

ANTI-AMERICANISM

Updated January 2023

UNITED
AGAINST
NUCLEAR
IRAN

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Anti-American Statements

The Iranian regime has maintained its virulent anti-Americanism as a core pillar of its ideology since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. The regime continues to propagate its revolutionary slogan “Death to America,” and characterizes the U.S. as the “Great Satan.”

Death to America



Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei
(November 3, 2022)

"Yes, it will happen. Death to America will happen. Some people say: By chanting ‘Death to America,’ you bring America's animosity upon yourself. I say that this is not true. When America began its hostility towards Iran, nobody had been chanting 'Death to America.'"



Brigadier General Esmail Ghaani, Commander of the IRGC's Quds Force (January 1, 2021)

"I warn the U.S. president, CIA director, secretary of defense, secretary of state and other American officials involved in the assassination of martyr Soleimani that they must learn the clandestine lifestyle of Salman Rushdie because the Islamic Republic will avenge the blood of martyr Soleimani which was shed unrightfully."



Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei (February 8, 2019)

"As long as America continues its wickedness, the Iranian nation will not abandon 'Death to America.'"



Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei (July 18, 2015)

"[At Quds Day rallies the week prior,] You heard 'Death to Israel', 'Death to the US.' You could hear it. The whole nation was shaken by these slogans. It wasn't only confined to Tehran. The whole of the nation, you could hear, that was covered by this great movement. So we ask Almighty God to accept these prayers by the people of Iran."



Then President Hassan Rouhani (May 8, 2013)
"Saying 'Death to America' is easy. We need to express 'Death to America' with action."



Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei (March 21, 2009)
"Today, you are hated throughout the world. If you don't know this, you should. The peoples burn your flag. The Islamic peoples all over the world chant: 'Death to America!'"

America Is the Enemy and Its "Enmity Is Endless"



Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei (March 1, 2022)

"Iran advocates ending the war in Ukraine. However, the solution to any crisis only works when the root cause of the crisis has been identified. The root of the crisis in Ukraine are the US policies that create crisis, and Ukraine is one victim of these policies."



President Ebrahim Raisi (January 3, 2022)

"If Trump and (former Secretary of State Mike) Pompeo are not tried in a fair court for the criminal act of assassinating General Soleimani, Muslims will take our martyr's revenge... The aggressor, murderer and main culprit – the then-president of the United States – must be tried and judged under the (Islamic) law of retribution, and God's ruling must be carried out against him," Raisi added.



Major General Hossein Salami, Commander-in-Chief of the IRGC (November 4, 2021)

"The country that has the Statue of Liberty does the most work of oppressing, suppressing and hanging of the freedom-seekers in the world and produces most of torture devices in the world and sends them to all dictators around the world and teaches torture techniques to them in order to imprison the seekers of truth, justice and freedom."



President Ebrahim Raisi (January 1, 2021)

"They will witness severe revenge. What has come so far has only been glimpses... Do not presume that someone, as the president of America, who appeared as a murderer or ordered a murder, may be immune from justice being carried out. Never," he said. "Those who had a role in this assassination [of Qassem Soleimani] and crime will not be safe on Earth."



Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei (January 17, 2020)

"The villainous U.S. government repeatedly says that they are standing by the Iranian people. They lie. If you are standing by the Iranian people, it is only to stab them in the heart with your venomous daggers. Of course, you have so far failed to do so, and you will certainly continue to fail."



Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei (November 2, 2017)

"The American president's foolish remarks against our people show the depth of America's hostility towards the entire Iranian nation. America is the number one enemy of our nation."



Then President Hassan Rouhani (December 6, 2016)

"America... is our enemy, we have no doubt about this. The Americans want to put as much pressure on us as they can."



Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei (January 9, 2015)

"Who is the enemy? The enemy is American capitalism and global arrogance which is headed today by America and the Zionists."



Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei (January 9, 2015)

"Who is the enemy? The enemy is American capitalism and global arrogance which is headed today by America and the Zionists."



Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei (January 7, 2015)

"Today, the camp of arrogance is opposing and making efforts against this government... The pressure that is exerted by arrogance on the people of Iran originates from this great and endless enmity. Their enmity is endless ."



Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei (August 13, 2014)

Relations with the US and negotiating with that country, except in specific cases, will have no benefit to the Islamic Republic, but rather will be harmful."

The Great Satan



President Ebrahim Raisi (October 16, 2022)

“The American president, who allows himself through his comments to incite chaos, terror and destruction in another country, should be reminded of the eternal words of the founder of the Islamic Republic, who called America the Great Satan,” Raisi said.



Major General Mohammad Bagheri, Chief of Staff of Iran’s Armed Forces (May 14, 2021)

“We warn the Zionist regime and its supporters...especially the Great Satan and the terrorist regime of America that the Islamic Resistance Front...will turn the existence [of Zionists in the region] to a heap of ash.”



Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei (October 18, 2017)

“The US – the US government, the political regime of the US – is obviously a devious and malicious phenomenon. As Imam [Khomeini] pointed out, it is the Great Satan. It is really the Great Satan.”



Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei (September 9, 2015)

“Some people insist on disguising this Great Satan as the savior angel. (However,) the Iranian nation expelled this Satan (from the country); we must not allow that when we expelled it through the door, it could return and gain influence (again) through the window.”



Then Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi
(February 9, 2014)

"We have problems with the U.S.A. over dozens of issues...Nothing has changed. The U.S.A. is still the Great Satan in our view."



Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei
(January 30, 2012)

"England, France and finally America--which is the Great Satan--spread their hegemony over the Islamic Ummah. They humiliated the Islamic Ummah as much as they could. They planted the cancerous tumor of Zionism at the heart of the strategic Middle East region and they strengthened it in every way."

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Regime's Goal is to Destroy the United States



Brigadier General Mohammad Pakpour, Commander of IRGC's Ground Forces (April 13, 2022)

"Martyr Soleimani was such a great character that if all American leaders are killed, this will still not avenge his assassination... We should avenge him by following Soleimani's path and through other methods."



Major General Hossein Salami, Commander of the IRGC (November 25, 2019)

"We have shown restraint ... we have shown patience towards the hostile moves of America, the Zionist regime (Israel) and Saudi Arabia against the Islamic Republic of Iran ... but we will destroy them if they cross our red lines," said Hossein Salami.



Supreme Leader's then Representative to the IRGC's Quds Force Ali Shirazi (February 26, 2015)

"We will stand fast against the world of arrogance. We will not rest until we have raised the banner of Islam over the White House."



Then Basij Commander Mohammad Reza Naqdi (January 1, 2015)

"Our ideal is not [nuclear] centrifuges but the destruction of the White House and the annihilation of Zionism [Israel]."



Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei (May 25, 2014)

"Battle and jihad are endless because evil and its front continue to exist. This battle will only end when the society can get rid of the oppressors' front with America at the head of it, which has expanded its claws on human mind, body and thought."

America Created ISIS and Al-Qaeda



President Ebrahim Raisi (September 21, 2022)

“For a country that wishes to have justice but then creates and trains these terrorist organizations to unleash on others, that is a shame,” Raisi said before the U.N. General Assembly. “Humanity does not only belong to certain parts of the world.”



Speaker of the Parliament Mohammad Ghalibaf (May 2, 2022)

Addressing an open session of parliament in Tehran, Ghalibaf said the U.S. is using Daesh [ISIS] to create insecurity in Afghanistan in order to create ethnic-religious sedition in Afghanistan and to put pressure on the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) government to yield to its demands, Fars News Agency reported.



Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei (July 21, 2021)

“The interfering, malevolent hand of the U.S. and its cohorts is completely visible,” he said. Khamenei declared that Iran’s regional proxies were working to expel the U.S. military from the region. “In Iraq, the Resistance Forces are powerfully pushing back the occupying U.S. and its puppet [ISIS].”



Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei
(January 1, 2020)

“Look at what the U.S. is doing in Iraq and Syria. They’re taking revenge on the Hashd al-Sha’bi for defeating ISIS. Since Hashd crippled and destroyed ISIS—which the U.S. had created—they’re taking revenge. The Iranian government and nation and I strongly condemn the U.S.’ malice.”



Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei
(October 18, 2017)

“The United States is an international Zionist agent, the creator of the ISIS terrorist group, as well as takfiri terrorist fronts. Therefore, do you expect the US president not to be angry at IRGC that stands against ISIS? They are angry, because today the Islamic Republic of Iran has managed to spoil their plots in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, etc.”



Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei (June 12,
2017)

That US arms a terrorist group is what causes instability. Who created #ISIS? The US!



Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei (January 9, 2015)

"Enemy spy services are behind the efforts to sow disunity among Muslims... A Shia version connected to the British spy agency- the MI6- and a Sunni version, which is the mercenary of the CIA, are both fake and working against Islam."



Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei (October 13, 2014)

"If anyone fuels the fire in this regard, he or she will definitely be helping sinister America and Britain which are the creators of the ISIL and al-Qaeda."



Then Basij Commander Mohammad Reza Naqdi (September 13, 2014)

"The White House is the headquarters of the ISIL." Washington itself created the "cancerous tumour and devious current."

U.S. Seeks to Dominate Iran, Islamic Lands, and the World



President Ebrahim Raisi (December 7, 2022)

“The Americans are after destruction and want a destroyed Iran instead of a strong Iran,” Raisi said. “They want here to become Syria and Afghanistan.” He added in reference to the U.S.: “Who’s the dictator? The one who imposes so many sanctions against this country.”



Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian (November 23, 2022)

“Security services, [Israel], and Western politicians who have made plans for a civil war and the destruction and disintegration of Iran must know that that Iran is not Libya or Sudan,” Amir-Abdollahian said on Twitter, while failing to provide any evidence to back his claim.



Speaker of Parliament Mohammad Ghalibaf (November 2, 2022)

“Relying upon the assistance of the almighty God, all conspiracies waged by the U.S. government have totally been foiled by the vigilant nation of Islamic Iran.” Ghalibaf went on to say that the United States has spared no effort in taking sinister measures such as coup, launch of civil war, arming the terrorist groups, extremists, occupation, etc. against Islamic Iran.



President Ebrahim Raisi (September 21, 2022)

“What is happening in Europe today has been seen all over the world before. The fate of many countries shows America pursues its own interests against the interests of its allies,” Raisi said before the U.N. General Assembly. “Unilateralism has been the tool to hold many countries back.”



President Ebrahim Raisi (April 3, 2022)

“Any country in the region, which turns a blind eye to the hegemonic goals of the United States and the Zionist regime, will not only step on the rights of its nation, but will also invoke the wrath of the Muslim nations,” Raisi said in a phone call with his Iraqi counterpart, then-President Barham Salih.



Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei (October 6, 2021)

“The less developed countries whose armies are completely under the control of the U.S. Army and the like are in an even worse situation.”



Major General Hossein Salami, Commander-in-Chief of the IRGC (November 4, 2021)

“The Islamic Revolution of Iran disrupted the atmosphere of political domination, and a unique and amazing victory over American policy occurred. It shattered the American political order that sought to rule half of the planet. This was the beginning of a great jihad (endeavor for the sake of God) on the part of the Iranian nation to recover the grandeur it had lost.”



Then President Hassan Rouhani (January 7, 2015)

"The world of hegemony and arrogance is seeking to undermine Islam and dominate Muslim lands."



Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei (April 23, 2011)

"The arrogant powers of the world - namely, western powers, America and the Zionists ... want to spread their hegemony over the entire world and the entire financial resources of the world. They want to dominate all human resources."

Timeline of Anti-American Hostilities

Since its founding in 1979, the Iranian regime has gone to great lengths to target the "Great Satan," the United States, through a variety of tactics, including via terrorist attacks, militant proxies, hostage-taking, naval mines, and cyberattacks. All told, the Iranian regime is accountable for the deaths of more than 1,000 American soldiers and civilians.

- **November 4, 1979 – January 20, 1981: Iran Hostage Crisis**
Only months after the Islamic Revolution, a radical group of Iranian students stormed the American Embassy in Tehran, taking 66 Americans hostage, 52 of which were held for 444 days. Supporting the students' actions, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khomeini "issued a statement in support of the action against the American 'den of spies.'"
The hostages were beaten, placed in solitary confinement for extended periods of time, regularly forced to have their hands bound, and "threatened repeatedly with execution."
The Iranian militants also tortured the hostages by forcing them to watch videos of people being dipped in boiling tar or shot in the head.
On January 20, 1981, the day of Ronald Reagan's presidential inauguration, the remaining 52 hostages were released and returned to the U.S.
- **1982 – 1992: Lebanon Hostage Crisis**
Spanning a full decade, the Lebanon Hostage Crisis refers to the systematic abductions of foreign nationals in Lebanon by the Iranian-backed terrorist group Hezbollah. Of the total 96 foreign nationals abducted, 25 U.S. citizens were kidnapped, making Americans the most targeted national group. A number of hostages died in captivity as a result of inadequate medical care, torture, or execution. During the crisis, some victims spent years in captivity, while others, including CIA Station Chief William Buckley, were tortured and killed. Among those held captive was American University of Beirut President David S. Dodge, who was held for a full year in Lebanon and Iran, and American journalist Terry Anderson, who was abducted and held in captivity for almost seven years.
- **April 18, 1983: U.S. Embassy Bombing in Beirut**
63 people, including 17 Americans, were killed and more than 100 injured when a suicide bomber rammed a truck carrying 2,000 pounds of explosives into the U.S. Embassy in Beirut. The bombing resulted in the killing of "the entire U.S. Central Intelligence Agency Middle East contingent." The attack, directed by Hezbollah and financed by Iran, "initiated the modern era of suicide bombings."
- **October 23, 1983: Beirut Barracks Bombings**
241 U.S. marines were killed and over 100 wounded when an Iranian suicide bomber drove a truck carrying the equivalent of 15,000-21,000 pounds of TNT into the U.S. Marine Barracks at Beirut International Airport. Causing the "largest non-nuclear explosion that had ever been detonated on the face of the Earth," the bombing was the "deadliest terrorist attack on Americans before 9/11." At the same time, a separate suicide truck bomb destroyed a building housing French soldiers, killing 58 French paratroopers. The Marines residing in the U.S. barracks had been sent to Lebanon "as part of a multinational force to help separate the warring Lebanese factions" in the ongoing civil war.
- **December 12, 1983: U.S. Embassy Bombing in Kuwait**
Part of a series of attacks aimed at "six key foreign and Kuwaiti installations," the bombing of the U.S. embassy in Kuwait left five victims dead and eighty-

six injured. Other targets included “the French embassy, the control tower at the airport, the country's main oil refinery, and a residential area for employees of the American corporation Raytheon.” The attack was carried out by “Hezbollah and operatives of the Iranian-backed Iraqi Shiite group Da'wa.”

- **1984-1988: The Tanker War**

Between 1984 and 1988, Iran launched a number of attacks on oil tankers belonging to Iraq and its ostensible Gulf allies, such as Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. In response to the attacks, the U.S. reflagged Kuwaiti tankers, making the ships eligible for U.S. Navy escort. From July 24, 1987, to September 26, 1988, over a dozen U.S. warships protected Kuwaiti tankers in the Persian Gulf as part of Operation Earnest Will, the largest maritime convoy operation since World War II. In response to U.S. convoys, Iran laid nearly one hundred mines in international waters, threatening to disrupt the world's economy and endangering the lives of American sailors.

On July 24, 1987, the reflagged supertanker SS *Bridgeton* sustained hull damage and needed repairs after it struck a naval mine off the coast of an Iranian island. On October 16, 1987, when the reflagged U.S. tanker *Sea Isle City* was struck by an Iranian Silkworm missile. The ship's captain, a U.S. citizen, was blinded as a result of the explosion, and a total of 17 crewmen were wounded.

- **September 20, 1984: Bombing of U.S. Embassy Annex in East Beirut**

24 people were killed when a van carrying three thousand pounds of explosives detonated outside the U.S. Embassy annex in East Beirut. Among those killed were two Americans: 33-year-old Chief Warrant Officer Kenneth V. Welch and 30-year-old Petty Officer First Class Michael Ray Wagner. The CIA noted at the time that “an overwhelming body of circumstantial evidence points to Hizballah, operating with Iranian support under the cover name of Islamic Jihad.”

- **December 3, 1984: Hijacking of Kuwait Airways Flight 221**

On December 3, 1984, four Lebanese hijackers affiliated with Hezbollah took control of Kuwait Airways Flight 221 and diverted the plane to Tehran's Mehrabad Airport. The hijackers demanded the release of 17 prisoners being held in connection to the December 1983 U.S. Embassy bombing in Kuwait. When their demands were not met, the hijackers executed two American officials from the U.S. Agency for International Development, Charles Hegna and William Stanford. Other American passengers onboard were threatened and tortured. Finally, on the sixth day of the standoff, Iranian security forces stormed the plane and freed the hostages. However, the hijackers were released and allowed to leave Iran shortly thereafter. The fact that the hijackers were never tried for their crimes has led some officials to speculate that the Iranian government was complicit in the plot, and that the hijackers' surrender had been arranged with Iranian authorities ahead of time.

- **June 14, 1985: Hijacking of TWA Flight 847**

On the morning of June 14, 1985, members of Iran-backed Hezbollah hijacked TWA Flight 847 in order to gain leverage in their demands for “the release of Shia prisoners held in Kuwait, Israel, and Spain.” Iran played a central role in both the “supervision and planning of the incident.” The plane, carrying 153 passengers landed in Beirut and then Algiers, where a number of hostages were released. After landing in Beirut for a second time, passenger Robert Dean Stethem, a U.S. navy diver, “was shot and his body dumped on the airport tarmac.” Although Israel never admitted to a deal, the remaining 39 TWA hostages were freed on June 30, and the release of 766 Shia prisoners detained by Israel began on July 1.

