

# The Iran Nuclear Deal, in between CNN's Zakaria, the Israel lobby and the Commander in Cheat

By Abolala Soudavar (aas@soudavar.com)

## 1- A good day

As President Obama would later announce that morning of January 17, 2016, it was “a good day,” not only for him but for the Sunday-morning talk shows that wanted to analyze two overnight events: the signing of the Iran Nuclear deal and the prisoner swap. CNN's Fareed Zakaria seized the moment by gathering an array of correspondents and “experts” to comment on these issues. In his preamble though, he pondered philosophically—in the manner of the late Eric Severeid—on a plague of modern society: false accusations that can go viral. Unlike Severeid though, Zakaria used his pondering to settle scores with people who had maligned him over the internet, and accused him of advocating the “rape of white women” by Jihadists. Citing recent studies, Zakaria was deploring the fact that, in this day and age “highly provocative, often false information” can gain acceptance and become “highly resistant to correction.”<sup>1</sup> And yet, in the next half hour, Zakaria orchestrated an Iran-maligning program, not much different in tone than what he had condemned in his preamble.

Zakaria set the tempo by explaining: “this is Iran's pattern. It takes *hostages*, it does things that are *unconscionable*, should never have happened, and then demands *concessions* of it.” These assertions begged the question : Wasn't this what the US did as well? Take for instance the \$400 million in cash that it transferred before the prisoner exchange. This was Iran's money paid for goods never delivered, which had to be paid back a long time ago as per the Algiers accord of 1981. It was “unconscionably” kept “hostage,” as the US repeatedly delayed payment to extract “concessions,” for what President Obama himself described as Iran's money.

## 2- Cheating intentions

Of the six on Zakaria's panel, there was not one to defend the Iranian side. They were all against Iran, with the most belligerent ones being Wendy Sherman (the chief US negotiator of the nuclear deal) who had joined the panel via satellite from Tel-Aviv, and Brett Stephens of the Wall Street Journal. They assumed that the US was saintly while Iran always cheated. As for the prisoner swap, it was characterized as an exchange of innocents with “criminals.” It went hand in hand with their first assumption, and insinuated a broad Iranian cheating pattern.

As proof of Iran's cheating intentions, repeated references were made to its firing of missiles, which were supposedly in “violation” of UN resolutions. And yet, when you read the UN resolutions, beginning with no. 1696 of Aug. 31, 2006, you only see a restriction imposed on other states, preventing them from dealing with Iran on activities “that could contribute to Iran's enrichment-related and reprocessing activities and ballistic missile programs.” It's reiterated in all subsequent resolutions, up to resolution 1929 of June 10, 2010, in which a restrictive clause (cl. 9) is added in regards to Iran itself: “Iran *shall* not undertake any activity related to ballistic missiles *capable of*

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/1601/17/fzgps.01.html>

*delivering nuclear weapons*, including launches using ballistic missile technology.”<sup>2</sup> In clear plain English, not all ballistic missiles activities are restricted but only those “capable of delivering nuclear weapons”; and the “launches” of the second sentence are tied to the same condition through the presence of the word “including.” As for resolution 2231 of July 25, 2015, which constitutes the backbone of the recent Iran Nuclear deal, it lifts the restrictions imposed on member states (with the exception of an 8-year ban on arms trade) and relaxes the clause 9 of resolution 1929 (where the word “shall” was used) by only advocating self restraint for Iran:

*“Iran is called upon not to undertake any activity related to ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons, including launches using such ballistic missile technology, until the date eight years after ...”*<sup>3</sup>

In the old world, international agreements were considered as sacrosanct. Even Stalin was taken by surprise when Hitler reneged on the Non-Aggression Pact they had signed in 1939 and invaded Russia. But in the new world, international agreements are just considered as another type of lawyering, i.e., how to include a clause that will allow non-fulfillment of obligations. When Kissinger was negotiating with Le Duc Tho of Vietnam, he enticed him to sign the Paris Peace accord by promising, through a side letter, \$3.3 billion in reconstruction aid to Vietnam (reparation if you will). It was conditioned on the return of American prisoners as well as the remains of those who had perished in Vietnam. Kissinger knew all along that it was a hollow promise, because the US could always renege on its commitment by bringing up the name of a lost soldier whose remains could not be found in the dense forests of Vietnam. As a result, the US never paid a penny. The US was cheating then, and still is.

While negotiating the Nuclear Deal, Iran fired missiles that could in no way be construed for the delivery of nuclear weapons since it was rapidly dismantling all bomb-related nuclear activities. But in the meantime, President Obama imposed additional sanctions on Iranians and crippled all business travelers to Iran through a new visa requirement. These sanctions and restrictions were imposed after UN resolution 2231 came into effect, and have remained in place even after the UN and the Atomic Energy commission certified that Iran had fully complied with its nuclear-related undertakings. What’s more, the US effectively pressured international banks to continue self-restraint in dealing with Iran. The reintegration of Iranian commercial activities into the international scene was part and parcel of the lifting of the UN imposed sanctions. But the US blocked them by holding a sword of Damocles over banks and companies that wished to do business with Iran. If anyone entered the Iran Nuclear negotiations with the intention to cheat, it was Obama. Like Kissinger, he knew he would not deliver what was promised and cheated from the outset. He truly was a valiant Commander in Cheat.

How come then US officials can so easily make unfounded accusations and get away with it? It’s because of what must now be called the Lochte syndrome, after the controversy that the multiple-gold-medalist swimmer Ryan Lochte stirred during the Brazilian Olympics of 2016.

