



## **The Way to Peacefully Prevent an Iranian Nuclear Bomb! Dramatic appeal to Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad just before the decisive negotiation's meeting**

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[\*BILD\*](#) (English translation)

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On May 23, the chief negotiators will meet Said Jalili, Iran's head of negotiations, in Baghdad. Although there is still a chance to resolve the conflict by diplomatic means, the window is closing. The aim now is to achieve concrete results.

Iran's delaying tactics in recent years led to a situation in which in early 2012 military conflict seemed almost inevitable. For months, the choice between a military confrontation and a nuclear arms race in the Persian Gulf was publically discussed.

In order to demonstrate to Iran the seriousness of international efforts, the European Union and the US adopted sanctions packages of unprecedented seriousness. Although many of the new sanctions measures will only come into force in July, their effects were felt immediately in Iran. The collapse of the Iranian currency, the Rial, caused by years of economic mismanagement, accelerated dramatically. The new measures against Iran's financial system and the oil and gas industry led to significantly reduced government revenues.

Apparently this influenced the political calculations of the Iranian leadership. Since April, the Iranian side seems not only willing to put the nuclear issue at the heart of the negotiations. It also signaled openness to implement some initial concrete measures.

We, Ambassador Silverberg and Dr. Hanning, have repeatedly pointed out that all efforts must be made to eliminate the doubts about the exclusively civilian nature of Iran's nuclear dossier by diplomatic means. It is in Iran's interest to address the concerns of the international community.

The NPT includes not only rights but also obligations. In addition to the right to possess nuclear technology, the treaty entails the duty to use it exclusively for civilian purposes, as well as the obligation to full disclosure and to cooperate comprehensively with the International Atomic Energy Agency. In both fields, Iran has in recent years failed to comply with its obligations. Its violations of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and its efforts to cover up parts of its nuclear program, led to a deep sense distrust by the international community.

The launch of the new round of negotiations has given rise to hopes that Iran is ready to convince the international community that its nuclear program is purely for civilian purposes. To achieve this goal, however, is a difficult challenge.

The economic pressure caused by the international sanctions is an integral part of these negotiations. It has significantly contributed to the Iranian side's readiness to negotiate. Therefore, there is a risk that a reduction in economic pressure will lead to a reduction in Iran's willingness to negotiate.

In the current situation, it is therefore important not to reduce the pressure on Iran, but to keep it high. This is the only way to ensure meaningful negotiations with Iran.

In addition to government policies and measures, the private sector can help to support this process. The German economy has traditionally good and trustful relations with Iranian business partners. Nevertheless, it is in the long-term interests of Germany and Europe, to prevent an Iranian nuclear weapon and the resulting destabilization of the Persian Gulf.

The resulting disadvantages and costs would be significantly higher than those caused by voluntary restraint.

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*In a new transatlantic partnership between the "Institute for Strategic Dialogue" in London and "United Against Nuclear Iran" in New York, both organizations work for the peaceful prevention of an Iranian nuclear weapon.*

*The "Institute for Strategic Dialogue" is a European think tank which promotes innovative solutions to the challenges of European foreign policy. "United Against a Nuclear Iran" is an American organization that advocates for the peaceful prevention of a military nuclear program in Iran.*