

# UNITED AGAINST NUCLEAR IRAN

Spiegel Online reported that "Spiegel has learned that **Germany and the EU are considering stopping all exports of gasoline to Iran, which according to analysts' estimates depends on imports to cover 30 percent of its gasoline supplies, even though it exports crude oil. Diplomats are also considering imposing further restrictions on shipping and air traffic to and from Iran, for example by banning Iranian ships or aircraft from docking or landing in the EU. Major insurance companies such as Lloyd's which insure many freight shipments to and from Iran may be forced to cease such deals.** The German government will initially try to get these additional sanctions agreed by the UN Security Council, where veto powers China and Russia have been hesitant on measures against Iran. But senior German diplomats have said the EU and the US would be prepared to impose 'very strict sanctions' on their own. Western nations including the US say Iran's nuclear program is aimed at making nuclear weapons. Iran says it is for power generation only and has refused to halt uranium enrichment despite three rounds of UN sanctions."  
(<http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/0,1518,druck-643193,00.html>)

The New York Times reported that "A group of Iranian clerics has issued an anonymous letter calling Iran's supreme leader a dictator and demanding his removal, the latest and perhaps strongest rhetorical attack on him yet in the country's post-election turmoil. While the impact of the clerics' letter, posted late Saturday on opposition Web sites, may have been diluted by the withholding of their signatures, two Iranian experts vouched for its authenticity. Its publication followed other unusual verbal attacks on the leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, in recent days. Last week a group of former lawmakers issued their own letter calling his qualifications into question. A day earlier, a member of the state body empowered to dismiss Ayatollah Khamenei called for an 'emergency meeting' to address criticisms. The letters do not pose any real threat to Ayatollah Khamenei, who retains the loyalty of the security services and most of the political elite. The clerical establishment is heavily dependent on him, and scarcely any member would dare challenge him openly."  
([http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/17/world/middleeast/17iran.html?\\_r=1&ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/17/world/middleeast/17iran.html?_r=1&ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print))

The AP reported that "The top Hamas leader said he is concerned about the post election turmoil in Iran but does not think it will endanger Tehran's support for the Palestinian militant group. The unrest triggered by the Iranian president's disputed June 12 re-election has consumed the country's leadership, raising questions about whether it can maintain its strong influence in other parts of the Middle East, including through its support for groups like Hamas and Lebanon's Hezbollah. Iran is a top supporter of Hamas, and its leader, Khaled Mashaal, traveled to Tehran in February to thank the government for its backing during Israel's offensive in Gaza, calling it a 'partner in victory.'"  
(<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5iEw0d1zpQ0SiTnTutlLqZZkyrQD9A3G8D00>)

The AP reported that "The new head of Iran's judiciary suggested on Monday that he would prosecute security agents accused of torture in the postelection crackdown, a nod from the country's conservative leadership to widespread anger to reports that jailed protesters were abused. Sadeq Larijani was sworn in as head of the powerful judiciary on Monday after being named to the post by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The appointment could be a sign of how the supreme leader is seeking to balance among factions within the conservative camp, which has seen angry feuds between supporters and critics of hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad."  
(<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5ixeFBxFLzaSjs8Mb8cuFmtPOT6-wD9A4JTDG1>)

The New York Times reported that "The Iranian opposition leader Mir Hussein Moussavi announced the formation of a new social and political movement on his Web site on Saturday, following through on a promise made last month and defying a renewed government campaign of intimidation aimed at him and his supporters. The movement is not a political party - which would require a government permit - but a 'grass-roots and social network' that will promote democracy and adherence to the law, Mr. Moussavi wrote in a statement on his site. It is to be known as the Green Way of Hope, in deference to the signature bright green color of his campaign for the June 12 presidential election, which he maintains was rigged in favor of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad."  
(<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/16/world/middleeast/16iran.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print>)

