

THE BIDEN-HARRIS ADMINISTRATION'S FAILED APPROACH TO IRAN HAS DEVASTATING CONSEQUENCES

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Did you know...?

In July 2023, the Biden-Harris State Department allowed Iran to access **\$10 billion** through a sanctions waiver as long as it is used for “humanitarian” reasons. Iran’s oil export program is allowed to run unsanctioned by the Biden-Harris administration, **yielding billions of funds** for the Islamic Republic to fund militias across the region.

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The Biden-Harris administration’s handling of the war in Gaza and the Iran-backed Hamas has **caused unrest among the Democratic Party’s left wing**, resulting in the president having to “acknowledge” their concerns and “balance” his policy for political reasons.

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Biden and Harris have **refused to impose significant punitive measures on the IRGC**, which spearheaded the large missile and drone strike against Israel on April 14th.

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Underpinning the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza is Iran, **the world’s largest state sponsor of terrorism**. This reached a crescendo when Iran launched 180 missiles into Israel, about half of which landed within Israel’s borders, with the rest intercepted.

During the current conflict in Gaza, Biden and Harris have come **under pressure from progressives** to support a ceasefire, and has sought to deter Israel from responding to Iran's missile and drone attack.

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The Biden-Harris Administration's Failed Approach To Iran Had Devastating Consequences

Overview

Underpinning the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza is Iran, the world's largest state sponsor of terrorism. This reached a crescendo when Iran directly launched 180 missiles into Israel, about half of which landed within Israel's borders, with the rest intercepted. Iran, which counts Hamas as part of a cadre of proxy terror groups that it sponsors, has been enabled by policies from the Biden-Harris administration.

The Biden-Harris administration chose to appease Iran instead of using aggressive sanctions, allowing the Islamic Republic to access over \$10 billion in previously frozen funds and raise over \$100 billion from oil exports since the Biden-Harris ticket took power in January 2021. This has allowed Iran to destabilize the Middle East and fund its military while building up its nuclear program, to the point where Secretary of State Antony Blinken said earlier this year that Iran was weeks away from the ability to produce nuclear material.

Bowing to pressure from the Democratic Party's left flank, the administration's prior calls for a ceasefire in Gaza and attempts to limit Israel's military actions have raised concerns that such stances emboldened Iran. The Biden-Harris administration's handling of the crisis mirrors the coddling that Iran received from Biden as a U.S. Senator and Vice President.

In September 2023, the Biden-Harris Administration agreed to pay Iran \$6 billion for five hostages, leading to concerns that the money would be used by the regime to fund terrorism abroad. It was a large increase from 2016 when the Obama-Biden administration paid \$1.7 billion for four hostages.

President Biden and Vice President Harris have refused to crack down on oil sanctions evasions by Iran, despite its immense profitability to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), which controls the regime's oil industry. The administration has even lifted sanctions in a bid to revive the failed Iran Deal.

Similarly, last October, the administration failed to take steps to preserve United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231, which prevented missile technology sharing between Russia and Iran. As a Senator, Biden opposed legislation sanctioning Russian businesses selling missile technology to Iran, and Harris appears to be following directly in his footsteps.

After the IRGC conducted its April 14 Iranian drone and missile strike on Israel, the Biden-Harris administration has sought to deter Israel from responding to Iran. As Vice President, he sought to downplay Israel's concerns that the Iran Deal would free up billions in funds for the IRGC.

Not Standing Up For Israel, Allowing Iran To Access Billions

President Biden And Vice President Harris Unfroze \$10 Billion In Funds For Iran In The Name Of Humanitarianism While Sanctioning Israelis.

In July 2023, the Biden-Harris State Department Allowed Iran To Access \$10 Billion Through A Sanctions Waiver As Long As They're Used For "Humanitarian" Reasons.

"On Wednesday we learned the Biden Administration is imposing sanctions on another Israeli while reissuing a sanctions waiver that lets Iran access more than \$10 billion in frozen funds. Its priorities reflect a policy that long ago was overtaken by events. We reported on the \$10 billion in Iraqi energy payments when President Biden unfroze them for Iran's use in July 2023, and again when he extended the sanctions waiver this past November and March. As usual, the Administration misleads that Iran can use the money only on 'humanitarian' goods—as if billions here don't free up billions elsewhere for the world's leading sponsor of terrorism." (The Editorial Board, "Biden Gives Iran Another Sanctions Break,"

[The Wall Street Journal](#), 7/18/24)

When Iran Was Found To Be Using These Funds For Weaponry Instead Of Allowing For Regional Peace, the Biden-Harris State Department Responded With A Strongly Worded Letter. “Biden officials once whispered they were purchasing a pause in Iran’s nuclear activity. We got the opposite. Iran increased its stockpile of highly enriched uranium and stiff-armed inspectors. On Wednesday Axios reported that the Biden Administration sent a letter ‘expressing serious concerns’ that Iran is beginning work on weaponization. That’s the Biden team’s idea of getting tough: Send a strongly worded letter but don’t cut off the billions of dollars. Another hope was that the money would buy regional calm. We got the opposite. Hamas—funded, armed, trained and ordered around by Iran—started a war by murdering 1,200 Israelis, including dozens of Americans.” (The Editorial Board, “Biden Gives Iran Another Sanctions Break,” [The Wall Street Journal](#), 7/18/24)

While Allowing Iran To Develop Weapons That Could Destabilize The Region, The Biden-Harris State Department Sanctioned An Israeli Who Killed A Terrorist, And This Move Was Rebuked Roundly In Israel. “The latest Israeli to be sanctioned by the U.S. is Elor Azaria, a former soldier who in 2016 shot and killed a terrorist who had already been neutralized after stabbing another soldier. Mr. Azaria was tried and convicted in Israel and served his time. That was six years ago. The U.S. now revives the affair for a visa ban on Mr. Azaria and his family. The move was strongly criticized in Israel, including by opposition leader Benny Gantz.” (The Editorial Board, “Biden Gives Iran Another Sanctions Break,” [The Wall Street Journal](#), 7/18/24)

The Biden-Harris Administration Failed To Put Any Real Pressure On Iran’s Nuclear Program, Opting To Not Engage To Help Kamala Harris’ Chances In November.