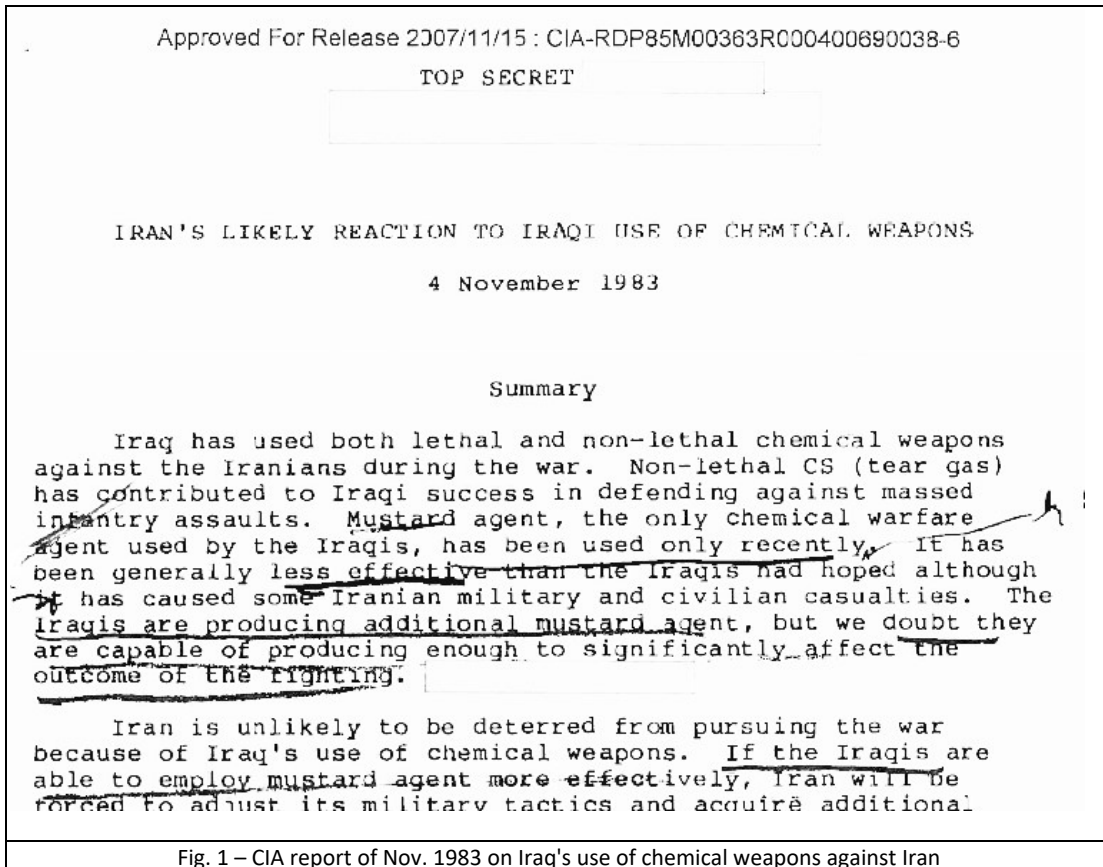
---

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/Security-Council-Resolutions-on-Iran>

<sup>3</sup> [Security Council Resolution 2231](#)

### 3- The Lochte Syndrome

To celebrate their Olympic successes, Ryan Lochte and three of his fellow swimmers had drunk and partied until 6am; and on their way back to the Olympic village, they stopped at a gas station where they vandalized the restrooms. As they were about to flee, they were stopped by a guard who had to pull a gun in order to push back the four colossal swimmers; they finally left after agreeing to pay a mere \$50 in reparation money. The next morning though, Lochte turned the story upside down and declared that their car was stopped and they were robbed at gunpoint. Nobody questioned the veracity of Lochte's story even though the swimmers still had their wallets and watches. It didn't make sense that armed robbers would stop a car and be content with a few dollar bills. But NBC and the rest of the media saw the accusations as a good complement to their Olympic coverage. For them it also confirmed the negativity that they had spread about Brazil, a proud country that refused to be a docile banana republic, and wasn't therefore on the US list of beloved allies. Lochte's accusations went viral. When the rich and powerful spits out accusations, the media will spread them no matter how unfounded they are. That's the Lochte syndrome, a syndrome that the US often exploits.



Consider the newly released documents that demonstrate US duplicity in the Iran-Iraq war, when Saddam Hussein was using massive chemical weapons against Iranian soldiers, including the Mustard Gas, the Sarin and the nerve gas Tabun. The use of the Mustard Gas by the Germans in WW I had stirred such a worldwide indignation that the [Geneva Protocol of 1925](#) prohibited the use

of "asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases, and of all analogous liquids, materials or devices" and "bacteriological methods of warfare". Yet, the 2013 issue of Foreign Policy explains through a number of CIA documents (see for instance fig. 1), how the US knew that Iraq was using chemical weapons but denied such knowledge.<sup>4</sup> What's more, on March 21, 1986, the United States was the sole country to vote against a UN Security Council resolution that recognized "chemical weapons on many occasions have been used by Iraqi forces against Iranian forces."<sup>5</sup>

Foreign Policy further reports that US officials even "conveyed the location of the Iranian troops to Iraq, fully aware that Hussein's military would attack with chemical weapons, including Sarin, a lethal nerve agent."<sup>6</sup> It is one thing to ignore information, and quite another to be an accomplice in war crimes. Moreover, in an ultimate display of cynicism: "The Reagan administration decided that it was better to let the attacks continue if they might turn the tide of the war. *And even if they were discovered, the CIA wagered that international outrage and condemnation would be muted.*"

What feeds the Lochte Syndrome is precisely this type of cold-calculated assessments. Politicians are aware that the media will propagate the accusations of the rich and powerful, when the accused lacks the means to counter unfounded allegations. If need be, misinformation can be corrected later on, at a time when nobody is interested in the story anymore. For instance, if Lochte and his friends had been able to quickly leave Brazil, you can be sure that no amount of video tapes proving their culpability would have attracted media attention. Newspapers would have perhaps printed a short rectification tucked in a back page, and NBC would have perhaps briefly alluded to them as an unverified alternative story. Had the Brazilian authorities not acted swiftly, and not taken the remaining swimmers "hostage," while the cameras were still covering the Olympics, their version of the story and their video tapes would have never been aired. It demonstrates why "hostages" are important to convey a message. They provide, at times, the only recourse for the accused to have its voice heard through a media that is bent on sensationalism and not reporting the truth.

#### **4- Iranian prisoners held hostage in the US**

But hostage taking is what the helpless does. Mighty US should not take hostages, and yet it does, and then uses them as a tool to vilify opponents. Indeed, a close study of the indictments for the 7 prisoners held by the US shows that they were predominantly innocent and used as exchange chips. Take for instance Nader Modanlo whose case was reported by the New York Times.<sup>7</sup> Like most of the 7 prisoners, he had dual Irano-American citizenship, but his Iranian heritage was enough to land him in jail. The terms of his indictment are most interesting as they enumerate a number of activities that date back to 1994, when Modanlo started to deal with a firm called POLYOT owned by the Russian government, and "obtained U.S. export licenses in order to export and launch the telecommunications satellites and other equipment from Russia"; and from the year

---

<sup>4</sup> The 1994 Riegle Report of the US Senate had already documented 70 shipment of toxic material including Anthrax from the US to Saddam Hussein,

<sup>5</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq\\_and\\_weapons\\_of\\_mass\\_destruction](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq_and_weapons_of_mass_destruction)

<sup>6</sup> *Foreign Policy* (« [Exclusive : CIA Files Prove America Helped Saddam as He Gassed Iran](#) », Aug. 26, 2013)

<sup>7</sup> NY Times article by RICK GLADSTONE , Jan. 27, 2016.

2000 to 2002, he “brokered an agreement between POLYOT and Iran to construct and launch a satellite” for which he received a commission of 10 million dollars, *officially* wired “to Modanlo’s NYSI account in Bowie, Maryland.”<sup>8</sup> As a result, Iran’s satellite was launched in 2005. His indictment thus came more than 10 years after he received his commission and 8 years after Iran’s satellite was launched with much fanfare. To prosecute him, UN sanctions could not be invoked as they only came into play in 2006. The prosecutor invoked instead a presidential executive order of 1995 (no. [12959](#)). The fact is that said order mainly prohibits investments, brokering, and exports from the US to Iran, and vice versa. It nowhere prohibits brokerage between Iran and a third party. More importantly, all the prohibitions invoked therein exempt activities enumerated in section b of [50 US code 1702](#), especially those related to “any information or informational materials.” It is precisely through this exception that the US allowed— and even promoted—not only Twitter, Google and other information services to go to Iran, but also communication equipments such as networking material and light computers. Iran’s communication satellite was probably perceived as a mean to enhance the flow of information to Iran, otherwise Modanlo would have been stopped right away and not ten years later.

