking were hanged Tuesday morning in the prison compound