- April 14, 1988: USS Samuel B. Roberts Strikes Iranian Mine**

On April 14, 1988, the USS *Samuel B. Roberts* struck an Iranian mine while deployed in the Persian Gulf as part of Operation Earnest Will. The explosion blew a twenty-two foot hole into the side of the ship and flooded the engine room, nearly sinking the ship. 69 crewmembers were injured due to injuries sustained in the blast as fires raged onboard the frigate for six hours. In total, the *Roberts* sustained approximately \$89.5 million worth of damage.
- June 25, 1996: Khobar Towers bombing**

The bombing of Khobar Towers, a U.S. military housing complex in Saudi Arabia, left nineteen Americans dead and 372 injured. The attackers detonated a parked truck laden with the equivalent of 3,000-8,000 pounds of explosives in the Khobar Towers parking lot. The resulting explosion "sheared the face off of Building 131, an eight-story structure which housed about 100 U.S. Air Force personnel." 14 members of the Iran-backed Saudi branch of Hezbollah have been held responsible for the attack.
- 2003-2001: Support for Insurgents in the Iraq War**

Following the 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq, Iran undermined U.S. operations by "consistently [supplying] weapons, its own advisors, and Lebanese Hezbollah advisors to multiple residence groups in Iraq, both Sunni and Shia," which targeted Coalition Forces. For the U.S., "concern [revolved] around Iran's role in arming and assisting Shiite militias." In Iraq, the "the top killer of U.S. troops" were IEDs (improvised explosive devices), which were primarily supplied by Iran. In total, Iran's support for Iraqi insurgents led to the death of thousands of U.S. soldiers in Iraq. In 2010, U.S. ambassador to Iraq James Jeffery stated, "Up to a quarter [4,400] of the American casualties and some of the more horrific incidents in which Americans were kidnapped ... can be traced without doubt to these Iranian groups."
- 2006-2014: Support for the Taliban Insurgency in Afghanistan**

Iranian support for the Taliban against U.S. troops in Afghanistan has been ongoing since at least 2006. According to a RAND report, "although Iran has traditionally backed Tajik and Shi'a groups opposed to the Taliban, its enmity with the United States and tensions over the nuclear program... led it to provide measured support to the Taliban." According to the Treasury Department, "since at least 2006, Iran has arranged frequent shipments of small arms and associated ammunition, rocket propelled grenades, mortar rounds, 107 mm rockets, plastic explosives, and probably man-portable defense systems to the Taliban." Through "Qods force material support," the report states, "we believe Iran is seeking to inflict casualties on U.S. and NATO forces." In 2010, multiple media sources reported Iran was "paying Taliban fighters \$1,000 for each U.S. soldier they kill in Afghanistan." Over a six-month period in 2010, one "Taliban treasurer" claimed to have collected "more than \$77,000 from [an Iranian firm in Kabul]" as payment for killing Americans.
- January 20, 2005: Karbala Headquarters Attack**

Five American soldiers were killed and three wounded after a sophisticated attack by Iraqi militants on the Iraqi police provincial headquarters in Karbala, Iraq. The militants, who spoke English and carried American weapons, were disguised in U.S. military fatigues and bypassed several security checkpoints before attacking the inner compound. After killing one American soldier at the headquarters, the militants captured four more service members before fleeing the scene and executing them near the Euphrates River. The attack was carried out by Iranian IRGC-backed militants after overwhelming evidence linked Iran to the attack in order to weaken coalition forces. According to a captured Hezbollah fighter, the attack could not have been conducted

without intelligence and training provided by the IRGC's elite Quds Force.

- **August 12, 2007: General David Petraeus: Iran Waging War on the U.S. in Iraq**

Following an August 12, 2007 meeting with Iranian dignitaries, the leader of U.S. forces in Iraq General David Petraeus wrote in a report to Defense Secretary Robert Gates, "I am considering telling the President that I believe Iran is, in fact, waging war on the U.S. in Iraq...I do believe that Iran has gone beyond merely striving for influence in Iraq and could be creating proxies to actively fight us, thinking that they can keep us distracted while they try to build WMD and set up [the Mahdi Army] to act like Lebanese Hezbollah in Iraq." In July 2007, "two-thirds of all American casualties in Iraq...were incurred by Shiite militias" like the Shiite Mahdi Army, which was funded, organized, and trained by Iran.

- **2011: Iranian Cyberattacks on U.S. Financial Institutions**

Beginning in late 2011, the Iranian hacker group Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Cyber Fighters launched "unprecedented" distributed denial of service (DDoS) attacks on American financial institutions. The attacks escalated throughout 2012, targeting at least nine different U.S. banks, including Bank of America, Citigroup, Wells Fargo, U.S. Bancorp, PNC, Capital One, Fifth Third Bank, and BB&T.

The attacks focused on harming the daily operations and reputations of the banks, whose customers were unable to access their online accounts due to website crashes. These attacks continued for weeks despite mounting warnings from the U.S. government to cease cyberattacks. In March 2013, the online services of American Express and JPMorgan Chase were taken down in the latest suspected Iranian cyberattack.

According to security experts, the Iranian cyberattacks directed at American banks were exponentially stronger than Russia's month-long cyberattack on Estonia in 2007.

- **2011-2014: Social Media Espionage Campaign on American Officials**

Cyber intelligence firm iSight Partners has uncovered a three-year Iranian espionage campaign in which Iranian hackers created fake social media accounts and personas in order to spy on at least 2,000 U.S. military and political leaders, including a four-star U.S. Navy admiral, senior U.S. lawmakers, and personnel from U.S. and Israeli defense contractors. Dubbed "Newscaster," this operation fabricated a news site, NewsOnAir.org, to which content from media outlets was posted, and then links were forwarded to targets. After gaining the trust of officials by establishing ties with their friends, relatives, and colleagues on various social media platforms, the hackers would send the officials real news articles, eventually sending them malicious links in an attempt to steal their log-in credentials to government websites and obtain data on diplomatic negotiations and weapons systems. iSight has stated that considering this espionage campaign had been going on for three years while remaining under the radar, "clearly they have had success" although it is not completely known what or how much data the hackers were able to access.

- **October 2011: 2011 Iran Assassination Plot**

U.S. authorities thwarted a terrorist plot in Washington, D.C., which included "the assassination of the Saudi Arabian ambassador to the United States...and subsequent bomb attacks on the Saudi and Israeli embassies." U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder stated that the plot was "directed and approved by elements of the Iranian government and, specifically, senior members of the Quds Force." The two individuals charged were "Manssor Arbabsiar, a 56-year-old naturalized U.S. citizen holding both Iranian and U.S. passports, and Gholam Shakuri, an Iran-based member of Iran's Quds Force." U.S. authorities arrested Arbabsiar on September 29, 2011, while Shakuri remains at large.

- December 4, 2011: RQ-170 UAV Drone Incident**
Iran recovered a U.S. unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) that crashed in Iran while flying reconnaissance missions in Western Afghanistan. According to U.S. officials, the UAV, an advanced RQ-170 with sophisticated stealth technology, was flying over Afghanistan looking for insurgent activity when its guidance system malfunctioned. However, experts briefed on the incident have reported that the drone was participating in a highly secretive surveillance program that monitors Iranian nuclear sites. The U.S. Military expressed concern that Iran could reverse-engineer the captured drone in order to better understand the U.S.' stealth capability. Although Iran claimed it shot down the drone, U.S. officials dismissed such claims, stating that a system malfunction caused the crash and that there was "no indication" that hostile fire brought the drone down. Iran has refused to comply with the Obama administration's formal requests to return the drone.
- March 2012: Azerbaijan Terror Plot**
U.S. and Israeli officials were among those targeted for assassination by a group of IRGC-linked terrorists arrested in Baku, Azerbaijan. Azerbaijani authorities confirmed that the 22 arrested terrorists received training in Iran. The assassination plot included snipers, as well as a car bomb intended to kill American embassy employees. In addition to attacking the embassy building, the terrorists planned on targeting embassy employees' family members.
 According to *The Washington Post*, "U.S. and Middle Eastern officials now see the attempts as part of a broader campaign by Iran-linked operatives to kill foreign diplomats in at least seven countries over a span of 13 months."
- August 2013 – November 2013: Cyber Attack on U.S. Navy Network**
 According to U.S. officials, in August 2013, Iranian hackers infiltrated the unclassified U.S. Navy-Marine Corps Internet (NMCI), which is used for email and the service's internal intranet. Although it is believed nothing of significant intelligence value was stolen, it has increased concerns within the Pentagon that Iran may now be able to forcibly access military data. In response, the U.S. Navy is upgrading the security of its network, which has an estimated 800,000 users. It took the U.S. Navy four months and cost at least \$10 million to remove the hackers and repair the network after the attack. The California-based cyber security firm, Cylance, stated in a report that the hacking of the NMCI was the beginning of Iran's "Operation Cleaver" against the United States and other foreign nations, which continued throughout 2014 and targeted financial, defense, energy, and educational institutions worldwide.
- February 10, 2014: Iranian Cyberattack on Las Vegas Sands Corp.**
 In January 2014, Iranian hackers began focused cyberattacks on Las Vegas Sands Corporation. On February 9, they succeeded in gaining access to a web development server on February 9. From this server, the hackers infiltrated the general Las Vegas Sands Corp. server and on February 10 released malware into thousands of Sands Corp's systems, effectively destroying computers by overwriting their hard drives and compromising large amounts of data. In order to stop the malware from spreading, Las Vegas Sands Corp. decided to remove its servers from the internet, but the hackers had already littered Sands' websites with employees' names, social security numbers, and email addresses, in addition to scathing messages attacking the Sands' CEO Sheldon Adelson. Several days later, the hackers posted a YouTube video that detailed over a terabyte of sensitive stolen Sands' data. Las Vegas Sands Corp. has estimated