Reuters reported that "President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said on Sunday he would propose at least three female ministers in his new cabinet following Iran's disputed election, an unprecedented move in the conservative Islamic state. The hard-liner also said the West must be held to account for stoking unrest in Iran after the June 12 presidential vote, as the third mass trial of demonstrators accused of trying to overthrow clerical rule began. The election and its aftermath have plunged Iran into its biggest internal crisis since the 1979 Islamic revolution, exposing deepening divisions within its ruling elite and also further straining relations with the West. In another development, Iran freed on bail a French teaching assistant charged with spying, France said." (<http://www.reuters.com/article/topNews/idUSHOS62783420090816>)

AFP reported that "US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton renewed calls Saturday for Iran to immediately release all US citizens held in the Islamic republic. In a statement Clinton pointed to five cases: the three Americans who hiked into Iran from Iraq in late July; a US-Iranian scholar; and a private detective and former FBI agent who went missing in Iran in 2007. Washington 'is deeply concerned about the welfare of our American citizens who have been detained or are missing in Iran,' Clinton said. 'We once again urge Iran's leadership to quickly resolve all outstanding American citizen cases.'"  
([http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5ixMgQF7yXbXULS\\_P\\_MlJddqCJxgQ](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5ixMgQF7yXbXULS_P_MlJddqCJxgQ))

Reuters reported that "Iran's oil minister on Sunday shrugged off the impact of any Western sanctions targeting the country's gasoline imports, saying all necessary measures had been taken to meet its needs for the fuel. Iran is the world's fifth-largest crude exporter but its refineries lack the capacity to meet domestic fuel demand so it imports up to 40 percent of its gasoline supplies. The U.S. and its allies may target those imports if Tehran refuses to enter talks over its nuclear program. The West suspects Iran aims to make nuclear bombs, while Tehran insists it needs fuel for power plants."

<http://in.reuters.com/article/oilRpt/idINDAH65327320090816>)

Reuters reported that "Iran has temporarily closed down the newspaper of leading reformist Mehdi Karoubi, who angered hardliners by saying some opposition protesters had been raped in jail, the website of his party said. Tehran prosecutor Saeed Mortazavi denied that the Etemad-e Melli daily, which together with the party website offers a way for Karoubi to reach his supporters, had been banned, Mehr News Agency reported." (<http://www.reuters.com/article/GCA-Iran/idUSTRE57G0Q120090817>)

The Washington Post reported that "Iranian authorities put on trial Sunday a group of demonstrators who said they were directed by campaign officials of defeated presidential candidate Mir Hussein Mousavi to destroy public property in the chaotic aftermath of the June 12 elections. The arrested demonstrators made their statements, which could become part of a case against Mousavi if he is arrested, in the third session of a mass trial of politicians, journalists and academics. There has been widespread criticism of the confessions, which many government opponents say are coerced. 'The main goal of the recent trials is aimed at proving a baseless illusion,' Mousavi said on Saturday during a meeting with doctors, the ILNA news agency reported. He said that the 'basic rights' of the defendants were violated during the trial. Unlike at other sessions, some attorneys were present on Sunday." ([http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/08/16/AR2009081600274\\_pf.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/08/16/AR2009081600274_pf.html))

AFP reported that "Defeated Iranian presidential candidate Mehdi Karroubi said on Sunday that he would only withdraw his accusations that some people detained during post-election protests have been raped or tortured in custody once they have been fully investigated. 'They (the authorities) have created such an atmosphere that nobody dares to speak out,' Karroubi said in a statement posted on his party's Etemad Melli website. 'But I say again that this behavior and intimidation will not silence me and I will raise the issues I deem necessary. I will only shut up when all the dimensions of these incidents have been examined and the people are told the truth.'" ([http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5h96nH8dxYaTrOmQ0wzfFY7x4\\_org](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5h96nH8dxYaTrOmQ0wzfFY7x4_org))

