

“ [Israel]’s establishment and its sixty-year aggressions against the Islamic countries have all been at the service of ensuring the interests of the West, but today we have the wave of Islamic awakening, and the gradual collapse of the hegemony of the West, which is the reason why the occupiers do not feel at ease within the occupied lands. ”

MAHMOUD AHMADINEJAD, PRESIDENT OF IRAN, FEBRUARY 21, 2006



## Iran in its own Words

AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

# Iran in its own Words

## Contents

Introduction	2
Nuclear Weapons	3
The West	6
The Holocaust	10
Terrorism	12
Israel	14
Citations	19
Acknowledgments	21

## Introduction

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and other Iranian leaders have repeatedly made public statements threatening the State of Israel and the West. They deny the Holocaust—even going so far as to hold a Holocaust denial conference in December 2006—denounce the Jews and the West, and threaten a peaceful world order. The conference was attended by pseudo-scholars, including white supremacists like David Duke.



In light of the widespread belief that Iran is actively advancing its knowledge of the nuclear fuel cycle and developing advanced weaponry, including the Shahab 3 and 4 ballistic missiles, there is every reason to be concerned that President Ahmadinejad and his political allies may act on their frequent threats.

The United Nations Security Council recognized the Iranian threat when it passed an initial sanctions resolution against the regime in December 2006. It is crucial, at this time, that the international community unite to ensure that the regime's words do not become actions.

## Nuclear Weapons



Showcasing Iranian weaponry, President Ahmadinejad stands at the podium in the center

“I am telling those fake superpowers that the Iranian nation became independent 27 years ago and ... on the nuclear case it will resist until fully achieving its [nuclear] rights.”<sup>1</sup>

— President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of Iran, February 2006

“I assure you that we won't step back one inch from our nuclear rights.”<sup>2</sup>

— President Ahmadinejad, December 2005

## Nuclear Weapons

“They [the Security Council members] seek to mobilize a group of their agents on the pretext of this piece of paper in order to sow seeds of discord among the Iranian nation.”<sup>3</sup>

— President Ahmadinejad, rejecting the validity of UN Security Council sanctions on Iran, December 2006



President Ahmadinejad delivers his address in Tehran at the beginning of Iran's Sacred Defense Week where “Sattar 1” missiles are displayed

## Nuclear Weapons



Iranian women participating in a pro-nuclear, state-run protest in front of a uranium enrichment plant

“If a day comes when the world of Islam is duly equipped with the arms Israel has in its possession, the strategy of colonialism would face a stalemate because application of an atomic bomb would not leave anything in Israel, but the same thing would just produce damages in the Muslim world.”<sup>4</sup>

— Ayatollah Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the influential former president of Iran, December 2001

## The West



President Ahmadinejad

“They [the West] want to be the masters of the world and own everything and the rest of the world nothing. This makes us seriously doubt the sincerity of the European Union and the International Atomic Energy Agency.”<sup>5</sup>

— President Ahmadinejad, insisting on Iran’s right to pursue nuclear technology, January 2006

“We are asking that [the European countries] step down from their ivory towers and act with a little logic.... Who are you to deprive us from fulfilling our goals?... You think you are the lord of the world and everybody should follow you. But that idea is a wrong idea.”<sup>6</sup>

— President Ahmadinejad, accusing European countries of depriving Iran of peaceful technology, January 2006

## The West



Burning of a U.S. flag outside of the British Embassy in Tehran

“The language of the U.S. president resembles the language of Hitler.... If Hitler had to show the face of a bloodthirsty dictator, he would have had to adopt [the face of] George W. Bush.”<sup>7</sup>

— Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, Iran’s Supreme leader, August 2002

“There is a great resemblance between the behavior of today’s Americans and the behavior of the Nazis.... The Americans are infected today with satanic pride and arrogant egoism....”<sup>8</sup>

— Ayatollah Khamenei, August 2002

## The West



Ayatollah Khamenei

“The Iranian nation can no longer be deceived by Western countries.”<sup>9</sup>

— Ayatollah Khamenei, speaking about Iran’s planned nuclear program, December 2005

“[T]he big Western and Zionist capitalists, who are the real backstage players in all imperialist governments, will fall from the heights of their power and their domination over the nations.”<sup>10</sup>

— Ayatollah Khamenei, January 2005

## The West

“If your civilization consists of aggression, making oppressed people homeless, suffocating the voices of justice and bringing poverty to a majority of the world’s people, we say loudly that we hate your hollow civilization.”<sup>11</sup>

— President Ahmadinejad, December 2005



Iranian women burning a U.S. flag on a Tehran street

“They [the U.S. and Israel] are cheeky humans, and they think that the entire world should obey them.”<sup>12</sup>

— President Ahmadinejad, October 2005

## The Holocaust

“If you [Europe] committed this big crime, then why should the oppressed Palestinian nation pay the price? This is our proposal: If you committed the crime, then give a part of your own land in Europe, the United States, Canada or Alaska to them so that the Jews can establish their country.”<sup>13</sup>

— President Ahmadinejad, December 2005



Iranians rally on the 27th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution

## The Holocaust



In response to the publishing of cartoons depicting the Prophet Mohammed, Iranians burn the flags of Denmark (and Israel) at a rally

