



# IRAN TODAY & TOMORROW

## WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

The Committee in Support of Referendum in Iran (CSRI), a 501(c)(4), non-profit and independent group, is committed to advance change in Iran through an internationally monitored referendum as the only peaceful means to bring democracy and establish a secular and representative government in Iran

July 14, 2008

No. 289

### Iran tested long range missiles

#### Iran Apparently in Possession of Photoshop



*Looks as though Iran has used smoke and mirrors, adding a fourth missile to look its best in the photo at left. (Sepah News Via Associated Press)*

#### **The New York Times**

**July 11, 2008** - It's customary for nations to do a bit of chest-

thumping as they are about to begin negotiations, which Iran has agreed to consider in a meeting next week with European Union official Javier Solana. The idea is to do something that your opponents will see as a sign of strength before talks begin, especially, in this case, when the talks involve your nuclear program. This might explain the timing of Iran's latest missile tests Wednesday. It might also explain what appears to be a bit of Photoshop work by Tehran to ensure the images were just so. A photo on the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps Web site distributed Wednesday by Agence France- Presse showed four missiles launched simultaneously. That photo appeared on various Web sites Wednesday, including those of the New York Times and BBC News, and on the front pages of a number of newspapers, including the Los Angeles Times and the Chicago Tribune. The Associated Press and Reuters distributed similar photos, but they showed only three missiles. The Washington Post used a Reuters image in yesterday's paper.

#### EU expresses concern over Iran missile tests

#### **REUTERS**

**July 11, 2008-PARIS** -

The European Union raised concerns on Friday over Iran's announcement this week that it conducted missile tests, and stepped up calls on it to suspend uranium enrichment within its disputed nuclear programme. "These missile tests can only reinforce the international community's concerns," the French presidency of the EU said in a statement. Earlier, Iran's official IRNA news agency said Tehran's top nuclear negotiator would meet EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana in Geneva on July 19 for talks, a date the EU has not confirmed.

#### Mullahs & Missiles

#### **The New York Times**

**July 10, 2008** -

It's not unusual for a state to conduct military exercises, but Iran had a lot more in mind when it literally went ballistic yesterday - launching nine medium and long-range missiles during its "Great Prophet" war games. Without question, this latest round of saberrattling wasn't just routine defense drills. It was intended, instead, to posture and provoke - and to advance Iranian interests: The concern over that threat isn't without merit. In late May, the IAEA reported (based on multisource, multilateral intelligence received from member states) that Iran is working on a new missile warhead, known as "Project 111," for the Shahab. According to documents in the IAEA's possession, Iran has

redesigned the current "Shahab-3 missile re-entry vehicle to accommodate a nuclear warhead." The mullahs also have threatened to attack oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz, through which 40 percent of the world's oil exports travel. The sea and land war games, including a variety of missile shots, put some semblance of teeth into that threat

### **Iran Fires More Missiles**

**Independent, July 10, 2008** - Iran has test-fired medium and long-range missiles in the Persian Gulf for a second day. Today's missiles were reported to have "special capabilities" and they were launched throughout the night. Yesterday Iran test-fired at least nine missiles, including ones capable of hitting Israel. US secretary of state Condoleezza Rice has warned Iran that the United States will not back down in the face of threats against Israel.

### **Rice: Iran Missile Test Shows Threat Not Imaginary**



**July 9, 2008-SOFIA, Bulgaria** - Iran's latest missile test shows the threat posed by the Islamic republic isn't imaginary, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said here Wednesday. "It's evidence that the missile threat is not an imaginary one," Rice told journalists at a news conference in the Bulgarian capital when asked about Iran's latest test of its Shahab-3 missile. "It's time for Iranians to stop violating their Security Council obligations and start fulfilling them," Rice said.

### **US Condemns Iran Missile Test; Urges Program's End**



**July 9, 2008-TOYAKO, Japan** - The White House on Wednesday denounced Iran's test of a missile that puts Israel within reach and warned the Islamic republic to abandon its ballistic missile program "immediately." "Iran's development of ballistic missiles is a violation of United Nations Security Council resolutions and completely inconsistent with Iran's obligations to the world," said White House spokesman Gordon Johndroe. "The Iranians should stop the development of ballistic missiles, which could be used as a delivery vehicle for a potential nuclear weapon, immediately," he said on the sidelines of the Group of Eight leading nations summit in Japan.

