

# ANTI-AMERICANISM

UNITED  
AGAINST  
NUCLEAR  
**IRAN**

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# Anti-American Statements

The Iranian regime has maintained its virulent anti-Americanism as a core pillar of its ideology since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. The regime continues to propagate its revolutionary slogan “Death to America,” and characterizes the U.S. as the “Great Satan”.

## Death to America



Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei (July 18, 2015)

“[At Quds Day rallies the week prior,] You heard ‘Death to Israel’, ‘Death to the US.’ You could hear it. The whole nation was shaken by these slogans. It wasn’t only confined to Tehran. The whole of the nation, you could hear, that was covered by this great movement. So we ask Almighty God to accept these prayers by the people of Iran.”



President Hassan Rouhani (May 8, 2013)  
"Saying 'Death to America' is easy. We need to express 'Death to America' with action."



Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei (March 21, 2009)  
"Today, you are hated throughout the world. If you don't know this, you should. The peoples burn your flag. The Islamic peoples all over the world chant: 'Death to America!'"

## America Is The Enemy and Its "Enmity Is Endless"



Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei (January 17, 2020)

"The villainous U.S. government repeatedly says that they are standing by the Iranian people. They lie. If you are standing by the Iranian people, it is only to stab them in the heart with your venomous daggers. Of course, you have so far failed to do so, and you will certainly continue to fail."



Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei (November 2, 2017)

"The American president's foolish remarks against our people show the depth of America's hostility towards the entire Iranian nation. America is the number one enemy of our nation."



President Hassan Rouhani (December 6, 2016)

"America... is our enemy, we have no doubt about this. The Americans want to put as much pressure on us as they can."



Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei (January 9, 2015)

"Who is the enemy? The enemy is American capitalism and global arrogance which is headed today by America and the Zionists."



Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei (January 7, 2015)

"Today, the camp of arrogance is opposing and making efforts against this government... The pressure that is exerted by arrogance on the people of Iran originates from this great and endless enmity. Their enmity is endless."



Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei (August 13, 2014)

"Relations with the US and negotiating with that country, except in specific cases, will have no benefit to the Islamic Republic, but rather will be harmful."

## The Great Satan



Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei  
(October 18, 2017)

“The US – the US government, the political regime of the US – is obviously a devious and malicious phenomenon. As Imam [Khomeini] pointed out, it is the Great Satan. It is really the Great Satan.”



Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei  
(September 9, 2015)

"Some people insist on disguising this Great Satan as the savior angel. (However,) the Iranian nation expelled this Satan (from the country); we must not allow that when we expelled it through the door, it could return and gain influence (again) through the window."



Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi  
(February 9, 2014)

"We have problems with the U.S.A. over dozens of issues...Nothing has changed. The U.S.A. is still the Great Satan in our view."



Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei  
(January 30, 2012)

"England, France and finally America--which is the Great Satan--spread their hegemony over the Islamic Ummah. They humiliated the Islamic Ummah as much as they could. They planted the cancerous tumor of Zionism at the heart of the strategic Middle East region and they strengthened it in every way."

## Regime's Goal is to Destroy the United States



The Supreme Leader Representative to the  
Iran's IRGC-Qods Force Ali Shirazi (February  
26, 2015)

"We will stand fast against the world of arrogance. We will not rest until we have raised the banner of Islam over the White House."



Basij Commander Mohammad Reza Naqdi (January 1, 2015)

"Our ideal is not [nuclear] centrifuges but the destruction of the White House and the annihilation of Zionism [Israel]."



Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei (May 25, 2014)

"Battle and jihad are endless because evil and its front continue to exist ..... This battle will only end when the society can get rid of the oppressors' front with America at the head of it, which has expanded its claws on human mind, body and thought."

## America Created ISIS and Al-Qaeda



Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei (January 1, 2020)

"Look at what the U.S. is doing in Iraq and Syria. They're taking revenge on the Hashd al-Sha'bi for defeating ISIS. Since Hashd crippled and destroyed ISIS—which the U.S. had created—they're taking revenge. The Iranian government and nation and I strongly condemn the U.S.' malice."



Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei (October 18, 2017)

"The United States is an international Zionist agent, the creator of the ISIS terrorist group, as well as takfiri terrorist fronts. Therefore, do you expect the US president not to be angry at IRGC that stands against ISIS? They are angry, because today the Islamic Republic of Iran has managed to spoil their plots in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, etc."



Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei (June 12, 2017)

That US arms a terrorist group is what causes instability. Who created #ISIS? The US!



Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei (January 9, 2015)

"Enemy spy services are behind the efforts to sow disunity among Muslims... A Shia version connected to the British spy agency- the MI6-and a Sunni version, which is the mercenary of the CIA, are both fake and working against Islam."



Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei (October 13, 2014)

"If anyone fuels the fire in this regard, he or she will definitely be helping sinister America and Britain which are the creators of the ISIL and al-Qaeda."



Basij Commander Mohammad Reza Naqdi (September 13, 2014)

"The White House is the headquarters of the ISIL." Washington itself created the "cancerous tumor and devious current."



## U.S. Seeks to Dominate Iran, Islamic Lands, and the World



President Hassan Rouhani (January 7, 2015)

"The world of hegemony and arrogance is seeking to undermine Islam and dominate Muslim lands."



Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei (April 23, 2011)

"The arrogant powers of the world - namely, western powers, America and the Zionists ... want to spread their hegemony over the entire world and the entire financial resources of the world. They want to dominate all human resources."

## Timeline of Anti-American Hostilities

Since its founding in 1979, the Iranian regime has gone to great lengths to target the "Great Satan," the United States, through a variety of tactics, including via terrorist attacks, militant proxies, hostage-taking, naval mines, and cyberattacks. All told, the Iranian regime is accountable for the deaths of more than 1,000 American soldiers and civilians.

- **November 4, 1979 – January 20, 1981: Iran Hostage Crisis**

Only months after the Islamic Revolution, a radical group of Iranian students stormed the American Embassy in Tehran, taking 66 Americans hostage, 52 of which were held for 444 days. Supporting the students' actions, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khomeini "issued a statement in support of the action against the American 'den of spies.'"

The hostages were beaten, placed in solitary confinement for extended periods of time, regularly forced to have their hands bound, and "threatened repeatedly with execution." The Iranian militants also tortured the hostages by forcing them to watch videos of people being dipped in boiling tar or shot in the head.

On January 20, 1981, the day of Ronald Reagan's presidential inauguration, the remaining 52 hostages were released and returned to the U.S.

- 1982 – 1992: Lebanon Hostage Crisis**

Spanning a full decade, the Lebanon Hostage Crisis refers to systematic abductions of foreign nationals in Lebanon by the Iranian-backed terrorist group Hezbollah. Of the total 96 foreign nationals abducted, 25 U.S. citizens were kidnapped, making Americans the most targeted national group. A number of hostages died in captivity as a result of inadequate medical care, torture, or execution. During the crisis, some victims spent years in captivity, while others, including CIA Station Chief William Buckley, were tortured and killed. Among those held captive was American University of Beirut President David S. Dodge, who was held for a full year in Lebanon and Iran, and American journalist Terry Anderson, who was abducted and held in captivity for almost seven years.
- April 18, 1983: U.S. Embassy Bombing in Beirut**

63 people, including 17 Americans, were killed and more than 100 injured when a suicide bomber rammed a truck carrying 2,000 pounds of explosives into the U.S. Embassy in Beirut. The bombing resulted in the killing of "the entire U.S. Central Intelligence Agency Middle East contingent." The attack, directed by Hezbollah and financed by Iran, "initiated the modern era of suicide bombings."
- October 23, 1983: Beirut Barracks Bombings**

241 U.S. marines were killed and over 100 wounded when an Iranian suicide bomber drove a truck carrying the equivalent of 15,000-21,000 pounds of TNT into the U.S. Marine Barracks at Beirut International Airport. Causing the "largest non-nuclear explosion that had ever been detonated on the face of the Earth," the bombing was the "deadliest terrorist attack on Americans before 9/11." At the same time, a separate suicide truck bomb destroyed a building housing French soldiers, killing 58 French paratroopers. The Marines residing in the U.S. barracks had been sent to Lebanon "as part of a multinational force to help separate the warring Lebanese factions" in the ongoing civil war.
- December 12, 1983: U.S. Embassy Bombing in Kuwait**

Part of a series of attacks aimed at "six key foreign and Kuwaiti installations," the bombing of the U.S. embassy in Kuwait left five victims dead and eighty-six injured. Other targets included "the French embassy, the control tower at the airport, the country's main oil refinery, and a residential area for employees of the American corporation Raytheon." The attack was carried out by "Hezbollah and operatives of the Iranian-backed Iraqi Shiite group Da'wa."
- 1984-1988: The Tanker War**

Between 1984 and 1988, Iran launched a number of attacks on oil tankers belonging to Iraq and its ostensible Gulf allies, such as Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. In response to the attacks, the U.S. reflagged Kuwaiti tankers, making the ships eligible for U.S. Navy escort. From July 24, 1987 to September 26, 1988, over a dozen U.S. warships protected Kuwaiti tankers in the Persian Gulf as part of Operation Earnest Will, the largest maritime convoy operation since World War II. In response to U.S. convoys, Iran laid nearly one hundred mines in international waters, threatening to disrupt the world's economy and endangering the lives of American sailors.