After The Latest Election, The Ayatollah Suggested Iran Should Re-engage With The U.S. On Nuclear Talks. Biden-Harris Refused. “After the supreme leader of Iran signaled a willingness to return to nuclear negotiations with the United States, the Biden administration cast doubt on the likelihood of resuming talks in the near future...Ayatollah Ali Khamenei gave Iran's newly installed president, reformist Masoud Pezeshkian, the go-ahead to relaunch talks with the U.S. on Tuesday while warning the country's government against putting any trust in Washington.” (Shannon K. Kingston, “Biden administration throws cold water on prospect of renewed Iran nuclear talks,” [ABC News](#), 8/27/24)

- **The Biden-Harris State Department Decided Against Approaching Iran To Help Kamala Harris Win In November.** “The State Department spokesperson said the administration still saw a negotiated solution as the best way to contain Iran's nuclear program, but that Iran's failure to cooperate with the IAEA and its escalatory actions made diplomacy impossible... Members of the administration also largely view the prospect of returning to indirect talks with Iran as a politically unfavorable step that could prove detrimental to Vice President Kamala Harris' and other Democrats' chances at winning in November, several officials told ABC News.” (Shannon K. Kingston, “Biden administration throws cold water on prospect of renewed Iran nuclear talks,” [ABC News](#), 8/27/24)
- **While Pretending To Be A Hawk On The Campaign Trail, Kamala Harris Would Rather Get Back To Negotiating Table To Pass A Deal Similar To The Controversial Obama-Era JCPOA Deal That Allowed Iran To Develop Nukes.** MATTHEWS: “Harris has also promised to take an aggressive approach to curbing Iran's malign influence in the Middle East, but she supported the JCPOA, as well as the current administration's efforts to cut a new deal. However, she has not clearly said whether she would attempt to pick up where Biden left off...officials within his administration say Tehran has made substantial progress toward that [nuclear weapon] goal in recent years.” (Shannon K. Kingston, “Biden administration throws cold water on prospect of renewed Iran nuclear talks,” [ABC News](#), 8/27/24)

In Spite Of Biden-Harris Making A Campaign Promise To Ensure Iran Doesn’t Get A Nuclear Weapon, They Are On The Cusp Of Securing One Thanks To U.S. Relief.

Secretary Of State Antony Blinken Said In July 2024 That Iran Was “One Or Two Weeks” Away From Producing Nuclear Material, Choosing To Blame Collapse Of Obama’s Controversial Iran Deal. “U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken warned on Friday that

Iran could produce fissile nuclear material in ‘one or two weeks’ as the State Department renews a sanctions waiver for Iraq to buy Iranian energy. Critics were quick to blame the Biden administration for enabling Iran to pursue nuclear weapons by allowing the rogue nation to sell its oil. Biden reversed many of former President Trump's tough sanctions against Tehran...Blinken blamed the collapse of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) – commonly known as the Iran Nuclear Deal – for Iran’s accelerated development.” (Peter Aitken, “Iran ‘one to two weeks away’ from weapons-grade nuclear material as US continues sanctions relief,” [Fox News](#), 7/20/24)

The Biden-Harris Hands-Off Approach When It Comes To Iran Has Led To The Islamic Republic’s Proliferation Of Weapons. “Critics, however, argue that it displaces funding requirements for Iran and frees up the country’s spending so that money it would have otherwise put towards those purchase now goes toward funding its proxy groups and developing nuclear weapons... Behnam Ben Taleblu, a senior fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies with a focus on Iranian security and political issues, told Fox News Digital that the Biden administration has remained on ‘auto-pilot’ and pursued ‘short-sighted’ policies when it comes to Iran, at their own peril.” (Peter Aitken, “Iran ‘one to two weeks away’ from weapons-grade nuclear material as US continues sanctions relief,” [Fox News](#), 7/20/24)

Iran’s Oil Export Program Is Allowed To Run Unsanctioned, Yielding Billions Of Funds For The Islamic Republic To Pay For Militias Across The Region.

In April 2024, Iran’s Oil Export Numbers Hit A Six-Year High Due To A Lack Of Enforcement Of Sanctions By The Biden-Harris Administration. “President Trump reimposed energy sanctions on Iran in 2018 when he left the Iran nuclear deal. These sanctions remain in effect, but the Biden administration is failing to enforce them, which has created a financial windfall for Iranian terrorism. Iran’s oil revenue underwrites a war machine that is tearing apart the Middle East. Oil proceeds finance militias in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Bahrain and Yemen. They target and kill American citizens. In January, Iranian proxies killed three American soldiers stationed in Jordan. Hezbollah receives \$700 million a year from Tehran. Iran’s oil supported the Hamas death squads that carried out the Oct. 7 massacre. Among the 1,200 people murdered in Israel, at least 32 were American citizens. The regime’s oil revenue also funds its nuclear program and missile arsenal.” (Brian Hook, “Why Won’t Biden Enforce Sanctions Against Iranian Oil?,” [The Wall Street Journal](#), 5/2/24)

The Biden-Harris Administration Has Allowed Iran To Net Over \$100 Billion, Mostly Thanks To China, In Revenue From Oil Exports Since They Took Power In January 2021. “If the Biden administration is even trying to deter Iran, it is using the wrong tools. There have been meetings, payoffs and side deals—all with the goal of reaching an accommodation with Tehran. Even now, with the Middle East on the verge of a full-scale war, Mr. Biden is asking Iran to come back to the negotiating table to restart talks on a nuclear deal. Reportedly, he would lift economic sanctions in return. Iran is now exporting an average of 1.56 million barrels a day of crude oil, most of it to China. This is a financial bonanza for Tehran, netting the regime up to \$35 billion annually. That’s more than \$100 billion in revenue since Mr. Biden took office in January 2021. Buoyed by these exports, Iran’s pace of economic growth surpassed that of the U.S. in 2023; the International Monetary Fund expects that to happen again in 2024.” (Brian Hook, “Why Won’t Biden Enforce Sanctions Against Iranian Oil?,” [The Wall Street Journal](#), 5/2/24)