## **Iran's nuclear threat**

### **French minister says Iran's response to EU did not mention nuclear arms concerns**



**July 12, 2008-PARIS** - French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner says Iran's recent letter to the EU did offer dialogue, but made no mention of the West's concerns that it may be seeking to build nuclear weapons.

### **UN chief renews appeal to Iran to halt uranium enrichment**



**July 10, 2008-UNITED NATIONS** - UN chief Ban Ki-moon on Thursday made a fresh appeal to Iran to comply with UN demands that it halt sensitive nuclear fuel work and urged all Middle East parties to pursue peaceful dialogue. "I have been calling on Iranian authorities to fully comply with all relevant Security Council resolutions and continue their negotiations with European Union and concerned parties," he said on his return from a two-week, three-nation Asian tour. A spokeswoman for EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana refused to confirm Iranian press reports that he would visit the Iranian capital on July 19 to pursue talks on incentives offered by six major powers for Tehran to scale down its nuclear ambitions.

### **Iran: Buying time with empty rhetoric**

**FoxNews, July 9, 2008** - The absence of any substance in Tehran's official response last week to the package of incentives offered by the world's six major powers was all but lost in the hype and speculation about a possible breakthrough in the nuclear standoff. Again, we saw the ayatollahs' now familiar ploy of trying to buy time by poking holes in the determination of the international community with promises of negotiations (maybe). But this time around, western capitals also witnessed signs of the mounting political discord within the inner circles of the theocratic regime. If they look closely, they may see very important clues about what positive measures the West might take to exploit these weaknesses. First, there was a flurry of headlines about a "tonal shift" and "conciliatory remarks" from Tehran. The British ambassador to the United Nations even asserted that he had detected a "new language." Then, late Friday afternoon, Iran's official response to the group of 5+1 incentive package was delivered in Brussels, and with it the faint — albeit misplaced — hope for a breakthrough faded; Tehran had failed to address the central issue of suspending its uranium enrichment. Negotiation for the sake of negotiation is reckless, particularly in the case of the terrorist Tehran regime, which hopes to use the prolonged talks to run out the clock. This is no time for complacency, or for wishful thinking that some "tonal shift" from Tehran might amount to a real policy shift. Now is the time to increase the

pressure. As Lord Waddington, former UK Home Secretary, told a gathering of more than 70,000 Iranians in Paris on June 28, 2008, the next task in dealing with Iran is to get the MEK "also delisted in Europe." And when that is done, "let's hope we'll influence those in America to delist the MEK [PMOI] in the United States of America." Waddington's plan would be a "new language," and one that Tehran would understand.

### Iran bank's UK unit loses sanctions challenge

**REUTERS**

**July 9, 2008-LONDON** - A London-based unit of Iran's largest bank, Bank Melli, failed in a High Court challenge on Wednesday against an asset freeze imposed by the European Union. Bank Melli and its subsidiaries were named in the latest round of sanctions agreed by the EU on June 23 to increase pressure on Tehran to scale back its nuclear programme and abandon enrichment of uranium. The British unit, Melli Bank, challenged the sanctions, which it said were disproportionate and discriminatory. But Judge Lord Justice Alan Moses ruled that the bank was wrong to take the British Treasury to court. He said the proper authority to decide on the issue was the EU's Court of First Instance, where the bank has also lodged a challenge.

### US moves against Iranian regime's officials, companies

**AP** Associated Press

**July 8, 2008-WASHINGTON** - The Bush administration moved Tuesday to impose financial sanctions on Iranian officials and companies accused of helping the country develop nuclear weapons. The action by the departments of State and Treasury marks the latest effort to tighten the financial noose on Iran, which the United States accuses of bankrolling terrorism and seeking a nuclear bomb. Mohsen Fakhrizadeh-Mahabadi, a senior scientist at Iran's Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics, was among those targeted Tuesday. "Iran's nuclear and missile firms hide behind an array of agents that transact business on their behalf," said Stuart Levey, the Treasury Department's under secretary for terrorism and financial intelligence. Others targeted were: Yahya Rahim Safavi, a commander of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps.; Dawood Agha-Jani, who is involved in Iran's nuclear program; Mohsen Hojati, involved in the country's ballistic missile program; Mehرداد Akhlaghi Ketabachi, the head of the Shahid Bakeri Industrial Group; and Naser Maleki, head of the Shahid Hemmat Industrial Group and an official in the Iranian defense ministry.