that the Iranian hackers destroyed three-quarters of its Las Vegas computer servers and that recovering the lost data and building new systems will cost in excess of \$40 million.

- **February 25, 2015: Iran Blows Up Mock Replica of U.S. Aircraft Carrier**

Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) blew up a mock replica of a U.S. Nimitz-class carrier in its 'Great Prophet 9' naval and air defense drills in the strategic Strait of Hormuz. Iranian officials touted Iran's military prowess in response to the highly publicized drills, with the IRGC's navy chief Admiral Ali Fadavi stating that "American aircraft carriers are very big ammunition depots" and that a "direct hit by a missile could set off a large secondary explosion." Earlier in the year, Fadavi called America's aircraft carriers "easy targets." Commander of the IRGC Gen. Mohammad Ali Jafari added that the drills "send a 'message of [Iran's] might' to 'extraterritorial powers,'" a reference to the U.S.

- **April 28, 2015: Seizure of the Maersk Tigris**

On April 28, 2015, Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps patrol boats seized the Maersk Tigris, a Marshall Islands-flagged cargo ship transiting through the Strait of Hormuz. Iranian forces fired shots across the Maersk Tigris's bridge after the ship's captain refused orders to divert further into Iran's territorial waters. A representative for the Danish shipping company Maersk, the Tigris's charterer, said that Iranian authorities failed to provide any arrest orders, official written documents, a court ruling, or an arrest order.

Given that "the United States has full authority and responsibility for security and defense of the Marshall Islands," the seizure of the Tigris has been viewed as both a provocation against the U.S. and a threat to freedom of navigation on the high seas. In the days leading up to the Tigris incident, Iranian patrol boats had been acting with "mounting aggressiveness," including "encircling and threatening a U.S.-flagged cargo vessel," the Maersk Kensington, on April 24. Both incidents occurred shortly after the U.S. Navy increased its presence in the Gulf of Aden, preventing Iranian ships from reaching Yemen to prospectively resupply Houthi rebels with weapons.

In response to Iran's provocations, the U.S. Navy dispatched the destroyer USS Farragut in pursuit of the Tigris. As a result of Iran's aggression, U.S. Navy ships began escorting U.S.-flagged commercial vessels through the Strait of Hormuz in order to prevent further harassment.

- **January 2016: Iran detains 10 U.S. Navy Sailors at Gunpoint**

Iran illicitly detained 10 U.S. Navy sailors at gunpoint, releasing videos of the captives kneeling with their hands clasped behind their heads and an apology from one of the soldiers after two naval vessels inadvertently entered Iranian waters due to a navigation error. A U.S. Navy investigation found that Iran "violated international law by impeding the boats' innocent passage transit, and they violated sovereign immunity by boarding, searching and seizing the boats and by photographing and videotaping the crew."

- **May 2016: Iranian Charged with Cyber Plots Against U.S. Banks, Dam**

The U.S. Justice Department announced indictments against seven Iranian cyber specialists linked to the Iranian government and Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) for cyberattacks against U.S. banks and a New York dam. The men were accused of carrying out distributed denial of service attacks—in which they hacked into bank servers and clogged them with data, preventing legitimate traffic—against 46 U.S. financial institutions and attempting to hack into the control system of a New York dam between 2011 and 2013.

- **June 1, 2017: Hezbollah Plot Targeting American and Israeli Interests**

U.S. authorities arrested a pair of operatives belonging to the Iranian terrorist proxy, Hezbollah, and charged them with plotting attacks against American and Israeli targets

in New York and Panama. Both men had traveled to Lebanon for weapons and bomb-making training. Ali Kourani of the Bronx, NY, was accused of scouting American and Israeli military and law enforcement targets in New York, as well as airports, while Samer El Debek of Dearborn, Michigan, was accused of scouting the U.S. and Israeli Embassies in Panama, as well as the Panama Canal, for a potential attack during a 2012 visit. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, Samer El Debek “received extensive training as a bomb-maker, and has a high degree of technical sophistication in the area.”

- **March 23, 2018: U.S. Government Indicts Iranians in Cyber Theft Campaign**

The U.S. Department of Justice indicted nine Iranians of the Mabna Institute on cyber theft charges on behalf of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). Since 2013, the Institute’s targets included 144 U.S. universities, the U.S. Department of Labor, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and the states of Hawaii and Indiana. The U.S. Department of Justice found that the Institute “stole more than 31 terabytes of academic data and intellectual property.”

- **June 30, 2018: Iranian Intelligence Plot to Bomb Dissident Rally in France**

Belgian authorities arrested an Iranian couple, plotting to bomb a rally of Iranian dissidents in France. In their car, authorities found a “small toiletry bag” with around 500 grams of TATP and an ignition mechanism. The personal lawyer of the president of the United States, along with other former U.S. and European officials, were scheduled to participate at the rally. French officials later implicated Iran’s Ministry of Intelligence in the aborted attack.

- **November 18, 2019: Iranian Documents Describing Efforts to Recruit Intelligence Assets from a Stock of Former U.S. Informants in Iraq Leak**

After the drawdown of U.S. troops from Iraq in 2011, agents from within CIA networks found themselves without a job and fearful that they could be killed. They were, therefore, vulnerable to Iran’s aggressive efforts to turn them into their own assets. According to a leaked Iranian report, many of these spies were willing to cooperate with Iran’s inquiries into U.S. intelligence operations in Iraq. The files also document how Iran’s influence in Iraq’s political system afforded Iran’s two main intelligence bodies—the IRGC-QF and the Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS)—leeway to operate throughout the country.

- **November-December 2019: U.S. Estimates 11 Attacks Targeting U.S. Servicemen in Iraq:** Over the course of November-December 2019, the U.S. government estimated that there were eleven attacks on Iraqi bases housing members of the U.S. military. This coincided with reporting that former Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Quds Force Commander Qassem Soleimani ordered Iran-backed Shiite militias in Iraq to increase targeting of U.S. forces using new weaponry Iran had supplied. According to Reuters, these included Katyusha rockets and shoulder-fired missiles that could shoot down helicopters.

- **December 3, 2019: U.S. Justice Department Announces Sentencing of a U.S.-based Hezbollah Operative**

The operative, “recruited, trained and deployed by Hezbollah’s Islamic Jihad Organization (IJO) to plan and execute acts of terrorism around New York City,” becomes the first IJO operative to be convicted and sentenced for crimes against the U.S., said U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York. He targeted “federal buildings, international airports, and even daycares,” and now will serve 40 years behind bars.

- **December 31, 2019: Iran-backed Shiite Militias Attack U.S. Embassy in Iraq**

Iran-backed operatives stormed the U.S. Embassy in Iraq, setting fires inside the compound and chanting “Death to America” after the U.S. government struck Iraqi Shiite militia positions following a strike on a military base that killed an American contractor. The militants did not enter the embassy buildings, but defaced the property

with graffiti. Inside the protest crowd outside the embassy were the Iranian regime's point-men in Baghdad—founder of the Badr Organization Hadi al-Amiri, former deputy head of the Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, and chairman of the PMF Falih al-Fayad.