While all this may seem too technical, there are two easy indicators for assessing the lack of merit for Modanlo’s indictment. Firstly, as the NY Times reports, the prosecutor engaged in secretive communications with the US District Judge Peter J. Messitte to obtain a summary incarceration, which Modanlo appealed. Since Modanlo was released through the swap, the appeal court never had a chance to rule, but : “During oral arguments in October, a three-member panel of federal appellate judges, not known for favoring defendants in criminal trials, criticized prosecutor conduct in the case. One, Judge Andre M. Davis, suggested the government should *apologize*”. The Appellate Judges certainly saw more than one thing wrong with the case to even accept oral argument, let alone chastising the government. Secondly, on Jan. 14, 2016, Modanlo was presented with a two-hour ultimatum to sign a complete surrender of his rights in exchange of his freedom. When Modanlo refused, the Justice Department went into frenzy and decided to have his closest relatives, in the US and Iran, exert psychological pressure on him, by begging him to accept the deal. A prisoner is usually permitted one phone call per day for a couple of minutes. The phone calls to Modanalo, however, lasted hours and over two days until he surrendered, but not without getting his \$10 million back. It’s utterly impossible that Eric Holder’s Justice Department would have given all this money back if Modanlo had really committed a crime.

What this case truly documents is Holder’s zeal to get a bogus conviction, to the extent that he would breach federal court procedures by secretly feeding unverified information to the judge. Holder displayed the same zeal in the case of a second victim—Bahram Mechanic who was indicted in Houston along with two other associates—but this time, without trying to secretly brainwash the judge. He didn’t have to. He knew that he could rely on a judge who would go out of her way to convict any perceived enemy of Israel.

---

<sup>8</sup> [www.justice.gov/usao-md/pr/potomac-man-sentenced-8-years-prison-conspiring-illegally-provide-satellite-services-iran](http://www.justice.gov/usao-md/pr/potomac-man-sentenced-8-years-prison-conspiring-illegally-provide-satellite-services-iran)

### 5- A judge with a grudge

Mechanic's indictment, and subsequent incarceration, was a travesty of justice. For starters the case should have never landed on Judge Nancy F. Atlas' docket, since she is the Vice President and Treasurer of the American Jewish Committee in Houston. The AJC is a body that condones Israeli exploitation of territories that it occupies in contravention of multiple UN resolutions and international law. A judge with so much bias and disrespect for international law shouldn't sit on the federal bench, let alone try a person against whom the thrust of accusations are about helping Iran's *nuclear* activities, dramatized in the indictment as "weapons of mass destruction (WMD) programs... contrary to U.S. national security or *foreign policy interests*" (read: *Israel's* interests).<sup>9</sup> To assign Mechanic's case to her court was like throwing the lamb to the wolves.

In its indictment, the FBI built its case around products described as "uninterruptible power supplies," which SPS (a Houston-based company) manufactured in "cooperation with Faratel" of Tehran. Bahram Mechanic, who co-owns these two companies, had founded Faratel in Iran in the 1970s, and had regularly obtained necessary US licenses for the "cooperation" between his companies. This joint manufacturing activity was probably tolerated because his power supplies were treated as informational material since they are products that computer users need to avoid loss of data in case of power failures.<sup>10</sup> In fact, in the first hearing, when Mechanic's lawyer asked in cross examination: "isn't it true that you can find similar products in most electronic stores such as RadioShack, for basic computing tasks?", the FBI accuser answered: yes but it can *also* be used for nuclear purposes. By this logic, every person with a pencil should be arrested, for as we all know, a pencil can be used to draw a nuclear bomb, and such a pencil might find its way into the hands of Iranian officials! It's the type of spin that Wendy Sherman was putting on the missiles fired by Iran: they can *also* carry nuclear bombs. Normally, spins and innuendoes should not carry weight in a courtroom, but when you have a judge with a grudge, things are different. Judge Atlas was on a mission to incarcerate Mechanic and keep him under lock.

Mechanic's first hearing was conducted by the deputy judge who set bail at \$1 million. The prosecution requested Judge Atlas to overrule her deputy. It had showcased the culpability of Mechanic by focusing on Faratel activities in which, components bought in Taiwan were sent to Turkey and re-invoiced for shipment to Iran. It failed to mention, though, that most companies in Iran had to use such a twisted route because of the banking sanctions: since no letter of credit could be opened in Iran, goods had to be transshipped through a partner in a neighboring country. But ultimately, no matter how they were imported, these components were for "uninterruptible power supplies" (UPS) that nobody in his right mind should consider as nuclear-related devices. And yet, when the FBI requested bail denial, on grounds that Mechanic was a security threat and a flight risk, Judge Atlas acquiesced and reversed her deputy's decision. She also denied bail in subsequent hearings when Mechanic's medical conditions were reported to the court ("bladder

---

<sup>9</sup> [www.fbi.gov/contact-us/field-offices/houston/news/press-releases/four-companies-and-five-individuals-indicted-for-illegally-exporting-technology-to-iran](http://www.fbi.gov/contact-us/field-offices/houston/news/press-releases/four-companies-and-five-individuals-indicted-for-illegally-exporting-technology-to-iran)

<sup>10</sup> For Faratel products see <http://faratel.ir/en/default.aspx>



cancer, Type II diabetes and a weak, frail heart”).<sup>11</sup> A proposal to have him under surveillance at home with an electronic bracelet and to be guarded round the clock by policemen (at his expense) was also met by refusal: she argued that, being an expert in electronics, Mechanic could “tamper” with the bracelet, and he had the means to commandeer a task force to whisk him away on an airplane! Maybe she had seen too many James Bond movies and thought of “uninterruptible power supplies” as a SPECTER-designed nuclear device.<sup>12</sup> But adding insult to injury, Judge Atlas kept referring to Bahram Mechanic as “Mr. Patent,” because his lawyer had portrayed him as a man of merit who had many patents in his name. A judge who so mocks a defendant is a disgrace to the judicial system, and brings shame to the court once presided by Judge James DeAnda—who I personally knew—and who was a man of high integrity, honor, and civility.

### 6- *The money trap*

I was abroad when I heard the news about Mechanic’s indictment. I had never met or talked to him before, even though we both lived in the same building. A quick look at the FBI’s news release convinced me that it had no legal basis. The indictment relied on the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (or IEEPA), and I knew the limitations of IEEPA because I had dealt with it when I sued the US president, in early 2001, for imposing sanctions on Iran while the 1955 Treaty of Amity (between the US and Iran) was still valid. Said Treaty promulgated liberty of trade between the two countries, and if IEEPA allowed the US president to suspend some of its provisions, it was on a *temporary* basis only, because the word “Emergency” therein invoked a temporary situation. By no stretch of the imagination could an emergency situation last for more than 30 years, a period during which multiple sanctions have been levied against Iran. If Iran was no longer a “friend,” the Treaty should have been *terminated*. But it is not, and what’s more, the US is constantly invoking it in the International Court of The Hague. It is therefore valid and in full force, and it’s of a type that the US Constitution qualifies as a “self-executing treaty” and the Supreme Law of the Land. Unless we are living in the Land of Humpty Dumpty where the meaning of words change at will, “Emergency” and “Supreme Law of the Land” have clear definitions that impede the president’s ability to impose sanctions on Iran while the Treaty is still in force. It conveys rights to US—as well as Iranian—nationals that cannot be taken away, whimsically.