On July 24, 1987, the reflagged supertanker SS *Bridgeton* sustained hull damage and needed repairs after it struck a naval mine off the coast of an Iranian island. On October 16, 1987, when the reflagged U.S. tanker *Sea Isle City* was struck by an Iranian

Silkworm missile. The ship's captain, a U.S. citizen, was blinded as a result of the explosion, and a total of 17 crewmen were wounded.

- **September 20, 1984: Bombing of U.S. Embassy Annex in East Beirut**  
24 people were killed when a van carrying three thousand pounds of explosives detonated outside the U.S. Embassy annex in East Beirut. Among those killed were two Americans: 33-year-old Chief Warrant Officer Kenneth V. Welch and 30-year-old Petty Officer First Class Michael Ray Wagner. The CIA noted at the time that that "an overwhelming body of circumstantial evidence points to Hezbollah, operating with Iranian support under the cover name of Islamic Jihad."
- **December 3, 1984: Hijacking of Kuwait Airways Flight 221**  
On December 3, 1984, four Lebanese hijackers affiliated with Hezbollah took control of Kuwait Airways Flight 221 and diverted the plane to Tehran's Mehrabad Airport. The hijackers demanded the release of 17 prisoners being held in connection to the December 1983 U.S. Embassy bombing in Kuwait. When their demands were not met, the hijackers executed two American officials from the U.S. Agency for International Development, Charles Hegna and William Stanford. Other American passengers onboard were threatened and tortured. Finally, on the sixth day of the standoff, Iranian security forces stormed the plane and freed the hostages. However, the hijackers were released and allowed to leave Iran shortly thereafter. The fact that the hijackers were never tried for their crimes has led some officials to speculate that the Iranian government was complicit in the plot, and that the hijackers' surrender had been arranged with Iranian authorities ahead of time.
- **June 14, 1985: Hijacking of TWA Flight 847**  
On the morning of June 14, 1985, members of Iran-backed Hezbollah hijacked TWA Flight 847 in order to gain leverage in their demands for "the release of Shia prisoners held in Kuwait, Israel, and Spain." Iran played a central role in both the "supervision and planning of the incident." The plane, carrying 153 passengers landed in Beirut and then Algiers, where a number of hostages were released. After landing in Beirut for a second time, passenger Robert Dean Stethem, a U.S. navy diver, "was shot and his body dumped on the airport tarmac." Although Israel never admitted to a deal, the remaining 39 TWA hostages were freed June 30, and the release of 766 Shia prisoners detained by Israel began July 1.
- **April 14, 1988: USS Samuel B. Roberts Strikes Iranian Mine**  
On April 14, 1988, the USS *Samuel B. Roberts* struck an Iranian mine while deployed in the Persian Gulf as part of Operation Earnest Will. The explosion blew a twenty-two foot hole into the side of the ship and flooded the engine room, nearly sinking the ship. 69 crewmembers were injured due to injuries sustained in the blast as fires raged onboard the frigate for six hours. In total, the *Robert* sustained approximately \$89.5 million worth of damage.
- **June 25, 1996: Khobar Towers bombing**  
The bombing of Khobar Towers, a U.S. military housing complex in Saudi Arabia, left nineteen Americans dead and 372 injured. The attackers detonated a parked truck laden with the equivalent of 3,000-8,000 pounds of explosives in the Khobar Towers parking lot. The resulting explosion "sheared the face off of Building 131, an eight-story structure which housed about 100 U.S. Air Force personnel." 14 members of the Iran-backed Saudi branch of Hezbollah have been held responsible for the attack.

- 2003-2001: Support for Insurgents in the Iraq War**

Following the 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq, Iran undermined U.S. operations by "consistently [supplying] weapons, its own advisors, and Lebanese Hezbollah advisors to multiple residence groups in Iraq, both Sunni and Shia," which targeted Coalition Forces. For the U.S., "concern [revolved] around Iran's role in arming and assisting Shiite militias." In Iraq, the "the top killer of U.S. troops" were IEDs (improvised explosive devices), which were primarily supplied by Iran. In total, Iran's support for Iraqi insurgents led to the death of thousands of U.S. soldiers in Iraq. In 2010, U.S. ambassador to Iraq James Jeffery stated, "Up to a quarter [4,400] of the American casualties and some of the more horrific incidents in which Americans were kidnapped ... can be traced without doubt to these Iranian groups."
- 2006-2014: Support for the Taliban Insurgency in Afghanistan**

