



المركز العربي للأبحاث ودراسة السياسات
Arab Center for Research & Policy Studies

The Iranian Nuclear Agreement: Regional and Global Repercussions

April 11, 2015

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Background Paper

A framework agreement between Iran and the P5+1 countries, announced in Lausanne on April 3, has brought more than 12 years of intense international debate surrounding Iran's nuclear program to a close. This agreement is a political watershed which rules out the prospect for greater developments related to Iran's nuclear capabilities. It will also impinge on the balance of powers within the Iranian regime, echo in the country's relations with global powers and inevitably have repercussions of no lesser significance on the regional arena.

While the framework agreement guarantees Iran's right to enrich uranium within its borders, it also stipulates that Iran will abandon 98% of its present stockpile of enriched uranium; decommission two-thirds of its centrifuges; restrict enrichment activities to the reactor at Natanz and convert all other facilities to research labs. In return, international sanctions imposed on Iran will be lifted.

A lifting of sanctions will likely tilt the balance of power in favor of Iranian President Rouhani's support base, comprised largely of middle class Iranians who are weary of the isolation imposed by the sanctions regime. The agreement will thus lead to exacerbating the conflict between Iranian conservatives and the Rouhani-aligned pragmatists who are more eager for openness to the West.

At a time when Iran's relations with the West are improving, relations with the Arab world are at an all-time low. Many in the Middle East now worry that Iran will seek to use this agreement to drive its attempts at regional hegemony forward. Indeed, the consequences of the nuclear agreement, in the form of Iran's increased intrusions into the Arab geopolitical sphere, were noticeable even before the protocol was signed.

One important consequence of the agreement is a loss of trust in the Obama Administration's commitment to the security of the GCC countries. This was evidenced in the formation of a Saudi-led alliance against the Houthis in Yemen, a demonstration that traditional allies of the US would take their security into their own hands, with the aid of regional power brokers such as Turkey and Pakistan. These states are now also compelling Egypt to play a more effective role in the Middle East.

The nuclear agreement will also likely lead to greater American-Iranian coordination in the battle against the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) — indeed, the indirect co-ordination between Washington and Tehran against common threats, such as ISIL and other Sunni extremist groups, had expedited the Lausanne agreement. Tikrit was the latest of several districts where such cooperation became apparent.



Time Table

Opening remarks: Azmi Bishara, 9:00–9:30

Panel One: The Nuclear Agreement and its Regional and Global Repercussions, 9:30–11:00

Chair: Marwan Kabalan

Imad Khadduri: "The Framework Agreement: A Technical Perspective"

Abdulwahhab Al Qassab: "The Implications of the Agreement for the Geostrategic Formations of the Arab Levant"

Mamdouh Salameh: "Oil and Iran's Nuclear Programme: Impact on Oil Prices and the Global Oil Market"

Hamid Dabashi: "Iran, Israel, and the Arab World: The Tortoise, The Hare, and the Race for Regional Hegemony"

Coffee Break (11:00–11:30)

Panel Two: Regional Reactions to the Nuclear Deal, 11:30–13:00

Chair: Faleh Al Hajri

Khaled Al Dakhil: "The Iranian Nuclear Deal: An Arab Perspective"

Birol Baskan: "The Iranian Nuclear Agreement: A Turkish Perspective"

Mahmoud Muhareb: "Israel's Stance on the Iranian Nuclear Agreement"

Lunch Break: (13:00–15:00)

Panel Three: Repercussions of the Framework Agreement on Regional Crises, 15:00–16:30

Chair: Khaled Al Jaber

Marwan Kabalan: "The Nuclear Agreement and the Syrian Question"

Ibrahim Sharqieh: "The Nuclear Agreement and the Yemen Crisis"

Haidar Saeed: "Repercussions of the Agreement on Iraq"

Coffee Break (16:30–17:00)

Panel Four: The Nuclear Agreement and its Impact on Domestic Iranian Politics 17:00–18:30

Chair: Suhaim Al Thani

Camelia Entekhabifard: “An Update from Lausanne”

Fatima Smadi: “The Agreement and the Iranian Domestic Political Scene: Supporters and Opponents”

Mahjoub Al Zweiri: “The Iranian Nuclear Agreement: the Domestic Scene and the Regional Context”