I thus called a friend to convey to Mechanic’s wife my readiness to assist his lawyers in preparing a proper defense. A meeting was arranged at my place with Mrs. Mechanic in the company of a new lawyer, Joel Androphy, who was about to represent Bahram Mechanic, after Judge Atlas denied bail. I explained my point of view and his first question was: did you succeed in your own case? I said no, but it didn’t mean much since my case was dismissed on technicalities. I had claimed that the sanctions impeded my ability to import furniture from Iran, and the court argued that I was only relying on a hypothetical case and had not been actually harmed; therefore, I had no

---

<sup>11</sup> [www.houstonpress.com/news/why-did-the-us-government-give-bahram-mechanic-a-get-out-of-jail-free-card-8316432](http://www.houstonpress.com/news/why-did-the-us-government-give-bahram-mechanic-a-get-out-of-jail-free-card-8316432)

<sup>12</sup> If Judge Atlas has discovered weaknesses in electronic bracelets she should inform the Justice Department to discontinue its usage.

standing.<sup>13</sup> Mechanic, though, was in jail, and was harmed, and could use the Treaty to nullify his indictment. I also explained that the responses I got clearly showed that the government had no leg to stand on; and that all the back-and-forth arguments were available on my website for him to consult.<sup>14</sup> He said he would and get back to me. He never did.

As Androphy spent a couple of months filing futile motions, Mechanic instructed his wife to consult with me once again, this time in the presence of the lawyer his company had long used to obtain the necessary government permits for his activities. He came with a junior aide versed in criminal procedures, and together they asked all the questions they could think of. They could find no fault in my proposal but said that they had to defer to Androphy, who was after all in charge of the case. At which time I proffered one last argument: they were running out of time. Mr. Mechanic was 70 years old with severe medical conditions, and his trial would certainly drag on for a few years. In the best of scenarios, he would receive a minimum of five years in a plea bargain. In effect, he already had a death sentence hovering over his head. His only chance was to contest the very legality of the indictment. He had nothing to lose and everything to gain. Androphy of course never had the intention to present a defense that would upset Judge Atlas and counter anti-Iran policies.<sup>15</sup>

The FBI had concocted a perfect scheme by which Mechanic would be entrapped in Judge Atlas' court, and then milked by lawyers affiliated to her. The glue for this triangular trap was money. The FBI had at the outset confiscated all the cash of Mechanic (in excess of one million dollars). Mechanic was then told that if he brought money from his Iranian operations, the necessary transfer authorization would be obtained from the Treasury Department's OFAC. When the authorizations were given, the lawyers advised Mrs. Mechanic to have two million dollars transferred to *their* account, rather than hers, since the government "might also impound that new money." Mrs. Mechanic asked my advice on the subject and I told her that she was facing greedy vultures on both fronts; better have her money confiscated by the FBI than lawyers. At the end, it did not matter. Mechanic was milked in excess of two million dollars by his lawyers. Unlike Modanlo, the ailing Mechanic was so eager to get out and free his partners that he signed the surrender sheet presented to him without a fight. The FBI thus kept Mechanic's money. To confiscate this money, the FBI had relied on anti-racketeering laws that were promulgated to fight the Mafia. Sadly, these anti-Mafia laws now allowed the FBI to act like the Mafia in bullying people and extracting money from them.

### ***7- The Federal Bureau of Israel***

The FBI agents in charge of Mechanic's case were bound to pursue an administration policy that advertised toughness against Iran while negotiating on the nuclear issue. The problem though is that most FBI cases against Iranians had been generated by a supposedly private organization,

---

<sup>13</sup> By the time the court reviewed my case, 9/11 had occurred and created such a panic that Federal Judge Hoyt who had just ruled in my favor in a parallel case against the FAA, disregarded his previous lengthy ruling, and unexplainably dismissed the case with a one-line judgment.

<sup>14</sup> [www.soudavar.com/index\\_files/Page431.htm](http://www.soudavar.com/index_files/Page431.htm)

<sup>15</sup> Although a Google search does not provide any clues as to Androphy's direct support of the American Jewish Committee, it does show that Androphy regularly supports Nancy Atlas by inviting her for events that he sponsors.



United Against Nuclear Iran (UANI); which is basically operating as an Israeli beachhead on US soil, with people such as the former Mossad chief, Meir Dagan sitting on its advisory board. According to the NY Times, it “is run by former United States government officials, who have lobbied for tough sanctions against Iran, and helped write legislation on Capitol Hill.”<sup>16</sup> The Times further reports (Jul. 27, 2014) that it has “a reputation for uncovering information about companies that sometimes do business with Iran”. In other words, it operates as an Israeli spying unit on US soil. Had it not been for a lawsuit brought by the Greek magnate Victor Restis against UANI, we would have no proof of this unit’s interference with US agencies.

UANI had informed the FBI that Restis planned to do business with Iran and that his vessels were “supporting” the Iranian oil industry, even though Restis himself is a Jew and pro-Israel. Restis sued for defamation and subpoenaed UANI for a list of its donors; and since UANI was claiming to have “credible documents” based on “distinguished relationships”, he asked to see them, and wanted to depose Meir Dagan who had actually linked the FBI to an Iranian informer. Restis also pointed out a conflict of interest, as a major donor of UANI, Thomas Kaplan—for whom also works UANI’s chief executive—stood to gain by the neutralization of Restis’s shipping activities. Thus besides political motives, the continuation of sanctions against Iran had monetary side benefits. Money is always around the corner when Israel sympathizers are involved.

A suit involving two private entities should have proceeded normally, but once again good old Eric Holder stepped in, this time personally, to quell the feud between two Israel supporters who were about to expose the illegal relationship of UANI and the FBI. "I can't remember another time in history when the government tried to blow up a lawsuit between *two private parties* without telling us why, even in broad, general terms," remarked Ben Wizner, the director of the American Civil Liberties Union privacy and technology division, who followed this case. Nevertheless, Judge Ramos was asked to quash the subpoena as Holder argued that it was a matter of “national security.” And as his usual, Holder provided unverified documents to Judge Ramos, who at the end quashed Restis’s demand by arguing that it posed an “unjustifiable” threat to national security. Holder and Ramos were both dissimulating the truth; they were not defending the national interest but a supra-national one, that of Israel. No wonder then that the FBI was ordered around by UANI like a lapdog. Holder saw himself as a servant of Israel, and the FBI as the Federal Bureau of Israel.

Other US agencies seem to have slid in the same abyss. As James Bamford of the NY Times would write (Sept 16, 2014): "Among his (Snowden) most shocking discoveries, he told me, was the fact that the N.S.A. was routinely passing along the private communications of Americans to a large and very secretive Israeli military organization known as Unit 8200." There seems to be no limit in US agencies' servitude to Israel.

We have a saying in Persian that “Whatever rots must be sprinkled with salt. Sad is the day when salt itself is rotten” (*har che begandad namakash mizanand, vāy az ruzi ke begandad namak*). Federal courts, the FBI, and the NSA are supposed to be the guarantors and supervisors of

---

<sup>16</sup> NY times Aug. 18, 2014; <http://www2.unitedagainstnucleariran.com/about/leadership> ‘

rectitude, but are now acting as stooges in a game dictated by Israel. Rot has so invaded the system that everybody is blinded by it. When Zakaria remarked that Iran had a parliament and electoral activities, while US's staunch allies were "monarchical or dictatorial," Stephens explained that Iran was not a true democracy since every candidate had to be vetted. True, but what about the USA, where candidates are vetted by AIPAC? What a sad spectacle it was to watch the parade of presidential candidates who, one after another, were trying to prove their unconditional support for Israel. For them, Israel was *uber alles*, right or wrong. Of all the candidates, the only one who had the honesty to admit that the Palestinian problem had two sides to it was Bernie Sanders. Although Jewish himself, he was also the only one to advocate that religion is personal and should not be mixed with politics. And guess what happened to him? AIPAC unleashed its Debbie Wasserman to brake Sanders's momentum and sabotage his quest for presidency. The home turf is rotting, but the media has to advance the Israeli agenda rather than focus on the domestic rot.