“Today, [European countries] have created a myth in the name of Holocaust and consider it to be above God, religion and the prophets.”<sup>14</sup>

— President Ahmadinejad, December 2005

“There are documents showing close collaboration of the Zionists with Nazi Germany, and exaggerated numbers relating to the Jewish Holocaust were fabricated to solicit the sympathy of world public opinion, lay the ground for the occupation of Palestine, and to justify the atrocities of the Zionists.”<sup>15</sup>

— Ayatollah Khamenei, December 2005

## Terrorism



Ayatollah Khamenei

“The new Palestinian generation has learned that struggle is the way to victory, not negotiations.”<sup>16</sup>

— Ayatollah Khamenei, December 2006

“The only way to succeed is to continue resistance against the occupier regime. [The Palestinians] knew that their vote for Hamas meant the fight against the Zionist occupier regime.”<sup>17</sup>

— Ayatollah Khamenei, speaking to Khalid Al-Mish'al, leader of Hamas's political wing, February 2006

“Such a victory will be possible in other regions of the occupied lands. Resistance should be continued by the Palestinian nation and brave Palestinian youth in cooperation with jihadi groups.”<sup>18</sup>

— Ayatollah Khamenei, September 2005

## Terrorism



Female Iranian Mujahideen Soldiers

“Jihad means to strive for the lofty values.... Whoever fights for these values ... Allah's angels point to him in heaven. Do not consider those who are slain in the cause of Allah as dead.... When this great nation, with its zealous and faithful youth ... resist the enemy ... [Iran] will let [the West] taste defeat once more.”<sup>19</sup>

— Ayatollah Khamenei, October 2004

## Israel



President Ahmadinejad speaking at  
"The World Without Zionism" conference

"Very soon, this stain of disgrace [Israel] will vanish from the center of the Islamic world – and this is attainable."<sup>20</sup>

— President Ahmadinejad, speaking at "The World Without Zionism" conference, October 2005

"As the Imam [the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, founder of the Iranian Revolution] said, Israel must be wiped off the map."<sup>21</sup>

— President Ahmadinejad, speaking at "The World Without Zionism" conference, October 2005

## Israel

"Iran's stance has always been clear on this ugly phenomenon [Israel]. We have repeatedly said that this cancerous tumor of a state should be removed from the region."<sup>22</sup>

— Ayatollah Khamenei, December 2000

"Anybody who recognizes Israel will burn in the fire of the Islamic nation's fury."<sup>23</sup>

— President Ahmadinejad, speaking at "The World Without Zionism" conference, October 2005



President Ahmadinejad with  
Hamas leader Khalid Al-Mish'al

## Israel



Mostafa Mohammad Najjar  
Minister of Defense

“Zionists should know that if they do anything evil against Iran, the response of Iran’s armed forces will be so firm that it will send them into eternal coma, like [Prime Minister] Sharon.”<sup>24</sup>

— General Mostafa Mohammad Najjar, speaking about the possibility of Israel attacking Iran’s nuclear facilities, January 2006

“If there is any truth to such talks [about Israel attacking Iran’s nuclear facilities], Israel will suffer greatly. It’s a very small country within our range.”<sup>25</sup>

— Ali Larijani, speaking about the possibility of Israel attacking Iran’s nuclear facility, January 2006



Ali Larijani,  
Iran’s chief nuclear negotiator

## Israel



Burning of the U.S. and Israeli flags on a Tehran street

“The invisible hand of the Zionists and other foreigners in the bloody incidents and blasts in mosques and religious places ... is completely active.”<sup>26</sup>

— Ayatollah Khamenei, June 2005

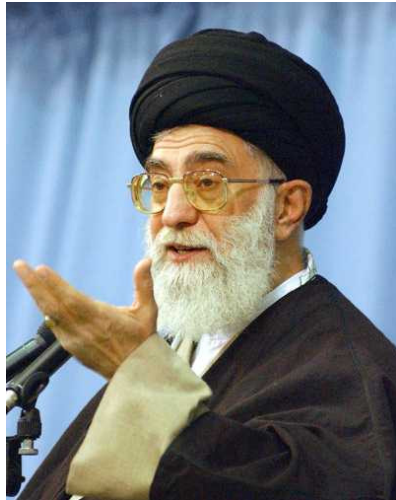
“To cover up the failure and poverty of thought, they [the West] have raised the banner of defending human rights and campaign against terrorism.... The U.S. and Zionists are themselves the standard bearer of violation of human rights and training terrorists.”<sup>27</sup>

— Ayatollah Khamenei, April 2005

## Israel

“This phenomenon [normalizing relations with Israel] is a disgusting behavior which the Islamic governments should by no means accept.”<sup>28</sup>

— Ayatollah Khamenei,  
October 2005



Ayatollah Khamenei

“[The cartoons are a] conspiracy by Zionists who were angry because of the victory of Hamas.”<sup>29</sup>

— Ayatollah Khamenei (The cartoons were originally published in a Danish newspaper in September 2005, five months prior to the Palestinian election that brought Hamas to power at the end of January 2006.), February 2006

“[The Zionists] have created a base, from where they can expand their rule over the entire Islamic world; it has no other purpose than this.”<sup>30</sup>

— President Ahmadinejad, speaking at “The World Without Zionism” conference, October 2005

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