

YOUNG ISRAEL CALLS ON U.S. SENATORS TO IMPOSE STIFFER SANCTIONS ON IRAN

The National Council of Young Israel made the following statement today, in which it called on its more than 25,000 members to contact their U.S. Senators and urge the imposition of new meaningful sanctions on Iran:

Today, the National Council of Young Israel called upon members of its branch synagogues and allies of the Young Israel movement to contact their United States Senators to support and vote in favor of enhanced sanctions against the Iranian regime. Such sanctions, which is in response the regime's continued efforts to enrich uranium capable of being used as a weapon, could be taken up either by the Senate Banking Committee or on the floor of the Senate, as an amendment to a Department of Defense bill.

Over the past week, a flurry of diplomatic activity was undertaken by the United States and other nations in an attempt to entice the Republic of Iran to forgo its goal of nuclear weapons capability. Diplomatic efforts can only work with Iran if the Iranian government realizes that the consequences of continuing with their pursuit of a nuclear weapon would be financially devastating due to increased crippling sanctions. Secretary of Defense Hagel put it correctly when he said that Iran is at the table partially due to the pressure of sanctions. At this time, with Iran so close to a nuclear bomb, only increased sanctions with a credible military threat in the event that Iran continues to proceed with its efforts to develop nuclear weapons will work. Iran must begin irrevocable concessions immediately if there is a possibility of a diplomatic solution to the situation. Any agreement that does not contain irrevocable concessions and that in any way lessens sanctions would be an agreement that the National Council of Young Israel would oppose.

It is abundantly clear that a nuclear capable Iran poses an existential threat to Israel and a serious peril to the rest of region. Moreover, the Iranian regime continues to promote global terrorism through its notorious extremist beneficiaries, such as Hezbollah.

Therefore, the National Council of Young Israel requests that branch members and friends immediately contact their U.S. Senators to request their support and vote in favor of legislation to impose new meaningful sanctions on Iran. Such legislation is currently being considered by the Senate Banking Committee, or Senator Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Senator Mark Kirk (R-IL) may offer an amendment to the upcoming Defense authorization bill that would impose such sanctions.

We urge everyone to call the Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121 and ask to be connected to your senators' offices. In speaking with your senators or their representatives, it is important to highlight the following points regarding the diplomatic proposal offered in Geneva this past week:

- Iran would continue to enrich uranium at all of its sites
- Iran would not be required to dismantle any of its 19,000 centrifuges that are used as part of its uranium enrichment program

- Iran would not be required to transfer its enriched uranium out of the country
- Iran would not be required to cease work on its Arak heavy water nuclear reactor, which can be used to create weapons grade uranium

We encourage everyone to let your senators know that only through stiff and unyielding sanctions, combined with strategic use of military assets and prudent intelligence operations can Iran be compelled to no longer threaten the security of Israel and the entire Middle-East. Appeasement through sanctions relief, absent the dismantling of Iran's nuclear program, would have long-term disastrous repercussions.