While supposedly-private organizations such as UANI act behind the scenes, others such as the NY Times openly, and methodically, poison public opinion. The role of the late William Safire of the NY Times has never been discussed in the false linkage of 9/11 to Saddam Hussein. Beginning with an essay on Nov. 12, 2001 and over a period of one year, he wrote *a series of 10* op-ed essays trying to link the 9/11 mastermind, Muhammad `Atta, with Saddam Hussein, and insinuating that the plot had been hatched in Prague with Saddam's secret service. He peppered his essays with innuendoes backed by "my sources tell me."<sup>17</sup> Everybody knew that Safire's sources were supposed to be Mossad people. And in Washington, such innuendoes are treated as Gospel.

The United States has become a docile servant of Israel, constantly ordered around to get involved in costly operations whose sole beneficiary is only Israel. The Iraq war cost US taxpayers some *4 trillion dollars*;<sup>18</sup> and created no benefit for them but only ill-will throughout the region, and thousands of disillusioned-and-suicidal veterans at home. Meanwhile, it destroyed the strongest Arab army of the region, created utter chaos therein, and eliminated forever the risk of a concerted Arab attack on Israel. Oddly, the media has never presented the American people with a cost-benefit analysis of the Iraq war and ensuing regional operations. If it tried to, the Israeli lobby will certainly suppress it because it will inevitably show the US as the biggest loser, and Israel, as the *only* winner. Israel dictates the US government to spend American taxpayer's money on a war that she only benefits from, and the US obeys.

#### ***8- A ally that stands for everything the US is against***

Israel is constantly projected as the US's most important ally and yet it stands for everything that the US is against. The US engaged the whole world to condemn and boycott South Africa for its apartheid policy, and yet it keeps mum on the state of apartheid that Israel has created on a land it never owned. The US went to war against German expansionism and lost a million men in the process, and went to war again when Iraq invaded Kuwait, but condones Israel's occupation of territories grabbed through military expansionism, and thwarts every effort to condemn Israel's

---

<sup>17</sup> Just search the NY Times archives with two words: Safire, Atta

<sup>18</sup> "On Iraq, Echoes of 2003" NY times, June 18, 2014, by N. Christoff

blatant aggression. The Nuremberg trials were meant to expose and condemn the Nazis for pushing the Jews into ghettos and suffocating them, in order to stop future generations from perpetrating the same, and yet, the US allows Israel to ghettoize Palestinians in their own land and suffocate them economically as well as physically. And unlike the US, where religion is constitutionally banned from interfering with government, Israel is basically a theocratic state dominated by the Jewish religion.

If there is one lesson to be learned from the US's relationship with Iran it's that friendship is never permanent. Iran was once hailed as the US's staunchest ally in the Middle East but is now treated as its number one enemy. What guarantee does the US have that Israel will always remain a friend? Israel is ruled more and more by fanatical people who will balk at nothing to advance their cause. When they "hear" the voice of god they will even assassinate their own president. Only a fool can think that they will hold off against the US if they perceive it as an obstacle to their land-grabbing efforts. The difference with Iran though is that Israel has more than 200 nuclear warheads and has all kind of delivery vehicles, including stealth submarines, that can accurately hit any target it chooses within the USA.

The US was once the paragon of democracy, and the envy of the world for the wisdom and independence of its judiciary. It has the strongest military in the world, with a budget that is more than the combined military budget of the next 20 countries of the world. It is a superpower never seen in the history of mankind. And yet, its relationship towards Israel is like that of an old woman, emotionally attached to an abusive gigolo who is constantly asking for more money. Israel's prime minister openly insults the US president, and comes to Washington to the cheering applause of a subdued Congress in order to further ridicule him and ask for more money. A couple of insults later, Israel is rewarded with an unheard-of military aid package of \$38 billion dollars at a time when Congress is balking at funding pressing domestic problems, from poverty to infrastructure to education.

### **9- How did we get here?**

The US achieved greatness by promoting principles enshrined in its constitution, and by the profound respect it showed for the rule of law. But beginning with the 1980s and the presidency of Ronald Reagan, a series of events provoked a gradual erosion of respect for the law, both domestically and internationally. As a matter of fact, the evolution of the government's attitude toward the Treaty of Amity with Iran is symptomatic of that erosion.

In view of the "hostage crisis", President Carter declared a "national emergency" to deal with the Iranian problem (Exec. Ord. No. 12170, Nov. 14, 1979) and, subsequently, imposed sanctions in April 1980 (Exec. Ords. nos. 12205 and 12211). They were lifted, however, on Jan. 19, 1981 (Exec. Ord. no. 12282) subsequent to the Algiers accord and the return of the hostages. President Carter, justifiably invoked the IEEPA as there existed a state of emergency while Americans were kept hostage in Iran. Once they returned, the state of emergency existed no more, *and the Treaty was reinstated in full force*. Oddly, new trade sanctions were imposed by President Reagan in 1987 (Exec. Ord. No.12613); not because Iran had done something wrong but in reaction to the Iran-

Contra fiasco which revealed arms transactions with Iran, through Israeli intermediaries, in order to illegally finance a Nicaraguan insurgency. When Reagan's scheme was revealed, he theatrically imposed sanctions on Iran, as if Iran was the culprit in that affair. To do so, he declared an "emergency situation" in order to invoke IEEPA. That emergency situation has been regularly prolonged without anybody asking how can we still be in an emergency situation after three decades? And why isn't the Treaty of Amity terminated if Iran is no longer a friend?

Reagan also promoted the idea that the US could not be bound by international laws and agreements, and then intervened, as we saw, on the side of Iraq during its nine-year war with Iran, helping the Iraqi army to bomb Iranian soldiers with chemical weapons. In the same spirit, he disregarded Congress's resolution in regards to Nicaragua, and funded the Contras. That gung-ho spirit was further emboldened by the crumbling of the Soviet Union.

For half a century, the US had to worry day in and day out about the Soviets, but woke up one morning as the lone standing superpower with no challenger left. With the fall of the iron curtain, the slide into lawlessness accelerated as the US had to worry no more about a formidable foe that challenged it both militarily and ideologically. Communism was in disarray and the American way of life was triumphant. Like an unchallenged dictator the US could do as it pleased, and thus lost its bearings.

In the meantime, Israel was also undergoing a radical transformation. In the 70s, Israel had a population of 2 million, well-balanced between liberal and radical Jews. But a million Russian Jews emigrated to Israel in the 1980s and tilted that balance toward radicalism. They were authorized to leave the Soviet Union as the result of intense US propaganda against Soviet immigration policies, in reaction to which, the Soviets opened the gates and flooded Israel with a mix that was reminiscent of what the Cubans had done three decades earlier: They had opened their prisons and let crooks and gangsters immigrate to the US as refugees. The Soviet immigration to Israel too had its fare share of thugs, gangsters and prostitutes,<sup>19</sup> to the extent that local Tel-Aviv prostitutes went on strike in view of the "unfair" competition that they faced from Russian immigrants. The influx of Russian immigrants radically changed Israel's political landscape. The land-grabbers and warmongers rose in the political strata and imposed their agenda through orthodoxy.