Biden And Harris Opted Against Using Successful Strategies To Curtail Iranian Oil Exports To Try To Appease The Islamic Republic, Destabilizing The Region In The Process. “The Trump administration successfully reduced Iran’s exports, which fell from a 2018 high of 2.5 million barrels a day to a low of 70,000 in April 2020... As Iran’s exports nose-dived, we asked our Gulf partners to offset the loss of Iranian oil by increasing their production. The average annual price of Brent crude went down between 2018 and 2019. We balanced national security and economic objectives in a tight energy market. Today, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries has even more spare oil capacity. That gives Mr. Biden ample room to enforce the oil sanctions vigorously. Skeptics have said our sanctions had little effect. That would be news to Iran’s then-President Hassan Rouhani, who complained in late 2019 that U.S. sanctions cost the regime as much as \$200 billion.

That year, Iran cut its military spending by 28%. Iran-backed militias across the Middle East told reporters that Tehran's handouts had dried up." (Brian Hook, "Why Won't Biden Enforce Sanctions Against Iranian Oil?," [The Wall Street Journal](#), 5/2/24)

With The Current Conflict In Gaza, Biden And Harris Have Come Under Pressure From Their Left Wing To Support A Ceasefire, And Has Sought To Deter Israel From Responding To Iran's Missile And Drone Attack

The Biden-Harris Support For A Ceasefire In Gaza Came As Biden Is "Under Enormous Pressure From His Party's Left Wing." "President Joe Biden's demand this week that Israel improve humanitarian conditions in Gaza and support a ceasefire drew sharp attacks both from frustrated political allies who said the U.S. president did not go far enough and opponents who said he went too far. On Thursday in a call with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Biden threatened to condition U.S. support for Israel's offensive in Gaza on its taking concrete steps to protect aid workers and civilians. It was the first time that Biden, a Democrat and a staunch supporter of Israel, has sought to leverage U.S. aid as a way to influence Israeli military behavior. The president has come under enormous pressure from his party's left wing to do more to address the humanitarian catastrophe for Palestinian civilians from Israeli attacks." (Jeff Mason, Doina Chiacu And Patricia Zengerle, "Biden's Israel Shift: Not Enough For Democrats, Too Much For Republicans," [Reuters](#), 4/5/24)

Further, As Israel Is Debating Its Response To The Iranian Attack, The Biden-Harris Administration Has Suggested That An "Israeli Response Was Unnecessary." "Israel has yet to agree how to respond to the Iranian attack over the weekend that saw more than 300 projectiles fired at its territory in the first direct military confrontation between the Islamic Republic and the Jewish state. ... After a nearly three-hour meeting on Monday, Israel's war cabinet remained determined to respond to Iran's attack for what the Islamic Republic says was retaliation to a suspected Israeli strike on an Iranian diplomatic building in Damascus on April 1. ... US President Joe Biden and senior members of his national security team have told their Israeli counterparts the US will not participate in any offensive action against Iran, according to US officials familiar with the matter. Biden sought to frame Israel's successful interception of the Iranian onslaught as a major victory — with the suggestion that further Israeli response was unnecessary." (Nadeen Ebrahim And Jeremy Diamond, "Restraint Or Retribution? Israel Faces Dilemma In Its Response To Iran's Attack," [CNN](#), 4/16/24)

- **Notably, In A July 2009, Appearance On ABC's *This Week*, Biden Suggested That U.S. Would Not Stand In The Way If Israel Decided To Take Military Action Against Iran.** "Plunging into one of the most sensitive issues in the Middle East, Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. suggested over the weekend that the United States would not stand in the way of Israeli military action aimed at Iran's nuclear program. The United States 'cannot dictate to another sovereign nation what they can and cannot do,' Mr. Biden said in an interview broadcast Sunday on the ABC television talk show 'This Week.' 'Israel can determine for itself - it's a sovereign nation - what's in their interest and what they decide to do relative to Iran and anyone else,' he said in an interview taped in Baghdad at the end of a visit there." (Brian Knowlton, "U.S. May Let Israel Target Nuclear Iran, Biden Says," [The New York Times](#), 7/5/09)
- **In April 2006, Biden Said Iran Could Pose An "Existential Threat" To The United States And Israel.** MATTHEWS: "Has Israel sent any administrations to you or anyone on the Hill or anyone in the government that you know of to urge us to take action against Iran at this point?" BIDEN: "Generically, in my last trip to Israel, yes. The Iranians keep talking about this being the greatest existential threat to them and that it is to us they argue." MATTHEWS: "You mean the Israelis? You said the Iranians." BIDEN: "What did I say? I'm sorry, I meant to say Israelis. The Israelis pointing out the Iranians said that this is the last opportunity to stop them from presenting an existential threat to both Israel as well as the United States. They believe it's on a much faster track than we do, than I do. Although I am not -- I have no illusions about the track they're on. And so the -- I'm quite confident that the Iraq -- that the Israelis would like very much to see us take action. Look..." (MSNBC's *Hardball*, 4/13/06)

In 2015, Before Jewish Leaders In Florida, Biden Sought To Downplay The Threat Iran Represented To Israel

In September 2015, Biden Was Tasked With Selling The Iran Nuclear Deal To A Roundtable Of Jewish Community Leaders In Miami, Florida. “His long tenure in Washington -- and his age -- have been cited as possible glitches to a Joe Biden candidacy, but the vice president wholeheartedly embraced those aspects of his biography Thursday, using them as proof he’s judged the Iran deal accurately. Speaking to a roundtable of Jewish community leaders outside Miami, Biden made repeated references to the four decades he’s spent in elected office, most of them in Washington, characterizing himself as a longtime insider on the country’s foreign policy. And he used Soviet-era nuclear deals, the names of which he admitted mean little to younger Americans, to bolster his authority on negotiating with hostile regimes.” (Kevin Liptak, “Joe Biden Plays Up Washington Experience Selling Iran Deal,” [CNN](#), 9/3/15)