- **January 7, 2020: Iran Launches Strike Against Iraqi Bases Housing U.S. Troops**
In response to the U.S. strike, which killed the former head of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Quds Force Qassem Soleimani, Iran's IRGC launched a ballistic missile attack targeting two Iraqi military bases housing U.S. troops. The U.S. government previously determined that Iran—through Qassem Soleimani's proxy network—was responsible for the deaths of at least 608 American troops in Iraq from 2003-11, and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo claimed that Soleimani posed an imminent threat to U.S. interests in the region. On Iran's strike, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Mark Milley said, "The points of impact were close enough to personnel and equipment and so on and so forth, I believe, based on what I saw and what I know, is that they were intended to cause structural damage, destroy vehicles and equipment and aircraft, and to kill personnel."
- **January 16, 2020: Two Men Sentenced to Prison for Helping Iranian Government Spy on Dissidents in the U.S.**
Two men were sentenced for carrying out surveillance operations in the U.S. on behalf of Iran. Ahmadreza Mohammadi-Doostdar, a dual Iranian-U.S. citizen, was sentenced to 38 months in prison on one count of conspiracy and one count of acting as an undeclared agent of the Iranian government. Majid Ghorbani, an Iranian citizen and U.S. permanent resident, was sentenced to 30 months for providing photographs of demonstrators at a New York City rally against the Iranian government to someone he knew was going to transfer them to the Iranian government. He knew that the person to whom he provided the photographs was being paid by the Iranian government.
- **March 2020: Deadly Rocket Attack Targets Iraqi Military Base with U.S. Troops**
Rockets struck Iraq's Taji military base on March 11, 2020, and March 14, 2020. Investigations into the former attacks, which resulted in the death of 2 active-duty U.S. troops, later revealed that 30 107-mm Katyusha rockets were launched at the camp.
- **March 27, 2020: Feds Charge ex-Venezuelan Politician with Recruiting Terrorists to Attack U.S. Interests**
The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) charged Adel El Zabayar, a Venezuelan of Syrian descent and close associate of Nicolas Maduro, in a narco-terrorism conspiracy in which he traveled to the Middle East to acquire arms in exchange for cocaine and to recruit members of Hezbollah and Hamas into the "Cartel de Los Soles." The goal was "to create a large terrorist cell capable of attacking United States interests on behalf of the Cartel do Los Soles," according to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York.
- **May 27, 2020: Iran-Backed Hezbollah and Hamas Terrorists are Viable Recruits for Anti-American Terrorist Activities Conducted out of Venezuela**
Two months after the U.S. Justice Department unsealed an indictment against Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro for leading an international drug trafficking ring and managing a drug cartel known as "Cartel de Los Soles," New York federal prosecutors charged Adel El Zabayar, a Venezuelan of Syrian descent and close associate of Nicolas Maduro, in a narco-terrorism conspiracy in which he traveled to the Middle East to acquire arms in exchange for cocaine and to recruit members of Hezbollah and Hamas into the "Cartel de Los Soles," with the intention of attacking the U.S.
- **August 4, 2020: Iran Abducted California Man While in Dubai, Family Says**

Officials within Iran's Intelligence Ministry abducted Jamshid Sharmahd, a California-based spokesman for an Iranian opposition group, while he was traveling in Dubai. The ministry did not elaborate on the operation, but cell phone data appeared to show that he was first evacuated to Oman and then to Iran. Prior to the abduction, Iran accused the man, who had lived in the U.S. for many years and was on track to becoming a citizen, of planning a bombing attack on a mosque that killed 14 people. His family claims that he was not involved; and the U.S. State Department commented that "the Iranian regime has a long history of detaining Iranians and foreign nationals on spurious charges."

- **August 24, 2020: Iran Guards Say Three U.S.-Linked Infiltrators Killed**
Iran's Revolutionary Guards said that its forces killed three gunmen with links to the United States who tried to infiltrate its territory in the country's far northwest.
- **October 29, 2020: Top U.S. Officials Were Briefed on an Active Threat Against Pentagon Leaders**
U.S. military, intelligence, and law enforcement officials were briefed on an active threat against the lives of top Pentagon officials. The briefings took place after a Defense Department leader was closely trailed in his car by a reckless driver identified as an Iranian national. Two of the officials briefed noted that a list of targets, acquired from the adversary, was presented to them. That list reportedly included U.S. military officials that were involved in the U.S. military's assassination of Iranian General Qassem Soleimani, leading some of the officials to believe the threat came from Iran as retaliation. Since the killing of Soleimani, Iran has issued numerous statements threatening the lives of top U.S. officials.
- **January 19, 2021: Iran Sanctioned President Trump and Nine Other U.S. Officials**
Iran sanctioned President Trump and nine other U.S. officials, in a parting shot against an outgoing administration that has pummeled the country and its top officials with sanctions. Iran's Foreign Ministry said that the U.S. officials were designated for their role in terrorist activities against Iran, including sanctions and last year's killing of Iranian Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani in Iraq. The Iranian sanctions also targeted Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, former and current special representatives for Iran Brian Hook and Elliott Abrams, as well as former national security adviser John Bolton.
- **January 26, 2021: Iran's Judiciary Announces Sentencing of Another Iranian-American on Spying Charges**
While the judiciary did not name the victim of the arbitrary incarceration, Iranian media reported that Emad Shargi, who was first abducted from his home in Iran in April 2018 and then later cleared of all charges by Tehran's Revolutionary Court in late 2019, had been arrested while trying to leave the country through the western border. Shargi joins other U.S. nationals being held captive as bargaining chips, including Siamak Namazi, Shahab Dalili, and Morad Tahbaz. They each deny the charges, which tend to involve spying for the U.S. The United Nations described the jailing of foreigners as part of "an emerging pattern involving the arbitrary deprivation of liberty of dual nationals."
- **March 21, 2021: Iran Has Made Threats Against Fort McNair, An Army Post in the U.S. Capitol, and Against the Army's Vice Chief of Staff**
Communications intercepted by the National Security Agency in January showed that Iran's Revolutionary Guard discussed mounting "USS Cole-style attacks" against the Army post, referring to the October 2000 suicide attack in which a small boat pulled up alongside the Navy destroyer in the Yemeni port of Aden and exploded, killing 17 sailors. The intelligence also revealed threats to kill Gen. Joseph M. Martin and plans to infiltrate and surveil the installation, according to the officials, who were not authorized to publicly discuss national security matters and spoke on condition of anonymity. The Army post, one of the oldest in the country, is Martin's official residence.
- **April 26, 2021: U.S. Navy Vessels Encounter Iranian Fast In-Shore Attack Craft (FIAC) on International Waters**

Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Navy (IRGCN) speedboats armed with deck-mounted machine guns and rocket launchers came within 62 meters of the USS Firebolt and a U.S. Coast Guard patrol boat on their patrol of the Persian Gulf. In response to the threat, the *USS Firebolt* fired warning shots to stave off a further confrontation. Again, in November, Iran menaced a U.S. Navy vessel; this time in the Gulf of Oman with a naval helicopter. These encounters represent a trend: the IRGC is increasing pressure on the U.S. in the hopes that it bends to Iranian demands in the ongoing Vienna negotiations.

- **May 4, 2021: Iran Releases a Video Clip Depicted a Fake Attack of Its Military Blowing up the U.S. Capitol**

Amid continued talks about a revived nuclear agreement between Washington and Tehran, Iran released a video clip on Sunday depicting fake attack of its military blowing up the U.S. Capitol. The video came out on state-controlled Iranian television before the nation's supreme leader, Ali Khamenei, gave a speech on Sunday, according to The Washington Free Beacon. In his talk, Khamenei praised the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC), who have carried out operations against the U.S. and whose leader, Qassem Soleimani, was killed by a drone strike by the Trump administration. The footage of the fake attack also came out the same day Iran's President Hassan Rouhani declared the U.S. had lost its "economic war" against his country, saying that sanctions against Tehran are at the "brink of extermination," his rhetoric painting a grim picture for the prospect of the two nations reaching a mutual agreement on a revived Iran nuclear deal.

- **May 8, 2021: Iran Targeted Senior U.S. Government Officials in Response to Soleimani killing**

Iran targeted senior officials in the U.S. government, including Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Mark Milley, former CENTCOM Commander Kenneth McKenzie, former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, and former Iran envoy, Brian Hook, in response to the Soleimani killing, according to former acting Secretary of Defense Christopher Miller. By the end of the Trump presidency, there were "no-bullshit threats" by the Iranians regarding senior U.S. officials, said Miller. While officials took Iran's public threats of revenge seriously, the U.S. also obtained an Iranian list from "sensitive sourcing" that named specific officials and the positions they held as potential assassination targets as revenge for Soleimani, said three former officials.

- **June 9, 2021: Twitter Accounts Linked to the Iranian Regime Dial Up Disinformation Campaign Amid Sensitive U.S. Foreign Policy Decisions**

Biden's effort to return to the Iran nuclear deal and his decision to withdraw all troops from Afghanistan, along with the Derek Chauvin guilty verdict and the 11-day conflict between Israel and Hamas, each occurred within a short period of time and provided a window of opportunity for Iran to exacerbate discord and violence.

