

Word of the Month: The US/Iran Talks

By Majid Siadat

Finally, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the USA are engaging in discussions. The outcome of these discussions will be critical for Iran, the Middle East, and indeed, the entire world.

Israel is doing its utmost to sabotage these talks. Russia and China are watching and waiting to see how best to use the outcome for their interests. At the same time, European powers have been absent, whether intentionally or due to exclusion.

The Islamic Republic has come to the table, ostensibly reluctantly, despite Khamenei's much-publicized antipathy. Mr. Trump seems to be desperately seeking a foreign policy achievement to minimize his failures in Ukraine and Gaza.

Arguably, one of the Islamic Republic's aims could be to buy time without alternatives. The declared subject of these talks is Iran's nuclear program, but behind closed doors, this is almost certainly not the only issue on the table. Iran's relations with regional non-state actors and any future interventionist plans in the region by Iran surely will be key to any agreement.

The trickiest question for the US is how to achieve an outcome that moves beyond the JCPOA framework. An innovative solution, such as involving a partnership with an Arab country (e.g. Saudi Arabia or the UAE) in Iran's nuclear program, may help resolve this intricate puzzle.

The unspeakable alternative remains a war on Iran. A 'positive' outcome remains possible given that a third round of talks has been agreed upon. This is an opportunity for Iran and the world to avoid catastrophe.

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■ **"Let Diplomacy Work!" – Statement by Hamgami.**



The Coalition for a Secular Democratic Republic of Iran (Hamgami), representing five Iranian opposition groups, urges Western leaders (Germany, USA, UK, France) and the UN to prioritize diplomatic solutions over military action in addressing tensions with the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRI).

While strongly opposing the IRI's policies—especially its nuclear and foreign policy—Hamgami warns that escalation or conflict would jeopardize Iran, the region, and global stability.

They support transparent and balanced negotiations that address both Western security concerns and Iran's national interests. Hamgami calls on UN and EU human rights bodies to engage the IRI in dialogue and urges enhanced international oversight of Iran's nuclear program by the IAEA.

Ultimately, Hamgami advocates for a **peaceful transition** to a democratic, secular regime in Iran. They call for **targeted sanctions on**

human rights violators, ongoing support for Iranian pro-democracy efforts, and normalized international relations contingent on Iran's adherence to **human rights obligations.**

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■ **"The Explosion Tragedy in Bandar Abbas" – Statement by the Left Party of Iran:**

The *Left Party of Iran* expresses deep sympathy for the victims of the April 26 explosion and fire at Rajai port in *Bandar Abbas*, which has killed over 40 people and injured at least 1,200. While the official cause remains unknown, port officials confirm that unsafe storage of dangerous materials disguised as regular cargo contributed significantly to the scale of the disaster.

The party blames the *Islamic Republic's corrupt and negligent governance*, accusing it of routinely hiding the truth, suppressing media coverage, and disregarding workplace safety. They argue this incident is yet another example of the regime's pattern of endangering lives through incompetence and secrecy.

The statement warns against the dangers of escalating military tensions, by either the regime or hardline opposition factions, noting that such acts will bring more destruction to ordinary Iranians.

Calling for **public solidarity and grassroots aid efforts**, the party urges people to help victims despite expected interference from the regime's institutions.

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■ **Congratulations on the Arrival of May First, International Workers' Solidarity Day**

The Working Group of the Left Party of Iran expresses solidarity with international labour movements on May Day and reports severe repression and hardship facing Iranian workers. It highlights that workers in Iran are denied the right to organize, with union leaders facing persecution. Most workers earn below the poverty line, lack job security, and suffer from gender discrimination and unsafe workplaces. Over 1,300 labour protests occurred in the past year, with many activists arrested. Economic hardship is deepening due to government austerity, subsidy cuts, and sanctions, pushing 60% of the population below or near the poverty line. The letter also warns of potential military threats from the U.S. and Israel, which could further worsen conditions.



IRAN: "View from the LEFT" is published monthly for those interested in the Left Party of Iran's perspective on current issues.

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