- **Biden Was The White House’s “Top Salesperson” For The Iran Deal.** “Biden has been tapped as the White House’s top salesperson for the Iran deal. He began his outreach on Tuesday with personal phone calls to senators.” (Lauren French and Burgess Everett, “Hill Democrats Press Biden For Answers On Iran Deal,” [Politico](#), 7/15/15)
- **2015: Biden: “[The Iran Nuclear Deal] Will Make Us And Israel Safer, Not Weaker.”** (Anthony Man and Brian Ballou, “Joe Biden Pitches Iran Nuclear Deal To Jewish Leaders In South Florida,” [South Florida Sun-Sentinel](#), 9/3/15)

During The Meeting, Biden Downplayed Concerns About Iran’s Overseas Accounts Being Unfrozen, Saying That Iran Needed The Money To Rebuild Infrastructure. “Biden said opposition to the deal is “not an irrational position. And I respect those who after really thoughtful consideration disagree with me or the president.” He said the deal is supported by the vast majority of arms control experts in both parties as well as people who have worked in the Israeli military and intelligence services. He also downplayed opponents’ concerns about the money Iran would get once its overseas accounts are unfrozen. He said it wouldn’t be as much as many think, and the nation’s leaders need to use the money to rebuild the nation’s infrastructure to satisfy the needs of a restless population.” (Anthony Man and Brian Ballou, “Joe Biden Pitches Iran Nuclear Deal To Jewish Leaders In South Florida,” [South Florida Sun-Sentinel](#), 9/3/15)

- **The Daily Beast: “Obama Admin Fears Iran Deal Will Release Billions For Terror Attacks”** (Tim Mak, “Obama Admin Fears Iran Deal Will Release Billions For Terror Attacks,” [The Daily Beast](#), 7/8/15)
- **The Obama Administration Had Previously Expressed Concern The \$100 Billion That The Nuclear Deal Would Free Up For Iran Could Be Used To Finance Terrorism.** “A nuclear agreement with Iran could give Tehran a \$100 billion financial windfall—a sum that even the Obama administration is concerned could be used to finance terrorism against American interests. Iran has billions in assets frozen by an international sanctions regime led by the United States and other world powers. Should a nuclear agreement be reached, as is expected later this week, these assets would be eventually released to the Iranian government.” (Tim Mak, “Obama Admin Fears Iran Deal Will Release Billions For Terror Attacks,” [The Daily Beast](#), 7/8/15)
- **In January 2016, Then-Secretary Of State John Kerry Admitted Some Of The Money Could Go To Terrorism.** “Secretary of State John Kerry acknowledged to CNBC Thursday that some of the money Iran received in sanctions relief would go to groups considered terrorists. When asked about whether some the \$150 billion in sanctions relief to Iran would go to terrorist groups, Kerry reiterated that, after settling debts, Iran would receive closer to \$55 billion. He conceded some of that could go to groups considered terrorists, saying there was nothing the U.S. could do to prevent that. ‘I think that some of it will end up in the hands of the IRGC or other entities, some of which are labeled terrorists,’ he said in the interview in Davos, referring to Iran’s Revolutionary Guard Corps. ‘You know, to some degree, I’m not going to sit here and tell you that every component of that can be prevented.’” (Elise Labott, “John Kerry: Some Sanctions Relief Money For Iran Will Go To Terrorism,” [CNN](#), 1/21/16)

The Israel-Hamas War

The Biden-Harris Administration's Handling Of The War In Gaza And The Iran-Backed Hamas Has Caused Unrest Among The Left Wing, Resulting In The President Having To "Acknowledge" Their Concerns And "Balance" His Policy

"The Fighting Between Israel And Hamas That Started In October Has Weakened Biden's Support With Some Key Constituencies Because He Has Continued To Support Israel's Military Assault..." "President Biden's tightrope on Israel—and his re-election bid—got even more perilous over the weekend as images of hundreds of drones and missiles launched by Iran threatened to escalate the Middle East conflict and push gasoline prices higher. Iran's attack further complicated Biden's political situation not just because of the possibility of a wider war, but because it might embolden Hamas to refuse a cease-fire deal with Israel. The fighting between Israel and Hamas that started in October has weakened Biden's support with some key constituencies because he has continued to support Israel's military assault despite growing numbers of civilian casualties." (John McCormick, "Israel Had Created Enormous Political Trouble For Biden. Then Iran Attacked." [The Wall Street Journal](#), 4/15/24)

- **"Left-Leaning Groups And Anti-War Activists Have Been Voicing Their Fury Or Frustration With Biden..."** "Left-leaning groups and anti-war activists have been voicing their fury or frustration with Biden over his ongoing support for Israel's campaign against Hamas, which has come with a high death toll, largely in Gaza. Protesters have disrupted some of Biden's events and tens of thousands of Democratic primary voters have been encouraged to signal displeasure by backing other ballot options in several states' primaries, including key battlegrounds like Michigan." (Tal Axelrod And Gabriella Abdul-Hakim, "Israel's War In Gaza Became A Political Flashpoint. Will It Risk Biden's Coalition For Reelection?" [ABC News](#), 4/10/24)
- **"Biden Has Acknowledged Those Concerns..."** "Biden has acknowledged those concerns and sought to balance his backing for the fight against Hamas with sympathy for the Palestinians, while criticizing some Israeli operations as excessive. He has also amped up pressure on Israel to allow more humanitarian aid to enter Gaza – in particular, after the death of seven aid workers with the World Central Kitchen last week in an Israeli strike." (Tal Axelrod And Gabriella Abdul-Hakim, "Israel's War In Gaza Became A Political Flashpoint. Will It Risk Biden's Coalition For Reelection?" [ABC News](#), 4/10/24)