The Washington Times reported that "Three decades ago, Moshen Sazegara quit his studies at the University of Illinois to join Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's return from exile to lead Iran's Islamic revolution. A close aide to Ayatollah Khomeini, Mr. Sazegara was a founder of Iran's Revolutionary Guard, but an eventual falling-out with the clerical regime sent him back to the United States as an exile. Today, he has become a global leader for Iranian dissidents who have risen up in opposition to President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and the clerics who have endorsed his disputed re-election. Mr. Sazegara's image now appears on many Iranians' computer screens every day, all over the world, against a green background seared with a V for victory sign." (<http://www.washtimes.com/news/2009/aug/17/khomeini-ally-now-leads-iran-dissidents/>)

The Guardian reported that "He may have failed to wrest the presidency from Mahmoud Ahmadinejad but Mir Hossein Mousavi at least has the satisfaction of knowing his wife has helped bring an unexpected political concession from his main rival. Zahra Rahnavard's appearance at her husband's side throughout his campaign highlighted the issue of women's rights in Iran and wooed many female voters to Mousavi's side. Never before in the Islamic republic's 30-year history had a woman played such a high-profile political role, prompting some to compare Rahnavard - a sculptor and respected academic - with Michelle Obama. Now her lasting impact has galvanized Ahmadinejad into a radical move that risks alienating his most religiously devout supporters. In announcing his intention to appoint three women cabinet members - including Fatemeh Ajorlou as social welfare minister and Marzieh Vahid Dastjerdi as health minister - Ahmadinejad trumped the campaign pledges of his two other election rivals, Mehdi Karroubi and Mohsen Rezai, who each said they would appoint the country's first female cabinet minister since the 1979 revolution." (<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/aug/16/zahra-rahnavard-mousavi-women-iran>)

The LA Times reported that "President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad today named a hard-line loyalist with strong ties to the Revolutionary Guard and the pro-government Basiji militia to oversee the country's vast intelligence infrastructure. Ahmadinejad also blamed the West for the unrest following his disputed reelection as a third batch of his opponents was hauled into a courtroom to confess to plotting against the state. 'You have openly meddled in Iran's domestic affairs,' he said in a televised speech to religious scholars. 'With your immature thoughts you believed you could damage the establishment of the Islamic Republic. But the Iranian nation does not care about you. The noise that you are creating in the world is not a sign of your strength but of your weakness and downfall.'" (<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fgw-iran-protest17-2009aug17,0,1881199.story>)

The LA Times reported that "Rival camps within Iran's corridors of power intensified their threats against each other Friday, signaling potentially dangerous clashes within elite circles and the security establishment after the disputed June 12 reelection of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Hard-line clerics close to Ahmadinejad called for prominent reformist Mehdi Karroubi, a former speaker of parliament and a presidential candidate, to stand trial for making allegations of jailhouse rape and torture in the country's detention centers. On the opposing side, a group of former reformist lawmakers issued a letter late Thursday demanding that Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, be investigated by the Assembly of Experts, clerics who have the power to replace the supreme leader, in relation to the election's violent aftermath." (<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-iran-challenges15-2009aug15,0,2622663.story>)

The LA Times reported that "A Cal State Northridge graduate student who was briefly imprisoned in Iran while working on her master's thesis on women's rights and then prohibited from leaving the country for nine months returned this week to Los Angeles, school officials said Thursday. Esha Momeni, 29, arrived at Los Angeles International Airport on Tuesday and was greeted by friends and family." (<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-eshah15-2009aug15,0,4260822.story>)

The Media Line reported that "60 prominent international lawyers led by a former Canadian justice minister have called for Iran to face international punishment for incitement to genocide - a breach of international law. Professor Irwin Cotler, a member of the Canadian parliament for the Liberal party and a former justice minister, said the repeated calls for Israel's destruction from Iranian leaders were a crime recognized by the 1948 Genocide Convention. Cotler, who has also introduced legislation in the Canadian parliament to place sanctions on Iran, told The Media Line that the international community had a duty to use legal measures to stop genocide and not to repeat the inaction that allowed massacres to occur in the Balkans, Darfur and Rwanda." ([http://www.themedialine.org/news/news\\_detail.asp?NewsID=26179](http://www.themedialine.org/news/news_detail.asp?NewsID=26179))