They were also quick to realize the disarray of US foreign policy caused by the collapse of the Soviet Union. The American national psyche, as well as war industry, needed a villain to set its compass straight, and the Israelis obliged by providing a replacement for the defunct Soviet Union. They aggrandized and demonized one by one all the countries that they perceived as potential threats to their military hegemony in the Middle East. With Iraq defeated, Iran was demonized beyond limits and presented as the major threat to the US. One should take a moment to think about this issue. Iran's aviation is 40-years old and fairly depleted after the Iran-Iraq war; same is true for its naval units. To be sure Iran's army is no push over, and as we shall see below, it has been able to devise an astute weaponry system, which is predominantly defensive rather than offensive. As such, it

---

<sup>19</sup> The older Israelis saw the Russian immigrants as "mafiosos and prostitutes," [Outside In](#), NY Times 11/23/1997

poses no threat to the US. One thus wonders if Israel has used voodoo or hypnotism to make the US top brass so gullible as to believe that Iran poses more of a threat, than Russia, which still has thousands of nuclear warheads and a mighty army, or China with an ever-expanding army and economy. Not to mention, al-Qaeda, ISIS and all other threats that it may face from Saudi and Israeli backed suicidal groups, such as the MKI that they both support.<sup>20</sup>

For the past 20 years, Israel has regularly cried wolf, warning that Iran was about to have a nuclear bomb and destroy Israel. To this date, nobody has proven that Iran had decided to make a bomb or even embarked on preliminary experimentations. But let us suppose it did; what could it achieve with it? I think there is no better answer to that than what Colin Powell stated in his recently hacked email: "What would [they] do with one? Polish it?".<sup>21</sup> What good did it do to have one, or even five, nuclear bombs if one does not have an accurate vehicle for delivery? Did they think Iran would use Amazon's new drone delivery system? What benefit was there for the US to aggrandize the "Iranian threat," except for orienting all intelligence efforts towards Iranians? With all attention riveted on Iranians, intelligence agencies were unable to see 19 free-roaming Saudis who enrolled in pilot-training classes, at a time when there was every indication in the media that suicide-bombers were planning to use airplanes as weapons. Thirteen Saudis had already been indicted in the bombing of the US Nairobi embassy, and yet 80-year-old Iranians were strip-searched while young al-Qaeda-trained Saudis were given red-carpet treatment. The US intelligence community had a budget in excess of *\$50 billion a year* and yet it was incapable of spotting 19 Saudi operatives in plain sight. A formidable pressure must have been exercised on this colossal intelligence apparatus to lose focus and only worry about the bogus target that Iran had become. That I believe was primarily the work of Israel. As the 9/11 victims will finally be empowered to press their case in courts, they will certainly reveal the Saudis' implication in 9/11. But more importantly, those victims deserve to know the reasons for the loss of focus of intelligence agencies that allowed the 9/11 tragedy to unfold. If that angle is tackled, it will only show one culprit: the pressure that Israelis exerted on the US agencies—whether executive, legislative or judicial—to focus on Iran and lose sight of al-Qaeda.

Moreover, in regards to supposed Iranian nuclear bombs, Colin Powell wrote "Iranians can't use one if they finally make one. The boys in Tehran know Israel *has 200, all targeted on Tehran*, and we have thousands."<sup>22</sup> Powell's statement points out two major problems. First is the sense of proportion. The US was directed by Israel to push the United Nations to sanction Iran, for allegedly trying to make *a* bomb, while Israel *already* had 200 of them. UN inspectors have had an uninterrupted presence on Iranian soil ever since it signed the NPT (Non-Proliferation Treaty of nuclear weapons), while Israel has never permitted a single inspector on its soil. True, Israel is not a signatory of the NPT, but the US is, and as such it has the obligation—according to art. VI—to engage Israel in a process of "nuclear disarmament". But it does not. What's more, it also disregards US law (The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and its amendments), which prohibits "US

---

<sup>20</sup> The MKI (Mojahedin Khalq Iran) is a terrorist group whose notoriety was first established by the killing of 2 Americans, and subsequently in terminating the Kurds who had not been totally asphyxiated by Saddam's chemical sprays in Halabja.

<sup>21</sup> [Colin Powell in Newsweek 9/16/2016](#)

<sup>22</sup> [Colin Powell in Newsweek 9/16/2016](#)

military assistance to countries that acquire or transfer nuclear reprocessing technology *outside of international nonproliferation regimes.*" To show their subservience to Israel, presidents and legislators simply ignore the problem. If the US wants to provide military aid to Israel despite its possessions of 200 nuclear warheads, it can pass a resolution in Congress to allow such aid. The Israel-loving Congress would certainly oblige. But the fact is that no attempt has ever been made to remedy the illegality of military aid to Israel. Israel wants US aid but does not want to admit that it's a nuclear outlaw. As a result it pushes the US to lie and cheat on its behalf.

Ultimately, the worst consequence of subservience to Israel is the loss of respect for the law. Every country has laws, even authoritarian ones. What distinguishes a lawful society from an unlawful one is not only its written laws, but the general respect that those laws command within that society. The US's constant stance in support of Israel's land-grabbing activities, apartheid, and terroristic activities,<sup>23</sup> condones lying and law-breaking. Morality and lawfulness cannot be confined or selective. One cannot be amoral on one issue and moral on another. Disrespect for the law has a corrosive effect that undermines the whole of society. Political policies are sometimes difficult to assess since people will have different opinions. As such, the ultimate arbiter should be the law. If an act is unlawful, it should not be undertaken. And if the law no longer corresponds to an evolving situation, it should be amended. There is simply no excuse for not doing it. Not doing it promotes disrespect for the law.

There is perhaps no better measure to show the extent of the loss of respect for the law, and the judiciary as a whole, than the salary of federal judges. It's somewhere below a quarter million dollars. In Singapore though, a high court judge gets four times more. You get what you pay for. If you don't pay, you will only attract third-rate people of the caliber of Judge Atlas, a Clinton appointee whose main qualification was her affiliation to the pro-Israel lobby.

### ***10- A professor of Constitutional Law***

For many of us who had witnessed the glorious days of the 1960s, when, despite the Vietnam war—or perhaps because of it—the civil rights movements had raised the general consciousness of people, and the Warren court had promoted social justice, the candidacy and election of Barack Obama was a breath of fresh air. He had been after all a professor of constitutional law, and the issues he raised promised better respect for the law:

- 1- He saw the Guantanamo detentions as an affront to the Constitution and promised to close it down.
- 2- He saw a cost-free war as a historical aberration, and advocated that wars should not only have congressional approval, but must be financed by appropriate taxes and levies. It brought to the fore the notion that war was a national affair, and should be of concern to everybody.
- 3- He promised to curtail the influence of lobbyists on legislation
- 4- He proposed healthcare for all

---

<sup>23</sup> As David Sanger wrote in the NY Times (Jan. 19, 2016): "The *assassination* of Iranian nuclear scientists, *widely assumed to be the work of Israel's Mossad*, grew so intense at one point that Hillary Clinton, then the secretary of state, publicly denounced the killings, *being careful not to name Israel.*"



Oddly, his detractors have mainly attacked him on the last issue, the so-called Obamacare, which is a relatively successful program, rather than his actions (or non-actions) on the other issues, especially on the conduct of war. His report card on the war issue is telling, since he had built his whole election campaign on attacking opponents for their lack of wisdom in approving the 2003 attack on Iraq.