"A CBS News/YouGov Poll Released Sunday That Was Conducted Before Iran's Attacks Showed Just A Third Of American Adults Approve Of Biden's Handling Of The Israel-Hamas Conflict, Down 5 Percentage Points Since February." (John McCormick, "Israel Had Created Enormous Political Trouble for Biden. Then Iran Attacked." [The Wall Street Journal](#), 4/15/24)

Council On Foreign Relations: "Today, Iran Is One Of Hamas's Biggest Benefactors, Contributing Funds, Weapons, And Training." ("What Is Hamas?" [Council On Foreign Relations](#), 4/18/24)

Affinity For Ransom Payments

In September 2023, The Biden-Harris Administration Was Widely Criticized For Agreeing To Pay \$6 Billion In Fungible Money, That Could Be Used To Fund Terrorism, To Iran In Exchange For Five Hostages

In September 2023, President Biden Agreed To Unfreeze \$6 Billion In Iranian Funds In Exchange For The Release Of Five U.S. Hostages. "As the Biden administration heralds the forthcoming release of five U.S. citizens detained by Iran, President Joe Biden is also confronting questions about the price being paid to bring them — and other detainees — home. The billions of dollars being unfrozen for Iran and the release of five prisoners charged in America are just the latest sizable concessions by the U.S. government in the name of securing the freedom of wrongfully detained Americans. In the past year alone, a notorious arms dealer was exchanged for a WNBA star imprisoned in Russia on a minor drug offense and a major drug lord was traded for a civilian contractor held by the Taliban. And though the U.S. doesn't control the \$6 billion in Iranian funds, it's removing a critical obstacle to their release as the main price for the homecoming of five American

citizens, giving Iran a much-needed boost for its struggling economy. (Eric Tucker, "A New Iran Deal Shows The Biden Administration Is Willing To Pay A Big Price To Free Americans," [The Associated Press](#), 9/15/23)

“Critics Of The White House’s Decision To Give Iran Access To The \$6 Billion Have Said That The Money Is Fungible And That Any Funds Iran Receives, Regardless Of Whether They Are For Humanitarian Assistance, Would Free Up More Money For It To Fund Terrorism.” (Monica Alba, Elyse Perlmutter-Gumbiner And Katherine Doyle, “U.S. And Qatar Agree Not To Release Iran's \$6B,” [NBC News](#), 10/12/23)

The Biden Administration Only Stopped The Payment After Hamas’ Attack On Israel In October 2023. “The U.S. and Qatar have reached an agreement to prevent Iran from accessing \$6 billion recently unfrozen as part of a prisoner swap, the deputy treasury secretary told lawmakers on Thursday, sources confirmed to ABC News. The agreement comes as the U.S. is scrutinizing Iran's role in backing Hamas, the terrorist group behind the unprecedented attacks on Israel over the weekend. Though the Biden administration said there's been no evidence that Iran played a direct role in the assault, the White House has said Iran is complicit given its decades of support for Hamas.” (Mary Bruce, Rachel Scott, Elizabeth Schulze, Benjamin Siegel, and Molly Nagle, “US, Qatar Agree To Prevent Iran From Tapping Previously Frozen \$6 Billion Fund,” [ABC News](#), 10/12/23)

The Agreement Drew Parallels From 2016, When The Obama-Biden Administration Agreed To Pay \$1.7 Billion For Four Hostages, Including \$400 Million That Was Delivered In Cash

In August 2016, It Was Revealed The Obama-Biden Administration Agreed To Pay Iran A \$400 Million Down Payment For Four Hostages. “The Obama administration secretly organized an airlift of \$400 million worth of cash to Iran that coincided with the January release of four Americans detained in Tehran, according to U.S. and European officials and congressional staff briefed on the operation afterward. Wooden pallets stacked with euros, Swiss francs and other currencies were flown into Iran on an unmarked cargo plane, according to these officials. The U.S. procured the money from the central banks of the Netherlands and Switzerland, they said.” (Jay Solomon and Carol E. Lee, “U.S. Sent Cash to Iran as Americans Were Freed,” [The Wall Street Journal](#), 8/3/16)

- **The \$400 Million Was “The First Installment” On A \$1.7 Billion Payment.** “The money represented the first installment of a \$1.7 billion settlement the Obama administration reached with Iran to resolve a decades-old dispute over a failed arms deal signed just before the 1979 fall of Iran’s last monarch, Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.” (Jay Solomon and Carol E. Lee, “U.S. Sent Cash to Iran as Americans Were Freed,” [The Wall Street Journal](#), 8/3/16)
- **“Mr. Obama Said On Aug. 4 The Payment Had To Be In Cash Because The U.S. And Iran Have No Banking Relationship, Eliminating The Possibility Of A Check Or Wire Transfer.”** (Jay Solomon And Carol E. Lee, “U.S. Held Cash Until Iran Freed Prisoners,” [The Wall Street Journal](#), 8/17/16)
- **According To News Reports, Iran Received The \$400 Million On January 17, 2016, The Same Day It Freed 4 Americans, And The U.S. Freed 7 Iranians And Dropped Extradition Requests For 14 Others.** “On the morning of Jan. 17, Iran released the four Americans: Three of them boarded a Swiss Air Force jet and flew off to Geneva, with the fourth returning to the U.S. on his own. In return, the U.S. freed seven Iranian citizens and dropped extradition requests for 14 others. U.S. and European officials wouldn’t disclose exactly when the plane carrying the \$400 million landed in Iran. But a report by an Iranian news site close to the Revolutionary Guard, the Tasnim agency, said the cash arrived in Tehran’s Mehrabad airport on the same day the Americans departed.” (Jay Solomon and Carol Lee, “U.S. Sent Cash To Iran As Americans Were Freed,” [The Wall Street Journal](#), 8/3/16)
- **The Payments Were Made Through Pallets Filled With Cash That Were Then Put On An Iranian Cargo Plane Organized By Executives Of Iran Air, “Iran’s Flagship Carrier.”** “The use of an Iranian cargo plane to move pallets filled with \$400 million brings clarity to one of the mysteries surrounding the cash delivery to Iran first reported by The Wall

