

A little matter of trust: US kills Geneva deal by tightening Iran sanctions

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“I agree with the [US] Congress, I agree with the Executive Branch, and I agree with the Supreme Court – that they’re all liars. They’ve admitted that they’re nothing but liars, and I admit that, yes you are, and you lied about our treaty, and you lie about your Constitution.” – North American Native Peoples Leader Russell Means¹

On November 24, 2013, an historic agreement was reached between the P5+1 nations and Iran on the latter’s peaceful nuclear program. Almost immediately, differences of opinion arose over the phrase “mutually defined enrichment program”² between US Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov. Now, the US Treasury Department has added companies and individuals to its sanctions list based on allegations of evading US sanctions on Iran or accusations of being front companies, agents or officials of nuclear-related organizations.³ As a result, the US Treasury move has brought to a halt negotiations with Iran.⁴

On December 12, 2013, the US Treasury Department announced that it was tightening its regimen of economic sanctions on Iran by targeting additional firms and individuals allegedly involved with Iran’s peaceful nuclear energy program. This act by the Treasury, whose parent agency is the White House,⁵ is in direct conflict with the spirit, if not the letter, of the Geneva Joint Plan document, which clearly states, “The U.S. Administration, acting consistent with the respective roles of the President and the Congress, will refrain from imposing new nuclear-related sanctions.”⁶ Since the Treasury Department reports to the US President, Obama could have put the brakes on this deal-derailing act, but has not. One cannot help but ask why not?

Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence David S. Cohen, clarifying this apparent deliberate violation, explained, “The Joint Plan of Action reached in Geneva does not, and will not, interfere with our continued efforts to expose and disrupt those supporting Iran’s nuclear program or seeking to evade our sanctions.” Continuing, Cohen warned, “Today’s actions should be a stark reminder to businesses, banks, and brokers everywhere that we will continue relentlessly to enforce our sanctions, even as we explore the possibility of a long-term, comprehensive resolution of our concerns with Iran’s nuclear program.”⁷

In contrast with Cohen’s actions, US State Department Spokesperson Jen Psaki said, “We do feel that putting new sanctions in place during the course of negotiations, even those that are delayed, would be counterproductive, and could unravel the unity of the P5+1.”⁸ Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman, Maria Zakharova, concurred with her US counterpart, saying, “Widening American 'blacklists' could seriously complicate the fulfillment of the Geneva agreement, which proposes easing the sanctions regime.”⁹ Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif made it clear to all that if there were to be any new sanctions, “The entire deal is dead,” adding, “If Congress adopts sanctions, it shows lack of seriousness and lack of a desire to achieve a resolution on the part of the United States.”¹⁰ Regrettably, this is exactly what has happened according to Iran’s Chief Negotiator, Abbas Araqchi, who said, “The negotiations were halted by the Iranian Delegation because of new American sanctions.”¹¹

The late North American Native Peoples Leader Russell Means pointed out unambiguously that the US is a nation founded upon lies and whose leaders are liars. “America and Israel are based on lies,” he said in 2009, adding, “Now, the US and Israel are focused on Iran because of its oil reserves.”¹² True, the US covets Iran’s energy reserves and its policy toward Iran has been based on the lie of seeking a diplomatic solution for the nuclear issue, but this is only a cover for Washington’s real fear: successful decoupling of energy markets from the US dollar’s domination.¹³ So by enticing Iran into agreeing to delay its nuclear program with offers of limited sanctions relief, US leaders were actually executing one step in their plan for regime change to protect the US dollar. However, Iran’s negotiators saw through this charade and halted the talks. According to Iran’s Chief Negotiator Araqchi, the US was “against the spirit of the Geneva deal,” and the expanded sanctions prove this to be the case. Meanwhile, US Secretary of State Kerry still expects the talks to proceed as does EU Foreign Minister Catherine Ashton.¹⁴