Benjamin Weinthal wrote in Monday's The New Republic that "To confront Iran, the United States must first confront Europe--and more specifically, the continent's powerful business lobby. This confrontation will come into focus in the next months. As Iran refuses Barack Obama's open-handed offer of engagement, the administration will turn towards sanctioning the Islamic Republic. And while there are surely ways in which the United States can tighten the economic screws on the Mullahs, it is Europe that has a much livelier trading relationship with Iran. In fact, Iran is far more economically dependent on Europe than even China and Russia. Last year, the European Union did 14.1 billion euro worth of trade with Iran. It imports nearly four percent of its energy from Iran--a number that will mushroom thanks to the presence of companies like Royal Dutch Shell, France's Total, and Norway's Hydro-Statoil, all of whom presumably appreciate the extent of the country's vast oil and gas reserves." ([http://www.tnr.com/story\\_print.html?id=3c67cacb-d273-4ff8-a5ef-98f57b5a831c](http://www.tnr.com/story_print.html?id=3c67cacb-d273-4ff8-a5ef-98f57b5a831c))

Alexander Benard wrote in Saturday's Wall Street Journal that "Since the rigged presidential election, Tehran has continued its ruthless crackdown on political dissent. The regime initiated mass trials against more than 100 people associated with the post-election protests. Convictions would carry a death sentence. Other members of the opposition have already been imprisoned, tortured and forced to provide false confessions that they were acting as foreign spies. All of this comes on the heels of the violent suppression of the massive protests that left at least 26 people dead." (<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203863204574346741590956518.html>)

Robin Wright wrote in Monday's Time.com that "The brothers Larijani - often referred to as the Kennedys of Iran - are emerging as a powerful

counterweight to President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad from within the conservative camp. And unlike other Ahmadinejad rivals, the Larijanis are fully endorsed by Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei...In that capacity, Larijani was the lead negotiator with the international community on Iran's disputed nuclear program. Although he took a tough line on Iran's right to enrich uranium as part of its energy program, he was also interested in a deal that would prevent deepening Iran's isolation, according to diplomats involved in the talks. But Ali Larijani often found himself at odds with Ahmadinejad's inflammatory rhetoric, and finally quit in 2007, underscoring the political divide even among the conservatives."  
(<http://www.time.com/time/printout/0.8816.1916828.00.html>)

Meir Javedanfar wrote in Monday's Real Clear World that "Moscow supports Ahmadinejad because an isolated Iran works to its advantage. As long as Iran remains a pariah state, Moscow can use Iran's isolation to sell them their outdated jets and secondhand products, which other countries would not buy from them. This theory has its merits. According to BBC Persian, Russia's exports to Iran since 2006 have more than doubled from \$864 million to \$2.5 billion in 2008. Moscow's ties to Tehran's hardliners balances out Washington in the region... In fact, demonstrating a more pragmatic influence over Iran would likely enable Russia to calm jittery nerves in some European capitals...Maintaining a balanced approach regarding Iran could in the long run reduce the political risk associated with buying Russian gas...Should U.S. negotiations with Iran fail, strengthened relations with Russia over the Iranian question could make it easier for the U.S. to convince the Security Council to impose tougher sanctions."