Street Journal this month. Administration officials have refused to publicly disclose how and when the transfer took place. Executives from Iran's flagship carrier, Iran Air, organized the flight from Tehran to Geneva where the cash—euros and Swiss francs and other currencies—was loaded onto the aircraft, these people said.” (Jay Solomon and Carol Lee, “U.S. Held Cash Until Iran Freed Prisoners,” [The Wall Street Journal](#), 8/18/16)

Biden Even Once Declared That Iran Should Receive A \$200 Million Check, “No Strings Attached,” As A Measure Of Goodwill

2001: Biden: “Seems To Me This Would Be A Good Time To Send, No Strings Attached, A Check For \$200 Million To Iran.” “At the Tuesday-morning meeting with committee staffers, Biden launches into a stream-of-consciousness monologue about what his committee should be doing, before he finally admits the obvious: ‘I’m groping here.’ Then he hits on an idea: America needs to show the Arab world that we’re not bent on its destruction. ‘Seems to me this would be a good time to send, no strings attached, a check for \$200 million to Iran’ Biden declares. He surveys the table with raised eyebrows, a How do ya like that? look on his face.” (Michael Crowley, “Rhetorical Question,” [The New Republic](#), 10/22/01)

Soft On The IRGC

Biden And Harris Have Refused To Impose Real Punitive Measures On The IRGC, Who Was Responsible For The April 14 Missile And Drone Strike Against Israel

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard (IRGC) Was Responsible For The Large Missile And Drone Strike Made Against Israel On April 14. “Air raid sirens and loud booms sounded across Israel Saturday evening after Iran launched a barrage of missiles and drones at the country in a retaliatory attack, but Israeli officials said the assault was almost entirely thwarted by air defense systems and with the help of the U.S. and Israel's other allies. More than 300 missiles and drones were fired from Iran toward Israel, Israel Defense Forces spokesperson Daniel Hagari said. ... In a statement, the IRGC said Iran had ‘launched a punitive strike against the occupied territories,’ referring to Israel. It acknowledged an operation involving ‘the use of both missiles and drones.’ (Faris Tanyos, Cara Tabachnick, and Tucker Reals, “Israel Says Iran's Missile And Drone Attack Largely Thwarted, With ‘Very Little Damage’ Caused,” [CBS News](#), 4/14/24)

According To The Center For Strategic And International Studies (CSIS), The IRGC Is “The Most Powerful Controller Of All Important Economic Sectors Across Iran” Including Oil. “The IRGC has become the most powerful controller of all important economic sectors across Iran. ... This strong Iranian economic performance occurred at a time when the IRGC had growing economic power – so much so that some western sources estimated the extent of the economy controlled by the IRGC to be around one to two thirds of Iran’s GDP – which further contributed to the IRGC’s economic influence. American sanctions did not shrink the influence of the IRGC. Instead, they effectively increased its power as the IRGC created dozens of companies to act as fronts to circumvent the sanctions by engaging in activities such as smuggling oil and other resources to ultimately channel the proceeds back to the IRGC’s budget. The IRGC now owns businesses in the oil and gas sectors, as well as land, marine, and air transportation.” (Munqith Dagher, “The Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) From An Iraqi View – A Lost Role Or A Bright Future?” [CSIS](#), 7/30/20)

Since The Attack, The Biden Administration, Already Widely Criticized For Not Adequately Enforcing Oil Sanctions Against Iran, Has Refused To Cut The Regime’s “Oil Lifeline.” “Iran's unprecedented missile and drone strike on Israel is unlikely to prompt dramatic sanctions action on Iran's oil exports from the Biden administration due to worries about boosting oil prices and angering top buyer China, said analysts. Shortly after Tehran launched its weekend attack - retaliation for Israel's suspected April 1 strike on the Iranian consulate in Damascus - House Republican leaders accused President Joe Biden of failing to enforce existing measures and said they would take up this week a series of bills to sharpen sanctions on Iran.” (Arshad Mohammed, Timothy Gardner, and Michael Martina, “Biden Unlikely To Cut Iran's Oil Lifeline After Israel Attack,” [Reuters](#), 4/16/24)

- **The Wall Street Journal Editorial Board: “Relaxed U.S. Enforcement Of Oil Sanctions Continued Through October, Refilling Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei’s Coffers Even After The Oct. 7 Slaughter And The More Than 40 Attacks On U.S. Troops By Iran’s Proxies In The Weeks Since.”** (“Editorial, “Biden Keeps the Billions Flowing to Iran,” [The Wall Street Journal](#), 11/10/23)

In June 2021, The Biden-Harris Administration Lifted Sanctions On The National Iranian Oil Company. “The Biden administration lifted sanctions on three former Iranian officials and several energy companies amid stalled nuclear negotiations, signaling Washington’s willingness to further ease economic pressure on Iran if the country changes course. The U.S. Treasury Department on Thursday repealed sanctions on former senior National Iranian Oil Co. officials and several companies involved in shipping and trading petrochemical products. The administration described the moves as routine administrative actions, saying the officials were removed from U.S. blacklists because they no longer held positions in the sanctioned entities.” (Ian Talley, “U.S. Lifts Some Iran Sanctions Amid Stalled Nuclear Talks,” [The Wall Street Journal](#), 6/10/21)

- **The Treasury Department Has Determined That NIOC “Is An Agent Or Affiliate Of The IRGC.”** “Section 312 of the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (ITRSHRA) requires the Secretary of the Treasury to determine whether the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) or the National Iranian Tanker Company (NITC) is an agent or affiliate of Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). Today, the Department of the Treasury submitted its report to Congress, as required by Section 312, informing the Congress that the Department of the Treasury has determined that NIOC is an agent or affiliate of the IRGC and that, at this time, there is insufficient information to determine whether NITC is an agent or affiliate of the IRGC.” (“Treasury Report on NIOC and NITC,” [U.S. Virtual Embassy Iran](#))