Iranian support for the Taliban against U.S. troops in Afghanistan has been ongoing since at least 2006. According to a RAND report, "although Iran has traditionally backed Tajik and Shi'a groups opposed to the Taliban, its enmity with the United States and tensions over the nuclear program... led it to provide measured support to the Taliban." According to the Treasury Department, "since at least 2006, Iran has arranged frequent shipments of small arms and associated ammunition, rocket propelled grenades, mortar rounds, 107 mm rockets, plastic explosives, and probably man-portable defense systems to the Taliban." Through "Qods force material support," the report states "we believe Iran is seeking to inflict casualties on U.S. and NATO forces." In 2010, multiple media sources reported Iran was "paying Taliban fighters \$1,000 for each U.S. soldier they kill in Afghanistan." Over a six-month period in 2010, one "Taliban treasurer" claimed to have collected "more than \$77,000 from [an Iranian firm in Kabul]" as payment for killing Americans.
- January 20, 2005: Karbala Headquarters Attack**

Five American soldiers are killed and three wounded after a sophisticated attack by Iraqi militants on the Iraqi police provincial headquarters in Karbala, Iraq. The militants, who spoke English and carried American weapons, were disguised in U.S. military fatigues and bypassed several security checkpoints before attacking the inner compound. After killing one American soldier at the headquarters, the militants captured four more servicemen before fleeing the scene and then executing them near the Euphrates River. The attack was carried out by Iranian IRGC-backed militants after overwhelming evidence linked Iran to the attack in order to weaken coalition forces. According to a captured Hezbollah fighter, the attack could not have been conducted without intelligence and training provided by the IRGC's elite Quds Force.
- August 12, 2007: General David Petraeus: Iran Waging War on the U.S. in Iraq**

Following an August 12, 2007 meeting with Iranian dignitaries, the leader of U.S. forces in Iraq General David Petraeus wrote in a report to Defense Secretary Robert Gates, "I am considering telling the President that I believe Iran is, in fact, waging war on the U.S. in Iraq...I do believe that Iran has gone beyond merely striving for influence in Iraq and could be creating proxies to actively fight us, thinking that they can keep us distracted while they try to build WMD and set up [the Mahdi Army] to act like Lebanese Hezbollah in Iraq." In July 2007, "two-thirds of all American casualties in Iraq...were incurred by Shiite militias" like the Shiite Mahdi Army, which were funded, organized, and trained by Iran.

- **2011: Iranian Cyberattacks on U.S. Financial Institutions**

Beginning in late 2011, the Iranian hacker group Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Cyber Fighters launched “unprecedented” distributed denial of service (DDoS) attacks on American financial institutions. The attacks escalated throughout 2012, targeting at least nine different U.S. banks, including Bank of America, Citigroup, Wells Fargo, U.S. Bancorp, PNC, Capital One, Fifth Third Bank, BB&T.

The attacks focused on harming the daily operations and reputations of the banks, whose customers were unable to access their online accounts due to website crashes. These attacks continued for weeks despite mounting warnings from the U.S. government to cease cyberattacks. In March 2013, the online services of American Express and JPMorgan Chase were taken down in the latest suspected Iranian cyberattack.

According to security experts, the Iranian cyberattacks directed at American banks were exponentially stronger than Russia’s month-long cyberattack on Estonia in 2007.

- **2011-2014: Social Media Espionage Campaign on American Officials**

Cyber intelligence firm iSight Partners has uncovered a three-year Iranian espionage campaign in which Iranian hackers created fake social media accounts and personas in order to spy on at least 2,000 U.S. military and political leaders, including a four-star U.S. Navy admiral, senior U.S. lawmakers, and personnel from U.S. and Israeli defense contractors. Dubbed “Newscaster,” this operation fabricated a news site, NewsOnAir.org, to which content from media outlets was posted and then links were forwarded to targets. After gaining the trust of officials by establishing ties with their friends, relatives, and colleagues on various social media platforms, the hackers would send the officials real news articles, eventually sending them malicious links in an attempt to steal their log-in credentials to government websites and obtain data on diplomatic negotiations and weapons systems. iSight has stated that considering this espionage campaign had been going on for three years while remaining under the radar, “clearly they have had success” although it is not completely known what or how much data the hackers were able to access.

- **October 2011: 2011 Iran Assassination Plot**

U.S. authorities thwarted a terrorist plot in Washington, D.C., which included “the assassination of the Saudi Arabian ambassador to the United States...and subsequent bomb attacks on the Saudi and Israeli embassies.” U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder stated that the plot was “directed and approved by elements of the Iranian government and, specifically, senior members of the Quds Force.” The two individuals charged were “Manssor Arbabsiar, a 56-year-old naturalized U.S. citizen holding both Iranian and U.S. passports, and Gholam Shakuri, an Iran-based member of Iran’s Qods Force.” U.S. authorities arrested Arbabsiar on September 29, 2011, while Shakuri remains at large.