Obama even made the absurd claim that US sanctions brought Iran’s President Dr. Hassan Rouhani to power. Speaking at the Zionist-funded Saban Forum of the Brookings Institute, Obama first lauded the effect of the US sanctions on Iran. “We put in place an unprecedented regime of sanctions that has crippled Iran’s economy,” he explained, which caused Iranians to elect Dr. Rouhani, “And that’s what brought President Rouhani to power.” However, Obama warned, “Now, that doesn’t mean that we should trust him [President Rouhani] or anybody else inside of Iran.” Obama went on to boast to forum organizer Zionist media mogul Haim Saban how all the concessions in the Geneva agreement were obtained from Iran without dismantling any of the existing sanctions regime. “Now, what we’ve done in exchange is kept all these sanctions in place -- the architecture remains with respect to oil, with respect to finance, with respect to banking,”¹⁵ he gloated, with the only exception being a meager \$7 billion thaw in \$120 billion of Iran’s frozen oil revenue.

There is an old Persian proverb that says, “mahi az sar gand mi zanad,”¹⁶ or in English, “A fish smells from the head.” If the head of state lies, one cannot expect the diplomatic subordinates to be truthful and the American head of state has certainly proved himself to be a pathological prevaricator. He has lied to the American people about closing Guantanamo prison camp, keeping their existing health care plans, the BP oil spill catastrophe and the scope of NSA espionage activities, just to name a few. Now, the US President who in his statement on the occasion of the signing of the accord with Iran said, “We will refrain from imposing new sanctions,” and “now is not the time to move forward on new sanctions – because doing so would derail this promising first step,”¹⁷ appears to have lied again, based on the actions of his subordinate, undersecretary David Cohen.

Interestingly enough, Obama even has lied to Zionist Haim Saban, when the latter asked to what level Iran’s uranium enrichment program would be rolled back. “Down to zero,” responded Obama, while the Geneva Joint Plan states that Iran agreed not enrich uranium over 5 percent and will retain half of its 20 percent enriched uranium for manufacture of fuel for the Tehran Research Reactor. Later on in the same program, Obama repeated the lie, saying “I want to be very clear there’s nothing in this agreement or document that grants Iran a right to enrich.” The US president was truthful, however, when he said, “Military action is one tool that we have in a tool kit that includes diplomacy in achieving our goals, which is ultimately our [the US, the Zionist regime and allies’] security.”¹⁸

Considering the skepticism expressed by the Zionist entity and Saudi Arabia, and the opposition building in the US Congress, we are forced to speculate that perhaps Obama's intention may actually have been to derail the agreement with Iran. Three senior former US diplomats, Daniel Kurtzer, Seyed Hossein Mousavian and Thomas Pickering, write that "should US Congress or another country actually impose greater sanctions during this six-month period, it will be a clear sign that the West is not interested in a negotiated deal and that the United States has not distanced itself from a policy of regime change."¹⁹ And, judging by the US Treasury's sanctions expansion, Washington is still enamored with the Zionist-inspired policy of regime change.

By expanding the list of individuals and firms targeted under the sanctions regimen and calling it "enforcement," Washington will probably claim that it has lived up to its pledge not to impose new sanctions. However, this is just a semantic ruse, since practically speaking, the Treasury Department by its actions has imposed "new" sanctions on 12 Iranian firms and 6 individuals.²⁰ And let us be clear that these new sanctions are in the furtherance of the Zionist entity's security concerns, which are the foremost concern of any US president, as Obama himself admitted. "And the one thing I will say to the people of Israel is that you can be assured whoever is in the office I currently occupy, Democrat or Republican, that your security will be uppermost on our minds,"²¹ he emphasized. One would think that the security of the American people should be uppermost in the US president's mind; it involves a little matter of trust.

If the US was serious about building trust and reaching a final agreement with Iran over its peaceful nuclear energy program, it would have frozen new sanctions activity for the six-month period of the Geneva Joint Plan as agreed. Because of its failure to do so, I view the U.S. Treasury's actions as a deliberate provocation by Washington, and its accomplices Riyadh and Tel Aviv, to justify military action to achieve their policy goals of regime change in Tehran.