### G8 says concerned about Iran proliferation risk

**REUTERS**

**July 8, 2008-TOYAKO, Japan** - Leaders of the Group of Eight rich countries expressed serious concern on Tuesday at the proliferation risks posed by Iran's nuclear programme. In a statement issued after G8 leaders met in Hokkaido, northern Japan, on the second day of a three-day summit, the grouping urged Iran to suspend all enrichment-related activities. "We also urge Iran to fully cooperate with the IAEA," the G8 said, referring to the International Atomic Energy Agency.

### France says no sign of enrichment freeze in Iran letter

**REUTERS**

**July 8, 2008-PARIS** - Iran's written response to an incentives package aimed at curbing its nuclear programme made no mention of a suspension of uranium enrichment, a process that could potentially make fuel for bombs, France said on Tuesday. "There was no mention of a suspension of sensitive activities in this letter," French Foreign Ministry spokesman Eric Chevallerier told a news conference, using an expression that refers to enrichment-related activities.

### Designation of Iranian Entities and Individuals for Proliferation Activities

**The State Department, July 8, 2008** - The U.S. Government is taking actions today to further U.S. efforts to counter Iran's pursuit of technology that could enable it to develop nuclear weapons and the missiles capable of delivering them. Today, the Departments of State and Treasury designated under Executive Order 13382 six Iranian individuals and five entities of proliferation concern. These actions provide additional information that will help financial institutions in the United States and worldwide protect themselves from deceptive financial practices employed by Iranian entities and individuals engaged in or supporting proliferation. As a result of our actions today, all transactions involving any of the designees and any U.S. person will be prohibited and any assets the designees may have under U.S. jurisdiction will be frozen. Noting the UN Security Council's grave concern over Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile program activities, the United States also encourages all jurisdictions to take similar actions to ensure full and effective implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 1737, 1747, and 1803.

### G8 demand Iran suspend uranium enrichment

**AFP**

**July 8, 2008-TOYAKO, Japan** - Leaders of the Group of Eight powers called Tuesday on Iran to immediately suspend uranium enrichment and urged it to respond positively to international mediation. G8 leaders at a summit in Japan urged Iran to fully comply with UN Security Council resolutions "in particular to suspend all enrichment-related activities." The leaders backed a six-nation mediation effort to "resolve the issue innovatively through negotiation and urge Iran to respond positively to their offer," it said.

### Iran's Ahmadinejad says G8 "on road to precipice"

**July 8, 2008-TOKYO** - Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad lashed out at the Group of Eight wealthy nations in a letter to a newspaper on Tuesday, saying their policies would "accelerate them along the road to a precipice," and reiterated he would not accept demands to halt uranium enrichment.

### **Iran envoy: world powers 'wasting time' with nuclear demands**



**July 8, 2008-TEHRAN** - World powers are "wasting their time" by insisting that Iran must suspend uranium enrichment to end the standoff on the five-year nuclear crisis, its ambassador to Britain said on Tuesday. "The question of suspending uranium enrichment has become part of history and the West is just wasting its time by insisting on this illegal and illogical demand," Rassoul Movahedian told the official IRNA news agency. Iran last week responded to an offer from world powers to end the nuclear crisis and diplomats are now analyzing what they say is a complex answer from Tehran.

### **Iran has resumed A-bomb project, says West**

**The Daily Telegraph, July 7, 2008** - Iran has resumed work on constructing highly sophisticated equipment that nuclear experts say is primarily used for building atomic weapons, according to the latest intelligence reports received by Western diplomats. The work is aimed at developing the blueprint provided by Dr AQ Khan, the "father" of Pakistan's nuclear bomb, who sold Iran details of how to build atom bombs in the early 1990s. Iran's Revolutionary Guard, which has overall responsibility for the country's nuclear programme, has set up several civilian companies to work on the programme whose activities are being deliberately concealed from the United Nations nuclear inspection teams. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the Iranian President, personally ordered the Revolutionary Guard to set up companies for the secret manufacture of components for P2 centrifuges this year. One of the companies is in a residential building in Amir Abad, western Tehran, where its work is unlikely to be detected by UN nuclear inspectors. One of the facilities is said to be run by a company owned by the Revolutionary Guard.