- **December 4, 2011: RQ-170 UAV Drone Incident**

Iran recovered a U.S. unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) that crashed in Iran while flying reconnaissance missions in Western Afghanistan. According to U.S. officials, the UAV, an advanced RQ-170 with sophisticated stealth technology, was flying over Afghanistan

looking for insurgent activity when its guidance system malfunctioned. However, experts briefed on the incident have reported that the drone was participating in a highly secretive surveillance program which monitors Iranian nuclear sites. The U.S. military expressed concern that Iran could reverse-engineer the captured drone in order to better understand the U.S.' stealth capability. Although Iran claimed it shot down the drone, U.S. officials dismissed such claims, stating that a system malfunction caused the crash and that there was "no indication" that hostile fire brought the drone down. Iran has refused to comply with the Obama administration's formal requests to return the drone.

- **March 2012: Azerbaijan Terror Plot**

U.S. and Israeli officials were among those targeted for assassination by a group of IRGC-linked terrorists arrested in Baku, Azerbaijan. Azerbaijani authorities confirmed that the 22 arrested terrorists received training in Iran. The assassination plot included snipers, as well as a car bomb intended to kill American embassy employees. In addition to attacking the embassy building, the terrorists planned on targeting embassy employees' family members.

According to *The Washington Post*, "U.S. and Middle Eastern officials now see the attempts as part of a broader campaign by Iran-linked operatives to kill foreign diplomats in at least seven countries over a span of 13 months."

- **August 2013 – November 2013: Cyber Attack on U.S. Navy Network**

According to U.S. officials, in August 2013 Iranian hackers infiltrated the unclassified U.S. Navy Marine Corps Internet (NMCI), which is used for email and the service's internal intranet. Although it is believed nothing of significant intelligence value was stolen, it has increased concerns within the Pentagon that Iran may now be able to forcibly access military data. In response, the U.S. Navy is upgrading the security of its network which has an estimated 800,000 users. It took the U.S. Navy four months and cost at least \$10 million to remove the hackers and repair the network after the attack. The California-based cyber security firm, Cylance, stated in a report that the hacking of the NMCI was the beginning of Iran's "Operation Cleaver" against the United States and other foreign nations, which continued throughout 2014 and targeted financial, defense, energy, and educational institutions worldwide.

- **February 10, 2014: Iranian Cyberattack on Las Vegas Sands Corp.**

In January 2014, Iranian hackers began focused cyberattacks on Las Vegas Sands Corporation. On February 9, they succeeded in gaining access to a web development server on February 9. From this server, the hackers infiltrated the general Las Vegas Sands Corp. server and on February 10 released malware into thousands of Sands Corp's systems, effectively destroying computers by overwriting their hard drives and compromising large amounts of data. In order to stop the malware from spreading, Las Vegas Sands Corp. decided to remove their servers from the internet, but the hackers had already littered Sands' websites with employees' names, social security numbers, and email addresses in addition to scathing messages attacking the Sands' CEO Sheldon Adelson. Several days later, the hackers posted a YouTube video that detailed over a terabyte of sensitive stolen Sands' data. Las Vegas Sands Corp. has estimated

that the Iranian hackers destroyed three-quarters of its Las Vegas computer servers and that recovering the lost data and building new systems will cost in excess of \$40 million.

- **February 25, 2015: Iran Blows Up Mock Replica of U.S. Aircraft Carrier**

Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) blew up a mock replica of a U.S. Nimitz-class carrier in its 'Great Prophet 9' naval and air defense drills in the strategic Strait of Hormuz. Iranian officials touted Iran's military prowess in response to the highly publicized drills, with the IRGC's navy chief Admiral Ali Fadavi stating that "American aircraft carriers are very big ammunition depots" and that a "direct hit by a missile could set off a large secondary explosion." Earlier in the year, Fadavi called America's aircraft carriers "easy targets." Commander of the IRGC Gen. Mohammad Ali Jafari added that the drills "send a 'message of [Iran's] might' to 'extraterritorial powers,'" a reference to the U.S.

- **April 28, 2015: Seizure of the Maersk Tigris**

On April 28, 2015, Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps patrol boats seized the Maersk Tigris, a Marshall Islands-flagged cargo ship transiting through the Strait of Hormuz. Iranian forces fired shots across the Maersk Tigris's bridge after the ship's captain refused orders to divert further into Iran's territorial waters. A representative for the Danish shipping company Maersk, the Tigris's charterer, said that Iranian authorities failed to provide any arrest orders, official written documents, a court ruling, or an arrest order.

