

Open Letter

April 25, 2018

As former military officers and leaders in Israeli security agencies, we believe it is in Israel's best interest that the United States maintains the nuclear agreement with Iran.

One of the greatest threats facing Israel has been the possibility of Iran developing nuclear weapons. For more than two years, that threat has been blocked by the Iran nuclear agreement.

The International Atomic Energy Agency has consistently and repeatedly found Iran to be in compliance with its obligations as ordered by the agreement. The consensus among military and intelligence agencies around the world — including Israel's own defense community — is that the pact is working. While we acknowledge several caveats do exist in the deal, we are also in simultaneous agreement that 'The Current Deal is Better Than No Deal'.

American abandonment of the agreement would undermine not just the deal, but Israel's security as well. It would cause a division on a central question of Middle East security between the United States and Israel's European allies. By doing so, it would further empower the deal's hardline Iranian opponents — and most importantly The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

Iran's destructive regional policies and actions, its support for acts of terrorism, its presence in Syria and its ballistic missiles program should be dealt with outside the framework of the agreement, and US allies are willing to do that if the agreement is kept. They are also willing to agree on steps that will be taken if Iran were to take steps toward a nuclear weapon when the sunset clauses come into effect after 10-15 years.

Should US abandonment of the agreement lead to the pact's demise, the consequences for Israeli security could be even more dire. Iran could resume the full scope of its former nuclear activities — or advance well beyond them ahead of time — unrestricted and unmonitored. Israel and its allies would be forced to consider taking drastic measures to attempt to restrain or destroy Iran's nuclear program, including military operations that might trigger a major escalation and drive the entire region into direct confrontation, with no guarantee of achieving their goal.

Accordingly, we believe Israel's security interests would be served best if the United States chooses to remain in the agreement, and work with its allies and other parties to the agreement on further diplomatic actions to address other aspects of Iranian policy in the Middle East.

Signed,

Maj. Gen. (ret.) Dr. **Yitzhak Arad**

Adm (res.) **Ami Ayalon**, former Director of the Shin Bet

Col. (Ret.) **Avner Azulay**

Brig. Gen.(ret.) **Mena Bacharach**

Dr. **Barak Ben Zur**, Israeli Security Agency (Shabak) Division Deputy

Brig. Gen. (ret.) **Shlomo Brom**

Brig. Gen. (ret.) **Uzi Eilam**, former Director General of the Israeli Atomic Energy Commission

Dr. **Charles Freilich**, former Deputy National Security Advisor

Maj. Gen. (ret.) **Shlomo Gazit**

Brig. Gen. (ret.) **Ehud Gross**

Division Head (ret.) **Freddy Iny**

Brig. Gen. (ret.) **Zvi Kanor**

Brig. Gen. (ret.) **Arie Keren**

Brig. Gen. (ret.) **Hadar Kimchi**

Brig. Gen. (ret.) **Ron Kitrey**

Rear. Adm. (ret.) **Israel Leshem**

Brig. Gen. (ret.) **Benny Maidan**

Maj. Gen. (ret.) **Amram Mitzna**

Brig. Gen. (ret.) **Ami Morag**

Brig. Gen. (ret.), Israeli Police **Mordechai (Moty) Noyman**

Police Deputy **Arie Pellman**

Fire Chief **Shimon Romach**

Maj. Gen. (ret.) **Herzl Shafir**

Col. (res.) **Gilead Sher**, former Chief of Staff to Israel's Prime Minister

V. Adm. (res.) **Alex Tal**

Maj .Gen. (ret.) **Aviezer Yaari**