In 2007, Biden Called Efforts To Declare The IRGC A Terrorist Organization A “Serious, Serious Mistake”

VIDEO: 2007: Biden: “We Had A Vote In The United States Senate On Declaring The [IRGC’s] Qods Force -- Their Special Forces -- And The Revolutionary Guard To Be A Terrorist Organization... It’s A Serious, Serious Mistake Because What It Does, It Was Completely Counterproductive.” Biden: “We had a vote in the United States Senate on declaring the Qods Force -- their special forces -- and the Revolutionary Guard to be a terrorist organization. A lot of people voted for that; 70 some voted for it. It’s a serious, serious mistake because what it does, it was completely counterproductive. What it did was, ma’am, what it did was it convinced the rest of the Muslim world this is really a war against Islam and not a war in Iraq.” (Joe Biden, CNN/Nevada Democrat Party Democrat Presidential Candidate Debate, Las Vegas, NV, 11/5/07)

On September 26, 2007, Biden Voted Against The Kyl-Lieberman Amendment Designating Iran’s Revolutionary Guards Corps A Terrorist Organization. “The Kyl amendment would express the sense of the Senate that it is in the critical national interest of the United States to prevent the government of Iran from turning Shiite militia extremists in Iraq into a Hezbollah-like force that could serve its interests inside Iraq. It also would express that the United States should designate Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps as a foreign terrorist organization.” (H.R. 1585, [Roll Call Vote #349](#); Adopted 76-22; R 46-2; D 29-19; I 1-1, 9/26/07, Biden Voted Nay)

VIDEO: In December 2007, Biden Criticized U.S. Senators Who Voted To Declare The Quds Force And The Iranian Revolutionary Guard A Terrorist Organization. BIDEN: “United States Senators running for president vote to declare the Quds Force and the Iranian Revolutionary Guard a terrorist organization, further ratcheting up this, raising the price of oil over 20 dollars a barrel. I mean, this is the most self-defeating thing I could think of a president to engage in now. Not when I’m president, now. Now.” (Joe Biden, [Remarks To WHO-NBC](#), Iowa, Uploaded 12/4/07) Minute 3:21-3:44

Biden’s Underestimation Of The IRGC, As Well As A Predilection For Lax Enforcement Of Sanctions Against The Regime, Are A Long Part Of His Track Record

AUDIO: 2007: Biden: “Iran Is Not A Nuclear Threat To The United States Of America.”

BIDEN: “With all due respect with anybody who thinks that pressure brought this about, let's get this straight. In 2003, they stopped their program. You cannot trust this president. He is not trustworthy. He has undermined our security in the region. He has undermined our credibility in the world. He has made it more difficult to get cooperation from the rest of the world. He has caused oil to go up roughly \$25 a barrel with a security premium because of his threat of war. It is outrageous, intolerable, and it must stop. The president of the United States — it was like watching a rerun of his statement on Iraq five years earlier. This — Iran is not a nuclear threat to the United States of America. Iran should be dealt with directly with the rest of the world at our side, but we've made it more difficult now because who is going to trust us? Who in Europe, who in China, who in Russia? It's outrageous.” (Joe Biden, [NPR Democrat Presidential Candidates Debate](#), Des Moines, IA, 12/4/07)

In 2002, Biden Suggested That The U.S. Ease Restrictions On Iran. “To help change the status quo, Biden suggested the president relax US sanctions on Iran to permit American nongovernmental organizations to financially support ‘democracy-building’ activities in Iran. ‘It is unfortunate that it is our own government, not hardline clerics in Tehran, that have prevented practitioners of democracy in America from aiding their struggling counterparts in Iran,’ he said.” (Maureen Lorenzett, “Oil Industry Sees Mixed Signals On US Iran Policy,” *Oil & Gas Journal*, 4/1/02)

VIDEO: 2002: Biden: “I Believe That An Improved Relationship With Iran Is In The Naked Self-Interest Of The United States Of America.” (Joe Biden, [Remarks At American Iranian Council's “Prospects For Progress: America And Iran After 9-11,”](#) Washington, DC, 3/13/02)

Soft On Russia

The Biden-Harris Administration Let U.N. Security Council Resolution 2231 Expire In October 2023; UNSCR 2231 Was Responsible For Restricting Missile Technology Sharing Between Russia And Iran

The Biden Administration Had Multiple Ways To Prevent UNSCR 2231 But Did Not Act.

“The Hamas war against Israel is slated to be given a potent shot in the arm if the U.S. and its European allies allow U.N. sanctions to be lifted on Iran’s capability to purchase and supply missiles to enemies of the U.S. and Israel, according to experts on Tehran. ... The Biden administration would have multiple pathways to try stopping the sanctions from expiring. U.N. Security Council Resolution 2231 states unequivocally that the U.S. is a partner to the resolution that endorsed the JCPOA; the Trump administration previously cited the resolution in its push to trigger snapback sanctions. In addition, the administration could endorse a potential letter from the EU3 -- made up of the U.K., France and Germany -- to the president of the Security Council to invoke snapback, though it's not believed that such a move from the Europeans is on the table.” (Benjamin Weinthal, “Biden Admin Set To Allow Iran UN Sanctions On Ballistic Missile Program To Expire: ‘Huge Victory For Tehran,’” [Fox News](#), 10/17/23)