Given that "the United States has full authority and responsibility for security and defense of the Marshall Islands," the seizure of the Tigris has been viewed as both a provocation against the U.S. and as a threat to freedom of navigation on the high seas. In the days leading up to the Tigris incident, Iranian patrol boats had been acting with "mounting aggressiveness," including "encircling and threatening a U.S.-flagged cargo vessel," the Maersk Kensington, on April 24. Both incidents occurred shortly after the U.S. Navy increased its presence in the Gulf of Aden, preventing Iranian ships from reaching Yemen to prospectively resupply Houthi rebels with weapons.

In response to Iran's provocations, the U.S. Navy dispatched the destroyer USS Farragut in pursuit of the Tigris. As a result of Iran's aggression, U.S. Navy ships began escorting U.S.-flagged commercial vessels through the Strait of Hormuz in order to prevent further harassment.

- **January 2016: Iran detains 10 U.S. Navy Sailors at Gunpoint**

Iran illicitly detained 10 U.S. Navy sailors at gunpoint, releasing videos of the captives kneeling with their hands clasped behind their heads and an apology from one of the soldiers after two naval vessels inadvertently entered Iranian waters due to a navigation error. A U.S. Navy investigation found that Iran "violated international law by impeding the boats' innocent passage transit, and they violated sovereign immunity by boarding, searching and seizing the boats and by photographing and videotaping the crew."

- **May 2016: Iranian Charged with Cyber Plots Against U.S. Banks, Dam**

The U.S. Justice Department announced indictments against seven Iranian cyber specialists linked to the Iranian government and Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) for cyber attacks against U.S. banks and a New York dam. The men were

accused of carrying out distributed denial of service attacks—in which they hacked into bank servers and clogged it with data, preventing legitimate traffic—against 46 U.S. financial institutions, and attempting to hack into the control system of a New York dam between 2011 and 2013.

- **June 1, 2017: Hezbollah Plot Targeting American and Israeli Interests**

U.S. authorities arrested a pair of operatives belonging to the Iranian terrorist proxy, Hezbollah, and charged them with plotting attacks against American and Israeli targets in New York and Panama. Both men had traveled to Lebanon for weapons and bomb-making training. Ali Kourani of the Bronx, NY, was accused of scouting American and Israeli military and law enforcement targets in New York, as well as airports, while Samer El Debek of Dearborn, Michigan was accused of scouting the U.S. and Israeli Embassies in Panama, as well as the Panama Canal, for a potential attack during a 2012 visit. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, Samer El Debek “received extensive training as a bomb-maker, and has a high degree of technical sophistication in the area.”

- **March 23, 2018: U.S. Government Indicts Iranians in Cyber Theft Campaign**

The U.S. Department of Justice indicted nine Iranians of the Mabna Institute on cyber theft charges on behalf of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). Since 2013, the Institute’s targets included 144 U.S. universities, the U.S. Department of Labor, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and the states of Hawaii and Indiana. The U.S. Department of Justice found that the Institute “stole more than 31 terabytes of academic data and intellectual property.”

- **June 30, 2018: Iranian Intelligence Plot to Bomb Dissident Rally in France**

Belgian authorities arrested an Iranian couple, plotting to bomb a rally of Iranian dissidents in France. In their car, authorities found a “small toiletry bag” with around 500 grams of TATP and an ignition mechanism. The personal lawyer of the president of the United States along with other former U.S. and European officials were scheduled to participate at the rally. French officials later implicated Iran’s Ministry of Intelligence in the aborted attack.

- **November-December 2019: U.S. Estimates 11 Attacks Targeting U.S. Servicemen in Iraq**

Over the course of November-December 2019, the U.S. government estimated that there were eleven attacks on Iraqi bases housing members of the U.S. military. This coincided with reporting that former Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Quds Force Commander Qassem Soleimani ordered Iran-backed Shiite militias in Iraq to increase targeting of U.S. forces using new weaponry Iran had supplied. According to Reuters, these included Katyusha rockets and shoulder-fired missiles that could shoot down helicopters.

- **December 31, 2019: Iran-backed Shiite Militias Attack U.S. Embassy in Iraq**

Iran-backed operatives stormed the U.S. Embassy in Iraq, setting fires inside the compound and chanting “Death to America” after the U.S. government struck Iraqi Shiite militia positions following a strike on a military base which killed an American contractor. The militants did not enter the embassy buildings, but defaced the property with graffiti. Inside the protest crowd outside the embassy were the Iranian regime’s point-men in



Baghdad—founder of the Badr Organization Hadi al-Amiri, former deputy head of the Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, and chairman of the PMF Falih al-Fayad.