Endnotes

¹ Russell Means, "Free to be Responsible," *Russell Means Freedom*, August 3, 2009, accessed December 12, 2013, <http://www.russellmeansfreedom.com/2009/free-to-be-responsible-a-russell-means-speech/>.

² "Joint Plan of Action," P5+1 Negotiations, Geneva, November 24, 2013, accessed December 12, 2013, <http://i2.cdn.turner.com/cnn/2013/images/11/24/iran.text.pdf>

³ "Additional Treasury and State Designations Targeting Networks Linked to Iranian WMD Proliferation and Sanctions Evasion," *U.S. Department of the Treasury*, December 12, 2013, accessed December 12, 2013, <http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/j12241.aspx>.

⁴ "Spirit of deal 'violated': Iran quits nuclear talks after US Sanctions move," *Russia Today*, December 13, 2013, accessed December 13, 2013, <http://rt.com/news/iran-quits-talks-sanctions-211/>.

⁵ "U.S. Department of the Treasury," USA.gov website, last updated: December 02, 2013, accessed December 13, 2013, <http://www.usa.gov/directory/federal/department-of-the-treasury.shtml>.

⁶ Joint Plan of Action, *ibid.*, 3.

⁷ "Additional Treasury and State Designations Targeting Networks Linked to Iranian WMD Proliferation and Sanctions Evasion," *ibid.*

⁸ "Iran warns nuclear deal falls apart if US approves new sanctions," *Russia Today*, December 10, 2013, accessed December 13, 2013, <http://rt.com/news/iran-new-sanctions-dead-deal-968/>.

⁹ "Spirit of deal 'violated': Iran quits nuclear talks after US sanctions move," *ibid.*

¹⁰ "Iran warns nuclear deal falls apart if US approves new sanctions," *ibid.*

¹¹ "Spirit of deal 'violated': Iran quits nuclear talks after US Sanctions move," *ibid.*

¹² Russell Means, "Breaking the silence on Obama," *Russell Means Freedom*, January 20, 2009, accessed December 12, 2013, <http://www.russellmeansfreedom.com/2009/russell-means-breaking-the-silence-on-obama/>.

¹³ Marin Katusa, "The Iranian Deal: What the Big Six Really Have to Gain," *Forbes*, November 27, 2013, accessed December 13, 2013, <http://www.forbes.com/sites/energysource/2013/11/27/the-iranian-deal-what-the-big-six-really-have-to-gain/>.

¹⁴ "Spirit of deal 'violated': Iran quits nuclear talks after US Sanctions move," *ibid.*

¹⁵ Barack Obama, "Remarks by the President in a Conversation with the 10th Annual Saban Forum," Office of the Press Secretary, *the White House*, December 7, 2013, on Brookings Institute website, accessed December 13, 2013, <http://www.brookings.edu/~media/events/2013/12/06%20saban%20forum%202013/president%20obama%20remarks%20white%20house%20release.pdf>.

¹⁶ Manijeh Navidi, *Persian-English Proverbs* (London: Satrap Publishing, 2005), 1.

¹⁷ Barack Obama, "Statement By The President On First Step Agreement On Iran's Nuclear Program," Office of the Press Secretary, *The White House*, November 23, 2013, accessed December 13, 2013, <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/11/23/statement-president-first-step-agreement-irans-nuclear-program>.

¹⁸ Joint Plan of Action, *ibid.*, 1.

¹⁹ Daniel Kurtzer, Seyed Hossein Mousavian and Thomas Pickering, "Iran and the nuclear agreement: Trust but verify," *Al Monitor*, December 6, 2013, accessed December 13, 2013, <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2013/12/trust-verify-iran-agreement.html#>.

²⁰ "Additional Treasury and State Designations Targeting Networks Linked to Iranian WMD Proliferation and Sanctions Evasion," *ibid.*

²¹ Barack Obama, "Remarks by the President in a Conversation with the 10th Annual Saban Forum," *ibid.*