Participants

Abdulwahab Al Qassab	is a Researcher at the ACRPS. Al Qassab was a member of the Iraqi Armed Forces from 1966 to 1991, and retired with the rank of Rear Admiral. He later worked as a Researcher at Baghdad University Al Mustansaria Center for Arab and International Studies. He earned his PhD in Strategic Studies from Campbell University in North Carolina, USA. He has authored and translated a number of books in his fields of interest.
Birol Baskan	is Assistant Professor at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar. He received his PhD in Political Science from Northwestern University in 2006. He has published in various academic journals, including Politics and Religion, Insight Turkey, Arab Studies Quarterly, and Comparative Political Studies. Baskan is the author of <i>From Religious Empires to Secular States</i> (Routledge, 2014).
Camelia Entekhabifard	is the author of <i>Save Yourself by Telling the Truth</i> , a memoir of Iran. She is a columnist, news analyst and a journalist who writes on Iran and Afghanistan, focusing on Iranian foreign policy, and particularly the Iranian nuclear negotiations. She has been a contributor to the <i>New York Times</i> , <i>Huffington Post</i> , <i>Le Monde Diplomatique</i> , <i>Al-Hayat</i> , <i>Al Jazeera English</i> , <i>Al-Ahram Weekly</i> , <i>Al-Arabiya</i> amongst others. She holds a master's degree from New York University's School of Journalism and another master's degree from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs.
Faleh Al Hajri	is the Deputy Editor for local news at Qatar's Al Sharq newspaper. He holds a degree in Mass Communication from Qatar University.
Fatima Al Smadi	is a Jordanian researcher specialized in media affairs. Al Smadi works as a correspondent for a number of print newspapers and has published widely on issues of women's participation in the Islamist political movements and civil society institutions. Al Smadi earned a Master's degree from the University of Jordan before moving to do a PhD at Tehran's Allama Tabatabaei University.
Haider Saeed	is an Iraqi researcher and author. He has served as an advisor to the Iraqi Center for Strategic Studies and consultant to the Foundation for the Future in Amman, Jordan. Saeed obtained his PhD in Linguistics from al-Mustansiriya University in Baghdad.
Hamid Dabashi	is the Hagop Kevorkian Professor of Iranian Studies and Comparative Literature at Columbia University in New York. He has taught in many North and Latin American, European, Arab, and Iranian universities, and is a founding member of both the Institute for Comparative Literature and Society and the Center for Palestine Studies at Columbia University. Dabashi also founded Dreams of a Nation, a Palestinian Film Project dedicated to preserving and safeguarding Palestinian cinema. Among his books are <i>The Arab Spring: The End of Postcolonialism</i> (2012), <i>Corpus Anarchicum: Political Protest, Suicidal Violence, and the Making of the Posthuman Body</i> (2012), and <i>Dreams of a Nation: On Palestinian Cinema</i> (2006).

Ibrahim Sharqieh	is a Foreign Policy Fellow at the Brookings Institute and a Professor of International Conflict at Georgetown University-Qatar. Previously, Dr. Sharqieh had served as an Academic Advisor at the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates to Washington, DC, and taught international conflict resolution at a number of U.S. universities. He earned his PhD in International Conflict Resolution from George Mason University in Virginia in 2006.
Imad Khaduri	is an Iraqi nuclear scientist who spent three decades working for Iraq's Nuclear Energy Agency, after which he wrote <i>The Mirage of Iraqi Nuclear Weapons</i> , in 2004. In 2011, he published a second book, <i>Undisclosed Events and Facts Relating to Iraq's Nuclear Program: 1981-1991</i> .
Khaled Al Dakheel	Is an independent Saudi Arabian researcher who sits on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Palestine Studies. Al Dakheel was previously a Professor at King Saud University in Riyadh. He has written extensively on political reform. A regular columnist in the Arab press, he completed his PhD at the University of California-Los Angeles.
Khalid Al Jaber	is assistant professor of political communication in the Gulf Studies Program at Qatar University. He works as the deputy editor-in-chief of Al-Sharq Daily, Al-Sharq Press in Doha. He also serves as the principal at Global Media Consultants in the United States. Al-Jaber is a scholar of Arab and Gulf studies whose research focuses on media, political communication, and international relations.
Mahjoob Al Zweiri	is the Chair of the Department of Humanities at Qatar University, and a scholar who specializes on Iran. Previously, Zweiri had been the head of the Iranian Studies Unit at Jordan University's Strategic Studies Center. Zweiri earned his PhD in Contemporary Iranian History from Tehran University in 2002.
Mahmoud Muhareb	is an Associate Research at the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies. A Palestinian academic, his publications cover Zionism and Israel, the Palestinian Cause and the Arab-Israeli conflict. Muhareb earned his PhD in Political Science from the University of Reading in the UK.
Mamdouh Salameh	is an International Oil Economist and a World Bank Consultant on oil and energy. Salama is currently a Visiting Professor of Energy Economics at the London campus of ESCP Europe.
Marwan Kabalan	Is a Researcher at the ACRPS. He was previously the Head of the Sham Research Center in Damascus, and also Dean of the College of International Relations at Syria's Al Qalamon University. Qabalan earned his PhD at Manchester University.
Suhaim Al-Thani	is a researcher at the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies in Doha, Qatar. A number of his research papers have been published in peer-reviewed journals since he gained his MA from Royal Holloway, University of London.

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