

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 1, 2023

The Honorable Antony J. Blinken
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken:

We ask the U.S. Department of State to provide Congress with all information regarding the status of the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) investigation into Iran. The attacks on Israel by Iran's proxy, Hamas, highlight the Iranian regime's status as the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism, its destabilizing activity in the region, and its pursuit of a sphere of influence. The United States must hold the regime accountable for its repeated violations of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), and we are disappointed that the administration has failed to call for a formal censure of Iran at any of the IAEA Board of Governors meetings this year.

The Iranian regime has escaped accountability regarding its undeclared nuclear material and activities related to its nuclear program. The IAEA has, for years, attempted to determine whether Tehran is pursuing a nuclear weapons capability and whether it retains covert nuclear weapons activities from its past weapons efforts. Unfortunately, due to active Iranian obstruction and inadequate Western pressure on Iran to comply, the IAEA has failed to investigate all sites, personnel, and documentation related to the regime's plan to produce atomic weapons.

Earlier this year, the IAEA reported finding particles of uranium in Iran enriched to the 83.7% level. This material had been enriched to basically weapons-grade levels and, in larger quantities, feasibly could have been used to produce a nuclear weapon. Today, experts estimate that Iran has expanded its program to the point where it possesses enough highly enriched uranium to produce one bomb's worth of fissile material in just 12 days.

In its May 2023 report, the IAEA highlighted numerous barriers to its ability to investigate and address Iran's compliance with UN Security Council Resolution 2231 and the NPT Safeguards Agreement. Most notably, the IAEA declared that Tehran had failed to provide any technically credible explanations for the presence of undeclared uranium particles at multiple locations. The Director General reiterated in the report that, because of Iran's obstruction of IAEA oversight efforts, the agency had no way of verifying whether Iran was adhering to its Safeguards Agreement.

This continued advancement of Iran's program, along with its obstruction and deflection of the IAEA and the end of United Nations-mandated restrictions on Iran's nuclear program, are deeply concerning and represent a serious U.S. policy failure. The lack of accountability from this administration on Iran's nuclear program has emboldened the regime to escalate its other

destabilizing activities, including its growing relationships with Russia and China and the use of proxy terrorist forces around the world.

At the September 2023 IAEA Board of Governors meeting, Ambassador Laura S.H. Holgate, U.S. Permanent Representative to the IAEA, stated, “Iran has failed to clarify the discrepancy in the amount of nuclear material it declared in its dissolution of uranium metal early last year...Iran’s level of cooperation remains significantly lacking overall.” These statements reveal Iran’s clear noncompliance with IAEA oversight but fall well short of demanding concrete action.

This administration must increase its efforts to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons capability and must clearly communicate that future progress will be met with drastic consequences. We must end the business-as-usual approach to resolving the concerns identified by the IAEA and must censure Tehran directly, as well as consider other efforts to reimpose UN-mandated sanctions on Iran. Therefore, we respectfully request the following by no later than November 17:

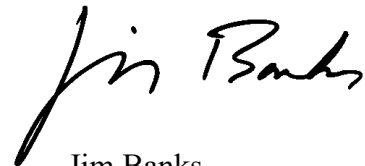
1. An explanation as to why the State Department failed to seek a censure of Iran during the September 11-15, 2023, Board of Governors meeting;
2. A determination as to whether Iran is in compliance with the NPT and, if so, a detailed explanation as to how it is in compliance, given the IAEA’s report;
3. An explanation of how the State Department plans to respond to Iran’s obstruction of the IAEA;
4. An explanation of what efforts thus far the State Department has taken to respond to Iran’s obstruction of the IAEA; and
5. Whether the State Department plans to continue to provide incentives and concessions for Iran while the regime fails to comply with IAEA’s requests.

We thank you in advance for your attention to this matter and look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,



Ruben Gallego
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Jim Banks
MEMBER OF CONGRESS