### **EU's Solana says nuclear talks with Iran 'difficult'**



**July 7, 2008-PARIS** - EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana on Monday said he was not too optimistic about prospects for a breakthrough with Iran on its suspect nuclear programme, saying: "It's difficult." Solana said he hoped to meet soon with Iran's chief nuclear negotiator after Tehran on Friday delivered its response to an international offer to halt uranium enrichment, which the West fears could be used to make nuclear weapons. "I hope that we will be able to continue the dialogue in the coming weeks.... We'll see, but I don't want to give the impression of being too optimistic," Solana told reporters on the sidelines of an EU-NATO meeting in Paris.

### **Bush, Medvedev Agree N. Korea, Iran Must Give Up Nuke Programs**

**Kyodo News, July 7, 2008-TOYAKO, Japan** - U.S. President George W. Bush and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said Monday they have agreed on the need for North Korea and Iran to give up their nuclear programs. Medvedev said there are matters on which he and Bush agree, including "the matters pertaining to Iran and North Korea" -- the need to stop the two countries pursuing their nuclear ambitions.

### **Ahmadinejad: Iran will not renounce nuclear rights**



**July 7, 2008-TEHRAN** - President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad insisted on Monday that Iran would not give up its nuclear rights, dismissing calls for Tehran to suspend uranium enrichment, the official IRNA news agency reported. "On one side they (world powers) ask to negotiate and on the other they threaten and say that we must give in to their illegal demands and renounce our rights," he added. Ahmadinejad's latest defiant comments come days after Iran gave an undisclosed response to an offer from six world powers aiming to break the deadlock in the nuclear standoff.

## **Iran's deadly interference in Iraq**

### **Coalition forces capture two suspected criminals in Al Shula**

**Multi-National Corps – Iraq, July 10, 2008-BAGHDAD** - Coalition forces captured two suspected Special Groups criminals Wednesday during operations in the Al Shula district of Baghdad. Based on intelligence information, Coalition forces targeted the home of a senior member of Iranian trained Special Groups leadership in the Baghdad area. According to Special Groups criminals already in custody, the suspect has received weapons and intelligence training in Iran, and acts as an agent of Iran.

### **Tip leads MND-B Soldiers to weapons cache (Baghdad)**

**Multi-National Corps – Iraq, July 10, 2008-BAGHDAD** - A tip from an Iraqi citizen led Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers to seize a weapons cache in Baghdad July 9. At approximately 4 p.m., Soldiers with 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, received a tip and discovered two Katyusha

rockets and 30 60 mm mortar rounds in the Kadamiyah area of Baghdad. The Soldiers continued their search and found 28 60 mm Iranian mortar rounds, two 107 mm Iranian rockets and two Chinese rocket fuses.

### **Coalition forces capture suspected criminal in Karadah**

**MULTI-NATIONAL FORCE-IRAQ, July 6, 2008-BAGHDAD** - Coalition forces captured one suspected Special Groups criminal Sunday during operations in the Karadah district of Baghdad. Based on intelligence information, Coalition forces targeted the home of a suspected senior member of Iranian-trained Special Groups leadership in the Baghdad area. According to suspected Special Groups criminals already in custody, the suspect has conducted rocket attacks on Coalition and Iraqi bases, facilitated weapons from Iran, and sent members of his evil militia to Iran for training.

## Syria may break from Iran

### **Signs Pointing to Damascus' Break with Iran**

**Middle East Times, July 10, 2008** - Speculation is growing that Syria is ready to distance itself from Iran and come to the Western fold if the United States and its allies ultimately reward Damascus with political, financial and military support. Officially, Damascus insists that its third-party negotiations with Israel, which are held through Turkish mediation and expected to soon be upgraded to face-to-face talks, are not taking place at the expense of its strong strategic relationship with Tehran. But leaked information says otherwise. The latest such leak came from Alon Liel, a former Israeli diplomat involved in back-channel talks that led to the current peace negotiations, in which Syria is seeking to retrieve the Syrian Golan Heights that Israel captured and occupied in the 1967 war.

## Demonstrations in Iran

### **Protest erupts in University of Tehran**



**IRAN FOCUS Jul 9, 2008-Tehran, Iran** - Students in the University of Tehran staged a protest on campus on Tuesday, eye-witnesses told Iran Focus in a telephone interview. There was a heavy police presence at the scene throughout the day. Mobile phones were confiscated to prevent an outbreak of news of the protest, they said.