- **July 2021: Iran-Backed Militias Escalate Attacks on U.S. Personnel in Iraq**

Iranian proxies in Iraq launched increasingly sophisticated drone strikes on U.S. targets as well as increasingly frequent rocket attacks. On July 5, 2021, and July 7, 2021, rockets were launched at Ain al-Asad Airbase. At about this time, Iran began organizing a cadre of loyal Iraqi militiamen and training them to conduct drone warfare, surveillance, and online influence campaigns. On July 6, 2021, an armed drone struck an airbase with U.S. troops in Erbil, Iraq, and U.S. defenses shot down an armed drone hovering above the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad.

- **July 13, 2021: U.S. Prosecutors Charge Four Iranians in Kidnapping Plot**

The U.S. Justice Department did not identify the target of the kidnapping plot, but Reuters confirmed that it was Masih Alinejad, a Brooklyn-based exiled journalist and human rights activist critical of the Iranian regime. The plotters, allegedly Iranian intelligence operatives, hired private investigators to surveil Alinejad's home and planned to abduct and evacuate their victim. This is not the first time Iranian intelligence personnel tried to lure dissidents

out of the country in which they resided, but it represents a particularly brazen stunt on U.S. soil. The accused are all at large in Iran.

- **July 13, 2021: Washington D.C.-Based Law Firms Score Major Victory Against Iran-Sponsored Terrorism**

In 2015, Hamas murdered two Jewish people—one of them an American—traveling in the West Bank with their children. Six years later, a U.S. federal court ruled that the IRGC, the MOIS, and Iranian banks, along with Syria, were liable for Hamas' brutal act. A lawyer at the law firm representing the children and their families' estates noted that Iranian banks provide terrorist organizations such as Hamas with the funding they need to continue to threaten and carry out attacks against U.S. citizens and others.

- **July 29, 2021: Iran Attempted to Abduct at Least 3 American Journalists in 2019 and 2020**

Iranian democracy advocates criticized Biden for his muted response to a U.S. Department of Justice indictment against the conspirators involved in a plot to kidnap Masih Alinejad, a U.S. citizen and journalist who has been critical of the Iranian regime in her publications. And this was not the only Iranian plot against American journalists in recent years. In 2019 and 2020, at least two other American journalists at the Voice of America (VOA) news outlet, which is occasionally critical of the Iranian regime, were the target of Iranian kidnapping plots, said a former senior State Department official. The fact that these stories have gone largely underreported raises further questions as to whether the administration is avoiding publicizing these incidents to preserve ongoing negotiations with Iran.

- **August 10, 2021: The Houthi Militia in Yemen Lays Iran-Made Mines in the Red Sea**

A network of naval mines placed in the Red Sea and the narrow waterway connecting the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden threatens to obstruct a vital international shipping lane, through which millions of barrels of oil flow every day. The Iranians provided the Houthis with the naval mines and trained the militia in how to deploy them, according to political analyst Mahmoud al-Taher. On April 14, 2022, the U.S. Navy announced that it would step up its presence, along with allied countries, to protect this waterway, known as the Bab el-Mandeb strait, against Iranian and Houthi threats.

- **August 22, 2021: Iran Targets Iranian American Writer Roya Hakakian**

In an essay for *The New York Review of Books*, Iranian American writer Roya Hakakian outlines how the FBI visited her in her suburban Connecticut home in late August 2019 to warn her that she was a target of the Islamic Republic. Hakakian is the author of *Assassins of the Turquoise Palace*, which details the events surrounding the assassinations that took place in a Berlin restaurant of Iranian-Kurdish dissidents in 1992. Referring to her meeting with the FBI, she wrote, “they said that they knew nothing concrete or specific beyond a vague danger; they relied on me, with my knowledge of Iran’s past dealings with dissidents, to surmise that it could mean an assassination plot.”

- **October 20, 2021: Drones Strike U.S. Military Base in Southern Syria**

In December 2021, U.S. defense officials said that Iran was behind the October attack on the Al-Tanf garrison, which sits at a vital transit point on the Syrian border with Iraq. The officials pointed to intelligence suggesting that Iran directed the attacks in retaliation for Israeli strikes in Syria. Directing attacks on U.S. troops through its proxies rather than the IRGC allows Iran to retain plausible deniability; it can thus pressure the U.S. military while managing the risk of escalation.

- **November 18, 2021: The U.S. Department of Justice Unseals an Indictment Against Two Iranian Nationals for Their Involvement in a Cyberattack Against the U.S.**

Court documents state that the two Iranians sought to “intimidate and influence American voters, and otherwise undermine voter confidence and sow discord, in connection with the 2020 U.S. presidential election.” Between September and November 2020, the defendants

allegedly attempted to compromise voter websites, disseminate lies among Republicans about Democrats' efforts to cheat in the election, and intimidate voters into casting a ballot for President Trump. On the whole, though, Iran's cyberattacks were aimed at discrediting Trump's reelection campaign, according to a declassified [DNI report](#).

- **December 2, 2021: Iran's Quest for Soleimani's Revenge Goes to Latin America**

Colombian intelligence [foiled](#) an Iranian plot to assassinate Israeli businessmen and U.S. diplomats in Colombia. An Iranian national—allegedly a member of Iran's Quds Force—recruited two prison inmates with whom he was sharing a cell in Dubai sometime between 2017 and 2021. After being released, they traveled to Colombia, surveilled their targets, and contacted local hitmen to carry out the assassination. A Colombian newspaper noted that Colombian authorities had arrested and expelled two Hezbollah operatives – possibly the same individuals recruited in Dubai.

- **January 5, 2022: Iranian Proxies Seek Revenge for the Death of Esteemed Quds Force Commander, Qassem Soleimani**

On [January 5, 2022](#), two days after the anniversary of the U.S. drone strike that killed Qassem Soleimani, Iran-backed militias launched attacks on multiple sites housing U.S. troops, including Ain al-Asad in western Iraq; al-Tanf, located in southeast Syria; and the Conoco oil field, located in eastern Syria in the Deir Ezzor province.

- **February 22, 2022: Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz Notifies the Public That Iranian Missiles are Being Delivered to Venezuela**

The Iranians [aim](#) to attach the precision-guided missiles being shipped to Venezuela to drones that could be used in a future attack against the U.S. Such attacks could be carried out by terrorist organizations in Venezuela, including the IRGC and Hezbollah. As one of the few allies to Iran in the western hemisphere, Venezuela serves as a dangerous platform to stage attacks against the U.S in the event of an escalation of conflict.

- **March 7, 2022: Members of Iran's IRGC's Quds Force are Plotting to Assassinate Former National Security Advisor John Bolton, a Member of United Against Nuclear Iran's (UANI) Advisory Board**

The U.S. Justice Department is conducting an investigation into an Iranian plot to assassinate former high-ranking U.S. government officials and possesses indictable evidence, [according](#) to a source at the DOJ. The source suggested that there may already be sealed indictments, but that the charges have yet to be made public amid fears that such an action could derail the negotiations in Vienna. Former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Trump administration Iran envoy Brian Hook are, in addition to John Bolton, targets of the Iranian Quds Force, [according](#) to a classified threat assessment submitted to the U.S. Congress. The annual threat assessment published by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) in February 2022 [revealed](#) that Iran has continued, for over a decade, to make efforts toward setting up networks in the U.S. by which to threaten U.S. persons directly, possibly including former and current U.S. officials involved in "the killing of IRGC-QF commander Qasem Soleimani." In a congressional hearing in April 2022, Secretary of State Antony Blinken was [reticent](#) to state outright that there are plots to assassinate these former officials, opting rather to say generically that there is a "threat against American officials both present and past."

- **March 11, 2022: State Department Outlines High Cost of Protecting Former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo against Iranian Threats**

The Washington Examiner [acquired](#) a report, marked sensitive but unclassified, on the Diplomatic Security Service's protection of former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. The report details the costs of protecting Pompeo at \$2 million per month given the heightened threat against his life emanating from Iran, especially since the January anniversary of the death of Qassem Soleimani. "Additional protective measures" have been needed since January 2021, says the report. Furthermore, the report adds that the security services

provided by the State Department to former U.S. officials will not be authorized by law after June 2022, unless included in the “2022 appropriations act or other legislation.”

- **March 13, 2022: the IRGC Claims Responsibility for a Missile Attack on the Sprawling Estate of a Prominent Iraqi Businessman in Erbil, Iraq**

In this unprecedented assault on the capital of Iraq’s Kurdistan region, the IRGC targeted the home of Baz Karim Barzanji, where meetings allegedly occurred between U.S., Israeli, and Kurdish officials to discuss plans for Kurdish gas to be exported to Turkey and Europe with Israeli help. The IRGC claimed that the strike targeted an Israeli intelligence hub in retaliation for an Israeli strike in Syria that killed Iranian military personnel, but it is more likely that the attack was intended to send a multi-pronged message, including to the U.S., whose consulate is under construction nearby. U.S. troops at an American military base rushed to safety, but none were injured in the attack, which marks the first time the IRGC directly fired missiles into Iraq since January 2020 (see above).