- **January 7, 2020: Iran Launches Strike Against Iraqi Bases Housing U.S. Troops**  
In response to the U.S. strike which killed former head of Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Quds Force Qassem Soleimani, Iran’s IRGC launched a ballistic missile attack targeting two Iraqi military bases housing U.S. troops. The U.S. government previously determined that Iran—through Qassem Soleimani’s proxy network—was responsible for the deaths of at least 608 American troops in Iraq from 2003-11, and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo claimed that Soleimani posed an imminent threat to U.S. interests in the region. On Iran’s strike, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Mark Milley said, “The points of impact were close enough to personnel and equipment and so on and so forth, I believe, based on what I saw and what I know, is that they were intended to cause structural damage, destroy vehicles and equipment and aircraft, and to kill personnel.”

## Iran’s Anti-Western Conspiracies

The Iranian regime embraces and propagates the most irrational and hateful anti-Western conspiracy theories. Can a regime that embraces such hateful and irrational conspiracies be entrusted with the technology that can also be used to develop the world’s most destructive weapons? View the Iranian regime’s most infamous conspiracies and peculiar prohibitions and decide for yourself.

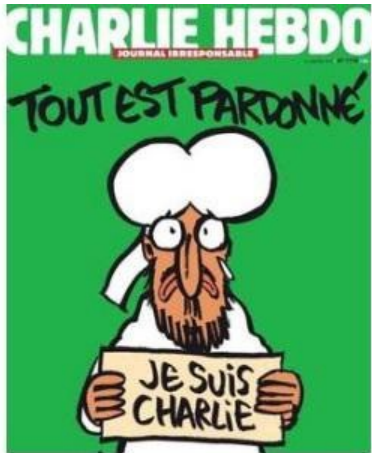
### The Iranian Regime’s Conspiracies



*The West created ISIS to divide Muslims*

In October 2014, Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, blamed the United States and the British government for creating the Islamic State: **“If anyone fuels the fire in this regard, he or she will definitely be helping sinister America and Britain which are the creators of the ISIL and al-Qaeda.”**

Iran’s semi-official Fars News Agency **reported** in December 2014 that Israeli businessmen are buying properties in areas held by ISIS in northern Iraq for eventual Jewish settlement. According to the report more than 2,000 Jews have already settled in Iraq’s Kurdistan region.



*French intelligence services carried out the Charlie Hebdo shooting to tarnish Islam*

Senior Iranian officials have openly described the *Charlie Hebdo* shooting in Paris as a false flag operation. For example, Iranian parliament speaker Ali Larijani **said** in January 2015 that the French intelligence services perpetrated the attack to tarnish the image of Muslims.



*9/11 was an inside job*

Iran's former president Ahmadinejad – echoing other Iranian officials – suggested in a speech in 2010 to the UN General Assembly that **"some segments within the U.S. government orchestrated the attack to reverse the declining American economy, and its grips on the Middle East, in order to save the Zionist regime."**



*Israeli death squads behind Sandy Hook shootings*

In 2012 Iran's state-run PressTV blamed Israel for the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary and accused the US government of a cover-up: Israel targeted **"America in the most hideous and brutal way possible, in fact, an Israeli 'signature attack,' one that butchers children, one reminiscent of the attacks that killed so many children in Gaza."**



*The West is drying up Iran*

**"Today our country is moving towards drought, which is partly unintentional due to industry and partly intentional, as a result of the enemy destroying the clouds moving towards our country and this is a war that Iran is going to overcome."**

former president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said in a speech in September 2012. Previously, Ahmadinejad accused European nations of deliberately emptying clouds to produce torrential storms in their own countries that would lead in turn to rain shortages in the Middle East.



*Israel spreads homosexuality for world domination*

The regime-controlled Iranian newspaper *Mashregh* asserted in 2012 that the **"Zionist regime spreads homosexuality"** worldwide in order to pursue its goal of world domination. *Mashregh* added that the US and the UK are using money from Jews to spread homosexuality throughout the world. Hollywood was also attacked for positively depicting gays.



*Immodest, promiscuous women are causing earthquakes in Iran*

Kazem Sedighi, a senior Iranian cleric, said in 2010 that women who wear revealing clothing and behave promiscuously are to blame for earthquakes: **"Many women who do not dress modestly ... lead young men astray, corrupt their chastity and spread adultery in society, which (consequently) increases earthquakes."** In response to his remarks, feminist activists initiated a viral **"Boobquake"** campaign, calling on women to dress immodestly to see if they could create an earthquake.