([http://www.realclearworld.com/printpage/?url=http://www.realclearworld.com/articles/2009/08/17/russia\\_must\\_reassess\\_its\\_iran\\_policy\\_97064.html](http://www.realclearworld.com/printpage/?url=http://www.realclearworld.com/articles/2009/08/17/russia_must_reassess_its_iran_policy_97064.html))

Mehdi Khalaji on Saturday wrote for the Washington Institute that "Iran's judiciary -- under the watchful eye of Iran's top leader -- has a great deal of power to shape the country's legal system and environment. Sadeq Larijani's ties to the IRGC and intelligence agencies provide ample reason to believe that he will use his new powers to crack down even further on human rights and civil liberties than did his predecessors. Moreover, Larijani's appointment signals that the judiciary, the IRGC, and the intelligence agencies will be more closely aligned than ever. Presumably, this state of affairs indicates that traditional ayatollahs deeply trained in Islamic law -- but who are not members of the intelligence-military-political circles -- will have a lesser role in government in years to come. Given the unstable situation in postelection Iran, such a scenario could be a recipe for continued and ongoing chaos."

([http://www.realclearworld.com/articles/2009/08/15/militarization\\_of\\_the\\_iranian\\_judiciary\\_97060.html](http://www.realclearworld.com/articles/2009/08/15/militarization_of_the_iranian_judiciary_97060.html))

Asieh Mir wrote in Friday's Washington Times that "Adding to that are high inflation and a huge budget deficit resulting from the drop in oil prices. The dilapidated economy will prove to be the regime's Achilles' heel. With the severe political and economic crises on his hands, Mr. Ahmadinejad will not survive for long. The new situation in Iran is the worst-case scenario for him. He has lost his legitimacy among Iranian citizens; he is losing support in his own camp; and he is disgraced internationally. His persistent mismanagement of a crumbling economy with oil prices much lower than previous years work hand in hand to pull him down even without the help of external forces."

(<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2009/aug/14/a-bumpy-road-for-ahmadinejad/>)

Oxford Analytica wrote in Monday's Forbes that "Any major drop in world oil prices from current levels (for example, to \$30 to \$40 dollars from \$70), coupled with the emptying of the Oil Stabilization Fund would quickly undermine the government's capacity to maintain both expenditure and foreign currency reserves, which seem to have held up so far). That would force Ahmadinejad to rein in spending or risk a collapse of the rial, especially if there were signs of problems repaying foreign debt." (<http://www.forbes.com/2009/08/14/iran-sanctions-populism-business-oxford.html>)

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The prospect of a nuclear-armed Iran should concern every American and be unacceptable to the community of nations. Since 1979 the Iranian regime, most recently under President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's leadership, has demonstrated increasingly threatening behavior and rhetoric toward the US and the West. Iran continues to defy the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the United Nations in their attempts to monitor its nuclear activities. A number of Arab states have warned that Iran's development of nuclear weapons poses a threat to Middle East stability and could provoke a regional nuclear arms race. In short, the prospect of a nuclear armed Iran is a danger to world peace.

United Against Nuclear Iran (UANI) is a non-partisan, broad-based coalition that is united in a commitment to prevent Iran from fulfilling its ambition to become a regional super-power possessing nuclear weapons. UANI is an issue-based coalition in which each coalition member will have its own interests as well as the collective goal of advancing an Iran free of nuclear weapons.

The Objectives of United Against a Nuclear Iran

1. Inform the public about the nature of the Iranian regime, including its desire and intent to possess nuclear weapons, as well as Iran's role as a state sponsor of global terrorism, and a major violator of human rights at home and abroad;
2. Heighten awareness nationally and internationally about the danger that a nuclear armed Iran poses to the region and the world;
3. Mobilize public support, utilize media outreach, and persuade our elected leaders to voice a robust and united American opposition to a nuclear Iran;
4. Lay the groundwork for effective US policies in coordination with European and other allies;
5. Persuade the regime in Tehran to desist from its quest for nuclear weapons, while striving not to punish the Iranian people, and;
6. Promote efforts that focus on vigorous national and international, social, economic, political and diplomatic measures.

UANI is led by an advisory board of outstanding national figures representing all sectors of our country.

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