- **April 9, 2022: Iran Sanctions 24 Mostly Former U.S. Officials for “Terrorism” and Human Rights Violations, Including Former Senator Joe Lieberman, Chairman of UANI**

Most of those who were sanctioned were former members of the Trump administration, and some of them are viewed as being responsible for the “maximum pressure” sanctions campaign and the drone strike on former Quds Force Commander Qassem Soleimani. Iran also did not miss the opportunity to blame these same officials for enabling Israel’s “repressive acts” against the Palestinians. The sanctions are thought to be merely symbolic as the individuals are unlikely to have financial assets vulnerable to Iranian seizure.

- **April 26, 2022: Trial of U.S.-Based Hezbollah Operative Set to Begin**

Hezbollah’s Islamic Jihad Organization, responsible for conducting terrorist operations across the globe, is even active in the U.S. On April 26, 2022, opening arguments began in the trial of a New Jersey man that had been plotting to carry out attacks in the U.S. on behalf of Hezbollah and Iran. The U.S. Justice Department issued the indictment against Alexei Saab for planning to attack New York City bridges, airports, and tunnels, along with other targets.

- **April 30, 2022: Israeli Intelligence Operatives Apprehend and Interrogate an Iranian National Inside Iran**

In an intelligence operation inside Iran, Mossad operatives foiled an Iranian plot to assassinate a U.S. general stationed in Germany, along with a worker at the Israeli Consulate in Istanbul, and a journalist in France, reported *Iran International*. The Office of Israel’s Prime Minister later confirmed the foiled plots. The IRGC’s Quds Force Unit 840 contacted European drug cartels to carry out the assassinations for up to \$1 million dollars to be paid by Iran. Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) noted that Unit 840 organizes terrorist plots against western targets. Few Iranian media outlets reported on the story.

- **June 1, 2022: Iran Attempts Cyberattack on Boston Children’s Hospital**

FBI Director Christopher Wray alleged that Iran-backed hackers were behind an attempted hack of the Boston Children’s Hospital computer network last year. The attackers exploited a popular software made by California-based firm Fortinet in an attempt to control the 400-bed pediatric hospital’s computer network. The FBI disrupted the attack before it was clear what the hackers’ end goal was.

- **July 31, 2022: A Man with a Loaded AK-47 Assault Rifle Is Arrested after Being Found outside Outspoken Anti-Islamic Republic Activist Masih Alinejad**

Masih Alinejad—the target of a kidnapping plot orchestrated by Iranian intelligence services last year—was again targeted in her Brooklyn home. Two years ago, Alinejad called attention to the fact that the Iranian regime had started a social media campaign calling for her abduction. The episode underscores the lengths to which the Islamic Republic of Iran will go to suppress dissident abroad.

- August 10, 2022: A Member of Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Was Charged in a Murder-for-Hire Scheme Targeting Former National Security Advisor and UANI Board Member John Bolton**

Court documents allege that Shahram Poursafi, aka Mehdi Rezayi, 45, of Tehran, Iran, attempted to arrange the murder of former National Security Advisor John Bolton, likely in retaliation for the January 2020 death of Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps – Qods Force (IRGC-QF) commander Qasem Soleimani. Beginning in October 2021, Poursafi attempted to pay individuals in the United States \$300,000 to carry out the murder in Washington, D.C. or Maryland.
- August 13, 2022: A Lone-Wolf Stabs Author of the Controversial Book “The Satanic Verses” Salman Rushdie in New York City**

In 1989, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khomeini issued a fatwa—a religious edict—against author Salman Rushdie for his authorship of the book “The Satanic Verses,” which in his view was blasphemous and disparaging to the Prophet Mohammad. The religious edict placed a bounty on Rushdie’s life, and caused him to live in seclusion under protection of British government security. Over thirty years later, he was attacked on stage while giving a lecture in New York City. This brazen stunt on U.S. soil against the British-American novelist shows the long-lasting impact and reach of Iranian regime-inspired violence. Rushdie was stabbed multiple times in the neck and abdomen by a man who rushed the stage. The stabbing caused severe damage to his liver, nerves in his arm, and blindness in one eye.
- August 15, 2022: A Drone Attack Hit a Compound Run by American Troops and U.S.-Backed Syrian Opposition fighters in Eastern Syria**

No group claimed responsibility for the attack near the al-Tanf base, which is located near where the borders of Syria, Jordan, and Iraq meet. There were no casualties or damage, but the attack set off a tit-for-tat escalation of hostilities between Iran-backed militias and American forces. President Biden authorized airstrikes against militant infrastructure in retaliation for the drone attack on al-Tanf and rocket fire near the Green Village—another base housing U.S. forces. On August 24, 2022, three U.S. service members were injured in rocket attacks on Conoco and Green Village that U.S. officials suspected were directed by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.
- August 20, 2022: Iranian Operatives Target Several Senior Members of U.S.-Based Advocacy Group United Against Nuclear Iran (UANI)**

Iranian operatives conducted surveillance operations on U.S. soil against senior UANI members, including UANI CEO and former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations under the George W. Bush administration Mark Wallace, one of the group’s original funders Thomas Kaplan, and former Democratic Senator from Connecticut Joe Lieberman who currently serves as the chairman for UANI. Iran has also targeted members of UANI with cyberattacks. UANI believes that Charming Kitten—an Iranian government-linked cyberwarfare group—was responsible for the phishing attacks.
- September 14, 2022: The U.S. Justice Department Indicts Three Iranian Individuals Alleged to Have Launched Cyberattacks Against the U.S.**

The cyberattacks targeted an unnamed township and accounting firm in New Jersey, along with unnamed power companies in Mississippi and Indiana, a county government in Wyoming, a construction company in Washington, and the Bar Association for a U.S. state. The U.S. Justice Department noted that many of these individuals paid ransoms to the indicted individuals, who are believed to be affiliated with the Iranian government. Still at-large and believed to be in Iran, the FBI has added the individuals to its “most wanted list,” and the State Department is offering a \$10 million dollar reward leading to the identification or location of the cyber actors.
- September 29, 2022: A U.S. Citizen Was Killed in Iraqi Kurdistan in an Iranian Missile and Drone Attack**

Beginning in late September 2022, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps launched several rounds of missile and drone strikes against dissident groups in Iraqi Kurdistan, seeking to divert blame for the ongoing unrest inside Iran. The U.S. State Department reported that a U.S. citizen was discovered killed in an attack on September 28, 2022. During the attack, a U.S. F-15 fighter jet shot down an Iranian drone that posed an immediate threat to U.S. troops in the area.

- **November 1, 2022: Tehran Imposes Sanctions on 14 American Individuals and Entities for Allegedly Committing Human Rights Violations, Supporting Terrorism and Inciting Violence against the Iranian Nation**

Among those sanctioned for “interfering in Iran's internal affairs, instigating violence and riots in the country, encouraging acts of terror, countering Tehran's moves and attempts to fight terrorism, and mounting pressure on the Iranian nation amounting to economic terrorism” is United Against Nuclear Iran (UANI), United Against Nuclear Iran CEO and former ambassador to the U.N. in the George W. Bush administration Mark Wallace, the commander of United States Central Command Michael Erik Kurilla, and the CIA.

- **December 6, 2022: Iranian Patrol Boat Shines a Spotlight on U.S. Navy Ships in an Attempt to Blind Them**

An Iranian patrol boat passed dangerously close in front of U.S. Navy vessels in the Strait of Hormuz, an international waterway, shining a spotlight on them in an attempt to blind them. A few days prior to this incident, the U.S. Navy interdicted 50 tons of ammunition rounds and illegal weaponry sent from Iran to Yemen.

Iran's Anti-Western Conspiracies

The Iranian regime embraces and propagates the most irrational and hateful anti-Western conspiracy theories. Can a regime that embraces such hateful and irrational conspiracies be entrusted with the technology that can also be used to develop the world's most destructive weapons? View the Iranian regime's most infamous conspiracies and peculiar prohibitions and decide for yourself.

The Iranian Regime's Conspiracies



Anti-Islamic Republic of Iran protesters are linked to U.S. intelligence agencies

Deputy commander of the IRGC Ali Fadavi said on November 29, 2022 that **those arrested were not only in touch** with “Iran International [TV], which is a branch of the enemy's spy services, but also were related to the intelligence and spy services of the U.S.”



Iranian journalists are CIA foreign agents

Two journalists that reported on Mahsa Amini's death—Niloofer Hamedi and Elahe Mohammadi—were arrested shortly after news broke of Amini's death and are reportedly being held in Iran's notorious Evin prison. They **were accused of being foreign agents** on October 29, 2022 in a joint statement released by Iran's ministry of intelligence and the intelligence organization of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.



The U.S. operates terrorist camps in Iraq to threaten Iran's national security

“There are 1,200 military camps in northern Iraq with 3,000 armed terrorists operating against us. During the last several years, however, their bases have transformed into a complex acting against our national security with American help...They were being used as terrorists for hire,” Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Mohammad Bagheri said on October 16, 2022, adding that “in effect, these terrorist strongholds were Zionists bases.”