Nixon had abolished the draft in the 1970s. Obama was not a man to reinstate the draft and make war a national affair again. Without a national draft or war taxes, nobody has skin in the game but mercenaries. Obama could have at least levied a temporary war-tax—for instance a 50-cent gasoline tax as advocated by NY Times' Tom Friedman—pegged to the Iraq war, and to be terminated after a substantial troop withdrawal. He never considered it. Instead, he implemented a hurried withdrawal timetable in Iraq, which plunged that country into more chaos and tripled troop deployment in Afghanistan, with results as dismal and useless as George W. Bush's war in Iraq. There is no higher proof of his phony anti-war stance than his involvement in Libya and Syria. Anybody in his right mind, who had seen the Iraqi and Afghan fiascos, would have refrained from fanning a new war in that area. He was perhaps fooled by Nicholas Sarkozy of France and his own Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, who both had the best interests of Israel at heart. But the ultimate responsibility for these two wars rests with Obama. Whereas Bush's war had moved Al-Qaeda from the remote mountains of Afghanistan to Iraq, Obama's Libyan and Syrian campaigns have provided the Jihadists a wider platform, closer to Europe. There is now an almost continuous highway from Iraq to Libya and into the heart of Africa, on which the Jihadists freely roam. As a bonus, they were also given a share of the Libyan arsenal and oil production, on top of what they could seize in Iraq and Syria.

Obama's stance on the sanctity of the Constitution was as hollow as his anti-war stance. Guantanamo is still open. What's worse, Obama approved the killing of Americans without trial. The right to a trial is a right enshrined in the Constitution, and is granted to everybody without exception whether accused of theft, murder or any other crime. A cooked-up memo by Eric Holder, was all the US citizen Anwar al-Awlaki got, when he was blown up by drones, thousands of miles away from the shores of America. His alleged crime was to have incited people to kill Americans although he himself had never killed anyone. A few years ago, the publisher of the Atlanta Jewish Times, who saw Obama as not fully yielding to Israel's dictates, advocated that the Mossad should "take him away."<sup>24</sup> Donald Trump recently suggested that the Second-Amendment people should take care of Hillary Clinton, but subsequently pretended that he was only joking. Neither of them got blown up by drones. Maybe Awlaki too would have claimed that he was only joking. We would never know, because he was not given the chance to pronounce himself before a jury of his peers. If the Attorney General can act as judge, jury and hangman, we might as well call back King George.

More importantly, Obama has expanded the policy of killing by drones to a scale that can truly be qualified as war crimes. It does not matter whether the so called collateral damage amounts to only one, ten, or hundreds of innocent people. The repeated killing of innocents in a war arena is a war

---

<sup>24</sup> Andrew Adler in the Atlanta Jewish Times of Jan. 13, 2012.

crime. Moreover, the effectiveness of the drone campaigns have never been proven, except for the fact that no American is killed in the process. But the bigger issue, beyond the legalities in defining a war crime, is the highly immoral nature of these operations. It is a testimony to the character of the one who bears responsibility for it, in this case, Obama. It is easy to say that he is only committing these crimes outside US territories and mostly against non-Americans; but morality has not a switch that you can turn on and off as you cross the US border. If one is immoral, its immorality would manifest itself everywhere; outside, as well as inside the country.

Perhaps there is no better proof for Obama's immorality than his choice of Hillary Clinton as Secretary of State. In the 2008 primaries, he had often attacked her for poor judgment in casting a positive vote for George Bush's war on Iraq. And yet he allowed her to drag the US into two devastating wars. Today, three quarters of the US electorate consider that they are confronted with a choice between two untrustworthy candidates. Obama, though, was never constrained by such a binary choice; he could have chosen anyone. Yet, he chose someone whose political wisdom he had questioned, and someone whom the majority of Americans still consider as phony and unreliable. And most recently, he went out of his way to support her at the expense of Bernie Sanders, who by all measures had a better chance of winning against Trump. Despite all the theatrics of Netanyahu and the insults he unfurled at Obama, the president was, like everybody else in Washington, committed to Israel. He rushed to pass the \$38 billion aid package to Israel, lest Trump would get elected and put a moratorium on foreign aid.

Maybe Obama too was thinking about his library, and perhaps a foundation like that of the Clintons. So accustomed we have all grown with Clinton scandals that nothing should shock us anymore. Yet, I was truly shocked when the Associated Press documented and explained the scheme by which foreign donors would make contributions to the Clinton foundation, and in return, get favors from the State Department.<sup>25</sup> The biggest surprise, however, was that Obama was fully aware of their operations and had even OKed it. No wonder then that he's pushing Hillary Clinton to be his successor. He is certainly counting on return favors.

### *11- Testing Obama*

Despite the enthusiasm that the Yes-We-Can Obama generated, I had a deep apprehension about a young African-American who had so quickly risen through the ranks of the Chicago Democratic Party. After all, Chicago had been the fiefdom of Mayor Daley, and still carried the imprint of his rough manners. Not everybody could emerge from that system unscathed. Obama was either very clever or very tough, or both, to have risen to the top in Chicago. What mattered to me was to find out whether he truly believed in the Constitution that he had taught, or just wanted to play politics and was ready to trample all principles to survive and succeed. With time I found out that he couldn't care less about the US Constitution, was as bossy as Mayor Daley, and had more innocent

---

<sup>25</sup> The most egregious story in the racket that the Clintons were running was that of the crown prince of Bahrain giving the Clinton Foundation \$32 million, in order to obtain a meeting with Madame Secretary, who immediately allowed arms export to Bahrain to crush its own mistreated population. I presume this is what the Clintons call humanitarian aid. See: [http://www.democracynow.org/2016/8/25/weapons\\_pipelines\\_wall\\_st\\_did\\_clinton](http://www.democracynow.org/2016/8/25/weapons_pipelines_wall_st_did_clinton)

blood on his hands than Al Capone. But in the early stages of his presidency, my only mean to test him was the 1955 Treaty of Amity between the US and Iran. As the ex-professor of constitutional law, he among all people should have understood what was at stake.

I thus wrote him a letter emphasizing that it was more important to honor the Constitution than to play petty politics on the Iranian issue, and that upholding the Treaty of Amity would give him an edge in the dialogue that he was advocating. If Iranians did not deliver and/or he was unsatisfied with the outcome, he could officially terminate the Treaty and fall back into a belligerent mode. But under no circumstances should this Treaty remain on the books while sanctions are levied against Iran. One cannot be friend and foe at the same time.<sup>26</sup> I also explained the futility of a nuclear bomb objective for Iran in view of the alternative force of dissuasion that it had developed (see below). Finally, I had emphasized the usefulness of Iran as a partner for the US's Afghan operations. Specifically, I had emphasized the eradication of the opium trade through the promotion of an alternative crop, as a mean to wrest the control of the countryside from the Taliban. I thought, as a person who had spent his youth working with disaffected communities, this or similar programs should have been to Obama's liking.

After a couple of months I received a short answer that seemed to show that Obama had read my proposals but was politely saying no thanks.<sup>27</sup> Among all my proposals, the last one was actually tested, not by Obama who opted for a major surge in Afghanistan, but by veterans of the Afghan campaigns who took it upon themselves to do something positive for the people they had seen up close. As the NY Times reports,<sup>28</sup> three Army veterans and one civilian have created a small business that helps Afghan farmers to plant and export saffron. It's small scale, but very effective. In contrast, Obama spent billions on his surge with absolutely no result to show. Afghanistan is no better place than when he came to office. The government is more corrupt than ever, and the Taliban now have the upper hand. The four veterans' saffron plantation has done more good for Afghanistan than Obama in eight years of his presidency.