*"Zionists" control the illegal drug trade*  
During an international, UN-sponsored drug conference in Tehran in June 2012, Iran's then vice president Mohammad-Reza Rahimi said that the "Zionists" are in firm control of the illegal drug trade: **"The Islamic Republic of Iran will pay for anybody who can research and find one single Zionist who is an addict. (...) They do not exist. This is the proof of their involvement in drugs trade."** Rahimi also claimed that gynecologists killed black babies on the orders of the Zionists.



*Space aliens run the United States*  
Iran's semiofficial Fars News Agency **reported** in January 2014 that the U.S. government has been secretly run by a "shadow government" of space aliens since 1945 based out of Nevada. According to the report, the aliens were not only behind the rise of Nazi Germany but also seek the creation of a global electronic surveillance system to hide their presence on Earth and their secret agenda for global domination.



*A "Zionist plot" was behind the publication of Muhammad cartoons in a Danish newspaper*  
In 2006, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei said a **"Zionist plot"** was responsible for the controversial publication of cartoons of Muhammad in a Danish newspaper: "The freedom of speech about which the [Westerners] talk so much does not permit anyone to doubt the myth about the massacre of the Jews, known as the Holocaust... I assume that a profound Zionist plot is at the core of the matter. They are setting the Muslims and Christians against one another. This is very important for the Zionists - to set the great Muslim community around the world against the Christians, and to set the Christians against the Muslims. That's what this is about. This is the handiwork of the Zionists."



*An "international Jewish conspiracy" is behind the kidnapping of children and harvesting their organs*

Iran's state-run PressTV claimed in 2009 that **"an international Jewish conspiracy to kidnap children and harvest their organs is gathering momentum. (...) Bands of Moroccans and Algerians had been roaming the streets of Algerian cities in an attempt to hunt for young children. They then trafficked the kids across the border into neighboring Morocco. The children were then sold to Israelis and American Jews in Oujda, the capital of eastern Morocco, for the purpose of organ harvesting in Israel and the United States."**

## The Iranian Regime Prohibits



### *Dogs*

Iranian parliament **introduced** a bill in November 2014 in that would sentence anyone caught keeping dogs as pets or walking them in public to 74 lashes or a fine. Iran's morality police have previously cracked down on dog owners, in some cases confiscating the animals. According to Islamic custom, dogs are considered unclean and Iranian officials also deem pet ownership to be an imitation of corrupt Western culture.



### *Happiness*

Seven young men and women were **arrested** by Iranian authorities in May 2014 for posting a video of themselves on YouTube dancing to the international hit song "Happy". Iranian authorities deemed it a "**vulgar clip which hurt public chastity.**"

The group was forced to apologize on television and put on trial. Each of them was given suspended sentences of **91 lashes and 6 months in prison**, which will not be implemented as long as they do not engage in any "wrongdoings" for the next 3 years.



### *Buddha Statues*

The Secretary of the Iranian Headquarters to Preserve Cultural Heritage **ordered a ban** on the sale of Buddha statues in February 2013 as symbols of a "cultural invasion".

Authorities confiscated Buddha statues from shops in Tehran to stop the promotion of the religion.



#### *Barbie Dolls and The Simpsons*

In 2012, Iranian authorities **targeted and closed down shops** for selling Barbie dolls, which had already been banned since the mid-1990s. Police confiscated dozens of Barbie dolls in order to avert the spread Western culture. Just a month later the government also **banned** the sale of characters from the popular show "The Simpsons".



#### *Valentine's Day*

The Iranian regime **outlawed Valentine's Day in 2011** in order to crackdown on Western influence. Iranian state media announced that "symbols of hearts, half-hearts, red roses, and any activities promoting this day are banned" and that legal action will be taken against those who do not comply.



### *Mullets and Other Western Hairstyles*

In July 2010, Iranian authorities launched a **crackdown on Western hairstyles**. In an effort to rid the country of "decadent Western cuts," officials banned the mullet, ponytails, elaborate spikes, and long hair for men. The Iranian Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance even produced a style guide containing haircuts that meet the government's approval.



### *Sexy Mannequins*

In 2009 Iranian authorities **warned** shopkeepers that all mannequins must be covered up - wearing headscarves and hiding any of the bodily curves. "Using unusual mannequins exposing the body curves and with the heads without Hijabs are prohibited to be used in the shops," Iran's morality police said in a statement.





*Women From Attending Sports Events*  
Since the inception of the Islamic Republic, **women have been discriminatorily barred** from attending sports events at stadiums in order to enforce gender segregation. Those attempting to defy the ban face arrest, such as the case of British-Iranian national **Ghoncheh Ghavami** in June 2014.