Western powers, including the U.S., want to install a king in Iran, like the Shah

“They like the Iran of the Pahlavi era, a milking cow that is submissive to their orders. They want a king in Iran who for a simple decision would have to ask the English ambassador or the U.S. ambassador what to do! How could the Iranian nation tolerate such a disgrace? This is what they’re after. They’re against Iran,” Supreme Leader Khamenei said on October 3, 2022.



The U.S. “designed” the Mahsa Amini protests
“This rioting was planned,” Supreme Leader Khamenei told a cadre of police students in Tehran on October 3, 2022. **“These riots and insecurities were designed by America and the Zionist regime, and their employees.”**



U.S.-backed Ukraine would have started a war against Russia if Russia did not start the war in Ukraine

“War is a violent and difficult endeavor, and the Islamic Republic is not at all happy that people are caught up in war,” Mr. Khamenei told Mr. Putin in Iran on July 19, 2022, according to the supreme leader’s office. **“But in the case of Ukraine, if you had not taken the helm, the other side would have done so and initiated a war.”**



Admiration for Hitler

An article on the front page of the Iranian *Kayhan* newspaper, affiliated with Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, on April 28, 2022, stated that Hitler was “**smarter and more courageous**” than current European leaders because he “expelled the Jews from Germany.”



The Holocaust is a lie created by Jews

Iranian official Mehdi Taeb, the head of the regime-affiliated think-tank Ammar Strategic Advisory Base and brother of the head of the IRGC Intelligence Organization, said in an April 26, 2022 show on Channel 3 (Iran) that **the Holocaust was a complete lie fabricated by the Jews**, whom he described as “masters of inventing lies.” Taeb also said that the Jews were not burned in the Holocaust and that it was impossible to prove that they were killed in gas chambers. See video [here](#).



French intelligence services carried out the Charlie Hebdo shooting to tarnish Islam

Senior Iranian officials have openly described the *Charlie Hebdo* shooting in Paris as a false flag operation. For example, Iranian parliament speaker Ali Larijani **said** in January 2015 that the French intelligence services perpetrated the attack to tarnish the image of Muslims.



Israeli businessmen are forming a settlement in Iraq on land formerly controlled by ISIS.

Iran's semi-official Fars News Agency **reported** in December 2014 that Israeli businessmen are buying properties in areas held by ISIS in northern Iraq for eventual Jewish settlement. According to the report, more than 2,000 Jews have already settled in Iraq's Kurdistan region.



Israeli death squads behind Sandy Hook shootings

In 2012 Iran's state-run PressTV blamed Israel for the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary and accused the US government of a cover-up: Israel targeted **"America in the most hideous and brutal way possible. in fact, an Israeli 'signature attack,' one that butchers children, one reminiscent of the attacks that killed so many children in Gaza."**



The West is drying up Iran

"Today our country is moving towards drought, which is partly unintentional due to industry and partly intentional, as a result of the enemy destroying the clouds moving towards our country and this is a war that Iran is going to overcome." former president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said in a speech in September 2012. Previously, Ahmadinejad accused European nations of deliberately emptying clouds to produce torrential storms in their own countries that would lead in turn to rain shortages in the Middle East.



Israel spreads homosexuality for world domination

The regime-controlled Iranian newspaper *Mashregh* asserted in 2012 that the **“Zionist regime spreads homosexuality”** worldwide in order to pursue its goal of world domination. *Mashregh* added that the US and the UK are using money from Jews to spread homosexuality throughout the world. Hollywood was also attacked for positively depicting gays.



9/11 was an inside job

Iran’s former president Ahmadinejad – echoing other Iranian officials – suggested in a speech in 2010 to the UN General Assembly that **“some segments within the U.S. government orchestrated the attack to reverse the declining American economy, and its grips on the Middle East, in order to save the Zionist regime.”**



Immodest, promiscuous women are causing earthquakes in Iran

Kazem Sedighi, a senior Iranian cleric, said in 2010 that women who wear revealing clothing and behave promiscuously are to blame for earthquakes: **“Many women who do not dress modestly ... lead young men astray, corrupt their chastity and spread adultery in society, which (consequently) increases earthquakes.”** In response to his remarks, feminist activists initiated a viral **“Boobquake”** campaign, calling on women to dress immodestly to see if they could create an earthquake.



“Zionists” control the illegal drug trade
During an international, UN-sponsored drug conference in Tehran in June 2012, Iran’s then vice president Mohammad-Reza Rahimi said that the “Zionists” are in firm control of the illegal drug trade: **“The Islamic Republic of Iran will pay for anybody who can research and find one single Zionist who is an addict. (...) They do not exist. This is the proof of their involvement in drugs trade.”** Rahimi also claimed that gynecologists killed black babies on the orders of the Zionists.



Space aliens run the United States
Iran’s semiofficial Fars News Agency **reported** in January 2014 that the U.S. government has been secretly run by a “shadow government” of space aliens since 1945 based out of Nevada. According to the report, the aliens were not only behind the rise of Nazi Germany but also sought the creation of a global electronic surveillance system to hide their presence on Earth and their secret agenda for global domination.



A “Zionist plot” was behind the publication of Muhammad cartoons in a Danish newspaper
In 2006, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei said a **“Zionist plot”** was responsible for the controversial publication of cartoons of Muhammad in a Danish newspaper: “The freedom of speech about which the [Westerners] talk so much does not permit anyone to doubt the myth about the massacre of the Jews, known as the Holocaust... I assume that a profound Zionist plot is at the core of the matter. They are setting the Muslims and Christians against one another. This is very important for the Zionists – to set the great Muslim community around the world against the Christians, and to set the Christians against the Muslims. That’s what this is about. This is the handiwork of the Zionists



An "international Jewish conspiracy" is behind the kidnapping of children and harvesting their organs

Iran's state-run PressTV claimed in 2009 that **"an international Jewish conspiracy to kidnap children and harvest their organs is gathering momentum. (...)** **Bands of Moroccans and Algerians had been roaming the streets of Algerian cities in an attempt to hunt for young children. They then trafficked the kids across the border into neighboring Morocco. The children were then sold to Israelis and American Jews in Oujda, the capital of eastern Morocco, for the purpose of organ harvesting in Israel and the United States."**

The Iranian Regime Prohibits



Dogs

Iranian parliament **introduced** a bill in November 2014 in that would sentence anyone caught keeping dogs as pets or walking them in public to 74 lashes or a fine. Iran's morality police have previously cracked down on dog owners, in some cases confiscating the animals. According to Islamic custom, dogs are considered unclean and Iranian officials also deem pet ownership to be an imitation of corrupt Western culture.



Happiness

Seven young men and women were **arrested** by Iranian authorities in May 2014 for posting a video of themselves on YouTube dancing to the international hit song "Happy". Iranian authorities deemed it a **"vulgar clip which hurt public chastity."** The group was forced to apologize on television and put on trial. Each of them was given suspended sentences of **91 lashes and 6 months in prison**, which will not be implemented as long as they do not engage in any "wrongdoings" for the next 3 years.



Buddha Statues

The Secretary of the Iranian Headquarters to Preserve Cultural Heritage **ordered a ban** on the sale of Buddha statues in February 2013 as symbols of a "cultural invasion". Authorities confiscated Buddha statues from shops in Tehran to stop the promotion of the religion.



Barbie Dolls and The Simpsons

In 2012, Iranian authorities **targeted and closed down shops** for selling Barbie dolls, which had already been banned since the mid-1990s. Police confiscated dozens of Barbie dolls in order to avert the spread Western culture. Just a month later the government also **banned** the sale of characters from the popular show "The Simpsons".



Valentine's Day

The Iranian regime **outlawed Valentine's Day in 2011** in order to crackdown on Western influence. Iranian state media announced that "symbols of hearts, half-hearts, red roses, and any activities promoting this day are banned" and that legal action will be taken against those who do not comply.



Mullets and Other Western Hairstyles

In July 2010, Iranian authorities launched a **crackdown on Western hairstyles**. In an effort to rid the country of "decadent Western cuts," officials banned the mullet, ponytails, elaborate spikes, and long hair for men. The Iranian Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance even produced a style guide containing haircuts that meet the government's approval.



Sexy Mannequins

In 2009 Iranian authorities **warned** shopkeepers that all mannequins must be covered up - wearing headscarves and hiding any of the bodily curves. "Using unusual mannequins exposing the body curves and with the heads without Hijabs are prohibited to be used in the shops," Iran's morality police said in a statement.

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Women From Attending Sports Events
Since the inception of the Islamic Republic, **women have been discriminatorily barred** from attending sports events at stadiums in order to enforce gender segregation. Those attempting to defy the ban face arrest, such as the case of British-Iranian national **Ghoncheh**