Same is true for the Iran Nuclear deal. Obama has gained nothing more than what he could have obtained in 2010, when he conveyed his conditions in writing to the Brazilian and Turkish presidents to intercede with Iran. They negotiated and delivered what Obama had asked for, only to see him renege on his commitment. That's when Trita Parsi famously asked in Foreign Policy: "Can the US take 'Yes' for an answer."<sup>29</sup> The answer was obviously no. Secretary Clinton never thought that the Iranians would accept the US draconian conditions, and that's why she had not objected to the Brazilo-Turkish overture. But, as soon as she learned that Iran might accept the deal, she gave all the concessions in the world to the Chinese, in order to obtain their backing for a UN resolution against Iran. She had to do what Israel had ordered her to do, and sabotaged the deal. Obama though had given his word, and knew that ultimate responsibility in this affair, as well

---

<sup>26</sup> ["WHAT IS TO BE DONE WITH IRAN"](#)

<sup>27</sup> ["Answer of President Obama"](#)

<sup>28</sup> [A Start-Up Turns to Saffron to Help Afghanistan Regrow](#), NY Times, Aug. 10, 2016.

<sup>29</sup> [foreignpolicy.com/2010/05/18/the-turkey-brazil-iran-deal-can-washington-take-yes-for-an-answer/](#)

as infamy, would be his. It did not matter. He never intended to seriously negotiate with Iran. He has been cheating all along, and still is; as such, he truly is America's Commander in Cheat.

### *12- Iran's force of dissuasion*

A nuclear bomb is not an ordinary weapon. It is so devastating that its main function has become one of dissuasion rather than actual use. The only time a nuclear device was actually launched on an enemy country was in WW II, when the US bombed Hiroshima and Nagasaki, at a time when nobody else had an atom bomb. Countries that now have nuclear bombs, will hesitate to use it in confrontation with another nuclear-bomb-possessing country, because no matter how superior one's nuclear arsenal is, the opponent can cause so much harm that no responsible statesman will risk putting a portion of its own population in jeopardy. Thus, the concept of nuclear parity is more to reach a devastating threshold that will be unbearable to the enemy, than matching its arsenal one to one. As Iran was being squeezed between two nuclear-armed neighbors, I had advocated in 2005 that Iran should:

"seek nuclear parity with its neighbors. If Israel and Pakistan are ready to relinquish their nuclear program, so must Iran. If not, Iran must acquire nuclear weapons, no matter how many carrots and sticks are offered to stop it."<sup>30</sup>

The main problem in such a strategy was not the production of a bomb, but the delivery vehicles that could accurately strike targets. It seems that Iran soon realized that it could not surmount this obstacle, and astutely opted for an alternative strategy. Rather than seeking nuclear parity with its neighbors, it aimed for a devastating retaliatory force through a shower of missiles equipped with conventional bombs. If 100'000 missiles are launched, no matter how inaccurate, they are capable of inflicting so much pain and damage on the enemy that it would dissuade it from attacking Iran. Whether the enemy will deploy a defensive Iron Dome, Titanium Dome or Diamond Dome, it would still be unable to cope with such a massive shower of missiles, especially if multiple decoys are used to blur the vision of defensive Domes. A few missiles can just fill the atmosphere with clouds of metallic and other decoys.

It's a low cost retaliatory weapon system, the merits of which I came to realize by way of three observations. First was the report (in 2008) of a 2002 US war simulation in which small, Iranian agile speedboats (the Red Team) swarmed a US naval convoy (the Blue Team). As per Lt. Gen. Paul K. Van Riper, the battle was over in less than 5 to 10 minutes, with a loss of "16 major warships — an aircraft carrier, cruisers and amphibious vessels — sunk to the bottom of the Persian Gulf."<sup>31</sup> The Red Team had been able to annihilate the Blue Team. It showed the effectiveness of massive attacks through low-cost and unsophisticated means. Second was the actual use of a toned-down version of Iran's missile system by Lebanon's Hezbollah when Israel attacked Lebanon in 2006. Ever since Hezbollah had forced Israel to abandon its occupation of Lebanon, Israel had been itching to take revenge, and wash out the humiliation of defeat by an infinitely smaller guerilla unit. Israel thus went all out to annihilate Hezbollah in 2006 but was confronted with a shower of missiles,

---

<sup>30</sup> [The Real Nuclear Threat, ad in NY Times of June 24, 2005](#)

<sup>31</sup> [Iran Encounter Grimly Echoes '02 War Game - The New York Times](#) 1/12/2008

with mobile bases that it could not destroy. Even though Iran had only made available to Hezbollah a less-sophisticated system than it had itself, that toned-down system was enough to send back Israel empty handed. Third is the fact that during the negotiations of the nuclear deal, US and Israeli officials constantly expressed their concern about Iran's missile system, which did not fall under the NPT. I am pretty sure that if there was a military attack on Iran, the nuclear facilities were of minor concern and the bulk of the attack would have been directed at missile sites. But Iran's launch pads are so dispersed that it would have been impossible to destroy them. A military attack on Iran could not achieve its objective.

However, Israel, the US, or both, did score a major coup against the Iranian missile system. In Nov. 2011, the mastermind of the Iranian missile program, Gen. Hasan Tehrani Moghaddam, who was visiting a testing base near Tehran was killed in a blast that blew up a whole compound. Whoever perpetrated the coup did not want to take a chance, and guess where the general might be; he simply blew up every building in the compound.<sup>32</sup> The death of innocent workers in the compound was of obviously of no concern. As the satellite photos of the NY Times reveal, an enormous amount of explosives must have been slipped into the compound and installed around the building foundations. To me, it was a massive intelligence failure of Iranian agencies on the scale of the US intelligence failure in detecting the 9/11 terrorists. Intelligence agencies are anything but intelligent and in both cases, the same causes produced the same effects. Whereas in the US, its intelligence agencies were chasing 80-year-old Iranians rather than 18-year-old Saudis, in Iran, its agencies were chasing intellectuals and dissidents rather than foreign agents. They were both unable to focus on the real enemy.

In the Nuclear Deal, Iran gave up a nuclear activity that was militarily expendable, as it had developed in the meantime an alternative force of dissuasion. Because of its inaccuracy, this alternative system does not allow Iran to precisely target enemy facilities. It is essentially retaliatory, and defensive in purpose. Iran is thus unlikely to initiate a missile attack on Israel on its own, because it would be unable to destroy Israel's striking capability. On the other hand, if Israel were to attack Iran, even with nuclear bombs, it would be exposed to a retaliatory attack that would perhaps decimate at least half of its population. This is what made the Israeli generals think twice and refuse to attack Iran. This is what still irritates Israel, and this is what still pushes Senators and Congressmen to constantly demonize Iran. Iran's nuclear threat was only a pretext for attacking a weapon system that allowed Iran to possess a retaliatory force that thwarted Israel's hegemony in the region.

### *So I say to Fared Zakaria:*

You—as others in the media—have to follow a strict pro-Israel narrative, right or wrong, or else you are out of a job. As such, you are no better than those who accused you of advocating the rape of white women by Jihadists. They may not have as much gel in their hair, and not wear a high-collar white shirt with a pin-striped suit, but that does not make their accusations any worse than yours. You both distort the truth, and as such, you deserve one another.

---

<sup>32</sup> [Explosion Seen as Big Setback to Iran's Missile Program](#)