- **The Biden Administration Chose Not To Trigger Snapback Sanctions.** “President Obama assured Americans that he could trigger so-called snapback sanctions in response to Iranian noncompliance. With the help of the U.K., France or Germany, the Biden Administration could have done that to avoid the sunset and reimpose sanctions. Over the summer these nations decided not to do so. The goal was to avoid an escalation that might disrupt U.S. diplomacy with Iran.” (Editorial, “So Much For The Embargo On Iran’s Missiles,” [The Wall Street Journal](#), 10/23/23)
- **Instead, They Those To Substitute Their Own Missile Sanctions, Ignoring That Existing Sanctions Already Weren’t Being Enforced.** “Instead, the U.S. and its allies have imposed their own missile sanctions—a poor substitute. Since European sanctions aren’t enforced extraterritorially, the entire global enforcement burden now falls on America. Yet U.S. export-control agencies are understaffed and the Biden Administration is declining to enforce oil sanctions. It isn’t credible.” (Editorial, “So Much For The Embargo On Iran’s Missiles,” [The Wall Street Journal](#), 10/23/23)

After UNSCR 2231 Expired, Russia Proclaimed It “No Longer Need Obey U.N. Security Council Restrictions On Giving Missile Technology To Its Ally Iran.” “Russia said it need no

longer obey U.N. Security Council restrictions on giving missile technology to its ally Iran once they expire on Wednesday, without saying whether it now planned to support Tehran's missile development. "Supplies to and from Iran of products falling under the Missile Technology Control Regime no longer require prior approval by the U.N. Security Council," Russia's foreign ministry said in a statement on Tuesday. The restrictions were defined in Resolution 2231 of 2015 endorsing a deal by which Britain, China, the European Union, France, Germany, Russia and the U.S. removed sanctions against Iran in return for Tehran curbing its nuclear programme." (Kevin Liffey, "Russia Says It Need No Longer Obey UN Restriction On Missile Technology For Iran," [Reuters](#), 10/17/23)

In 1998, Biden Was One Of Only Four Senators Who Opposed Legislation Sanctioning Russian Businesses Selling Missile Technology To Iran

On May 22, 1998, Biden Voted Against Legislation "To Require Economic Sanctions Against Overseas Companies And Research Institutes That Have Aided Iranian Efforts To Develop Ballistic Missiles That Could Reach Israel, U.S. Forces In The Persian Gulf Or Europe." (H.R. 2709, Roll Call Vote #146: Passed 90-4; R 51-2; D 39-2, 5/22/98, Biden Voted Nay)

"By A Veto-Proof Margin Of 90 To 4, The Senate Approved Legislation Friday To Impose New Sanctions On Russian Businesses And Other Organizations Selling Sensitive Missile Technology To Iran." (Norman Kempster, "Senate Approves Iran Sanctions Bill," *Los Angeles Times*, 5/23/98)

Biden Opposed The Legislation Claiming It Would Negatively Impact U.S. Relations With Russia. "Some Russian entities have assisted Iran's missile program,' Biden said. 'This assistance must stop and stop now.' But he predicted that the sanctions bill would only make things worse by undercutting 'probably the friendliest government to American interests in Russian history.'" (Norman Kempster, "Senate Approves Iran Sanctions Bill," *Los Angeles Times*, 5/23/98)

The Same Year Biden Voted Against Sanctions, He Said That Iran Was A Greater Threat To The U.S. Than Iraq. FOX'S TONY SNOW: "A final very quick question that raises other complicated issues, so I do want a quick answer. What's a greater threat to the United States and its security today -- Iraq or Iran? Joe Biden." BIDEN: "Quite frankly, I think Iran and it's missile capacity maybe longer term a greater threat, although there is some hope there, although I'm from Missouri on this count. I want to see the mullahs actually change their attitude." (Fox's *Fox News Sunday*, 2/8/98)

Election Year Politics

The Obama-Biden Administration Refused To Take Strong Action Against Iran During Their First Term To Avoid "Political Trouble In An Election Year"

Fearing Higher Oil Prices And "Political Trouble In An Election Year," The Administration Has Resisted Taking Strong Action Against Iran's Nuclear Program. "Officials fear that too powerful a blow to the world's third-largest oil exporter could cause an oil price increase, damaging the global economic recovery, undermining international support for the sanctions campaign and creating political trouble in an election year." (Paul Richter, "Obama Administration Takes Back Seat On Iran Sanctions," *Los Angeles Times*, 2/17/12)

"The Administration Is Now Trying To Avoid The Appearance Of 'Following From Behind.'" "As a result, the White House has had to scramble to keep up with the pace set by Congress and the Europeans. While critics have long accused Obama of 'leading from behind' by empowering other countries to carry out America's bidding on world crises, the administration is now trying to avoid the appearance of 'following from behind.'" (Paul Richter, "Obama Administration Takes Back Seat On Iran Sanctions," *Los Angeles Times*, 2/17/12)

While The Obama-Biden Administration Avoided Strong Action On Iran During Their First Term To Avoid "Political Trouble In An Election Year," Iranian Weapons Killed U.S. Soldiers In Iraq And Afghanistan

“U.S. Military Commanders In Iraq Say Iranian-Made Weaponry Is Killing American Troops There At An Unprecedented Pace, Posing New Dangers To The Remaining Forces And Highlighting Tehran's Intensifying Push To Gain Influence Over Post-U.S. Iraq.” (Yochi J. Dreazen, "Record Number Of U.S. Troops Killed By Iranian Weapons," *National Journal*, 7/29/11)

- **Iranian-Made Rockets, Anti-Vehicle Bombs, And Mortars Killed U.S. Troops In Iraq.** “Military officials said six of the 14 dead troops were killed by so-called 'explosively formed penetrators,' or EFPs, a sophisticated roadside bomb capable of piercing through even the best-protected U.S. vehicles. Five other troops were killed earlier in the month when a barrage of rockets slammed into their base in Baghdad. It was the largest single-day U.S. loss of life since April 2009, when a truck bomb killed five soldiers. The remaining three troops killed in June died after a rocket known as an 'improvised rocket-assisted mortar,' or IRAM, landed in a remote U.S. outpost in southern Iraq. U.S. officials say the EFPs, rockets, and IRAMs all come from neighboring Iran. Tehran denies providing the weaponry to Shia militias operating in Iraq.” (Yochi J. Dreazen, "Record Number Of U.S. Troops Killed By Iranian Weapons," *National Journal*, 7/29/11)