



Iran Fact Sheet

WHAT CAN I DO TO PREVENT WAR WITH IRAN? HOW CAN I MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

1. Call your representatives in congress and let them know you are against sanctions and against **war on Iran**. (202)224-3121 is the congressional switchboard. If you don't know who represents you, give them your zipcode and they will connect you.
2. Talk back to the media when you recognize their reporting amounts to war-mongering propaganda. A set of links to NYC media sources is available on the Granny Peace Brigade website Grannypeacebrigade.org.
3. **Educate yourself and others. Host a book party, a film screening or a speaker about Iran, Iranian culture and the history of U.S. policy in the region.**
4. Join your local peace group. Democracy is not a spectator sport! Join us. The Granny Peace Brigade welcomes all people to join us at our actions here in NYC.

Grannypeacebrigade.org

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- **Fact:** Iran does not possess a nuclear weapon.
- **Fact:** Iran has the right, according to international law, to develop nuclear energy for civilian use.
- **Fact:** Iran's nuclear energy program is regularly monitored by the International Atomic Energy Agency.
- **Fact:** Iran has never started a war.
- **Fact:** The United States possesses 10,600 nuclear warheads in its stockpile, 7,982 of which are deployed and 2,700 of which are in a contingency stockpile. The total number of nuclear warheads that have been built from 1951 to present is 67,500.
- **Fact:** The United States is the only country to have ever used nuclear weapons. It did so when it incinerated hundreds of thousands of Japanese people living in the cities of Nagasaki and Hiroshima. Neither city had any military significance.
- **Fact:** The United State has spent \$7 trillion on nuclear weapons. The U.S. military budget for 2012 alone is about equal to Iran's entire Gross National Product.

- **Fact:** The United States and Britain used severe economic sanctions and CIA covert operatives to overthrow the democratically elected government of Iran led by Dr. Mohammad Masaddegh in 1953. The Iranian government under Mosaddegh had nationalized the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company (AIOC), which became known as British Petroleum (BP), in a campaign to use oil profits to eradicate widespread poverty within Iran. The successful CIA and British Intelligence coup d'etat put the Shah of Iran (King) back in Power. The Shah's dictatorship denationalized Iranian oil and returned it to the ownership of British and US oil companies. The Shah executed and tortured thousands during his 26-year bloody reign, which ended in the 1979 revolution that created the Islamic Republic of Iran.
- **Fact:** Israel, the largest recipient of U.S. foreign aid (about \$3 billion in 2011), unlike Iran, possesses hundreds of nuclear weapons.
- **Fact:** Israel, unlike Iran, refuses to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, or allow the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) into Israel to monitor its nuclear program.
- **Fact:** There is active discussion in the Israeli media about whether Israel will carry out military strikes against Iran's nuclear energy facilities. Israel bombed nuclear civilian energy facilities in Iraq in 1981 ("Operation Babylon") and in Syria in 2007 ("Operation Orchard").
- **Fact:** The United States broke diplomatic relations with Iran and has pursued a policy of economic sanctions against the country since the overthrow of the U.S.-backed Shah (King).
- **Fact:** Iran's oil reserves are the fourth largest in the world—it has 12.7 percent of the world's known oil reserves. That makes Iran's oil reserves second only to Saudi Arabia in the Middle East, greater than those of Iraq.
- **Fact:** The new economic sanctions against Iran include a ban on the import, sale and trade of Iranian oil, which constitutes half of Iran's Gross National Product. It forbids any company in the world that does any business with Iran or its Central Bank from having any trade or economic transaction with a U.S. bank or corporation.
- **Fact:** The economic sanctions are an effort to create economic suffering in Iran and to deprive the country of the goods and services to sustain life. According to international law, these economic sanctions constitute a blockade or an act of war against Iran even though Iran poses no threat to the people of the United States or Europe.

Source: The Fellowship of Reconciliation, <http://forusa.org>