

Written evidence from Community Security Trust (IRN0003)

Summary

1. Any improvement of relations between the UK and Iran must be made conditional on:
 - Cessation of directly and indirectly promoting terrorism against Jewish communities and Israeli institutions abroad.
 - Cessation of Iran's strategy of promoting antisemitism and encouraging Holocaust denial.
 - Cessation of Iran's oppression of religious freedom of other minority ethnic and faith groups within Iran. These groups include, but are not limited to, the Bahai, Zoroastrian, Sunni and Christian communities.
2. This brief submission lists the UK Jewish community's main concerns.

Submission

1. This submission is made by the Community Security Trust, which provides security advice for the Jewish community in the UK.

We have made submissions on Iran, and its hostile foreign policies and terrorist activities against Jewish communities, in the past.

A December 1st 2013 press release from the Board of Deputies of British Jews, the representative body of the Jewish community, on the Iran Interim Agreement is included as an appendix.

2. Iran was designated a state sponsor of terrorism in 1984 by the US government:

"Iran presents a particular concern, given its active sponsorship of terrorism and its continued development of a nuclear program."

(Country Reports on Terrorism 2006, US Department of State)

"Iran has remained the most active state sponsor of terrorism in 2010.....In 2010, Iran remained the principal supporter of groups implacably opposed to the Middle East Peace Process."

(Country Reports on Terrorism 2010, US Department of State)

"In 2012 Iran was implicated in planned attacks in India, Thailand, Georgia, and Kenya".

(Country Reports on Terrorism 2012, State Sponsors of Terrorism, US Department of State).

3. The available evidence suggests that Iran has done nothing to improve its behaviour since 2012; indeed it has worsened and any potential failure of the nuclear

proliferation talks may tempt elements within the regime's leadership to seek to put pressure on its neighbours and perceived enemies via the use of terrorism.

4. The promotion of antisemitic themes including Holocaust denial have become central tenets of Iranian foreign policy since the Islamic Revolution in 1979. Iranian state antisemitism and Holocaust Denial are part of an antisemitic politics that explains global events through conspiracy theories and incites hatred of Jews as the source of all that is bad in the world.

The promotion of Holocaust Denial and antisemitic rhetoric about Jews and "Zionists" was egregious during the Presidency of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad but was not limited to that period. The website of the Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei currently includes a 2006 speech by Khamenei that refers to "the myth of the massacre of Jews known as the holocaust". In December 2013 Khamenei tweeted support for convicted French Holocaust Denier Roger Garaudy. In November 2013 Khamenei called Israel a "rabid dog" that is heading for "annihilation".

Iran's English-language state-run TV channel Press TV regularly features Holocaust Denial and antisemitic conspiracy theories both in its broadcasts and on its website. When Ofcom censured Press TV in 2011 for broadcasting an interview with an Iranian journalist who was in prison, Press TV responded by publishing an article accusing Ofcom of being part of the Jewish conspiracy outlined in the notorious antisemitic hoax The Protocols of the Elders of Zion.

5. Iran sees no distinction between Israeli targets and Jewish targets, and terrorist attacks have been carried out directly by Iran, or by surrogates, such as Hizbollah.

The following is a brief and incomplete list of terrorist plots by Iran, Hizbollah, or associated surrogate groups:

October 1989 – The Moroccan assassin of the Belgian Jewish community president admitted that he had been trained in Lebanon by Iranian Revolutionary Guards and Hizbollah, although he subsequently became a mercenary terrorist.

March 1992 – an Iranian trained assassin killed an Israel embassy security guard and three others in bomb attacks against the Israel embassy and a synagogue in Ankara.

January 1993 – an assassination attempt by the Iran linked 'Persevering Workers of Islam' against a Turkish Jewish community leader was foiled by his police body guards.

July 1994 - a car bomb attack against the Jewish community building and school in Buenos Aires resulted in 85 fatalities. Interpol subsequently issued international arrest warrants against several Iranian government leaders in connection with planning and funding the attack.

January 2012 – Three Azerbaijanis, recruited by Iranian intelligence officers, were convicted and imprisoned by a Baku court for plotting attacks against a Baku Jewish school.

January 2012 - Hussein Atris, a Lebanese citizen travelling on a Swedish passport was arrested in Bangkok after discovery of chemicals for manufacturing explosives.

March 2012 – a five man Azeri terrorist cell controlled by an Iranian long term resident were convicted of planned attacks against US, Israeli and Jewish targets.

February 2012 - a ‘sticky bomb’ attached to an Israel embassy car in Delhi, injured an Israel diplomat’s wife.

February 2012 – a ‘sticky bomb’ attached to Israel embassy in Tbilisi was discovered and disarmed. The available evidence suggested Iranian involvement.

February 2012 – four Iranian nationals were detained following explosion in a rented apartment in Bangkok; three fled but were later arrested, as was a fourth person when the grenade he threw at a police car ricocheted, exploded and blew his legs off. Those arrested were subsequently convicted and imprisoned.

April 2012 – Indian authorities deported an Iranian student who had been arrested in connection with suspicious surveillance of Israeli and Jewish targets in Pune.

July 2012 – two Iranian nationals were convicted of terrorist offences in connection with planned attacks on western, Israel and Jewish targets in Kenya.

July 2012 – Bulgarian authorities are seeking the extradition of two Lebanese citizens believed to be connected to Hizbollah, who travelled on Australian and Canadian travel documents respectively, in connection with the bombing of a tourist bus at Burgas airport, which killed six people.

July 2012 – a Swedish citizen of Lebanese origin was sentenced to four years imprisonment in Cyprus for plotting to kill Israeli tourists. He admitted collecting information on Jews on scouting missions around Europe on behalf of Hizbollah.

April 2013 – an Iranian national was arrested outside the Israel embassy in Kathmandu on suspicion of planning a terrorist attack. He had entered Nepal ten days previously on a forged Israeli passport, while concealing his genuine Iranian documents in his luggage.

May 2013 - a Lebanese national was sentenced to life imprisonment by a Nigerian court in connection with a Hizbollah plot to bomb Western, Israeli and Jewish targets. Two others were acquitted.

January 2014

Joint Statement on Iran Nuclear Interim Agreement – The Board of Deputies of British Jews and the Crif

by Vivian Wineman posted in [Israel and Abroad](#)

On Sunday 1 December, the Board of Deputies of British Jews hosted a series of bilateral meetings with the Crif (Conseil Représentatif des Institutions Juives de France). The meetings aimed at discussing common issues facing the French and UK Jewish communities and exploring areas for further joint cooperation. During the discussions, the Crif and the Board reflected together on the recent interim nuclear deal with Iran, and agreed to issue the following joint statement:



"The Board of Deputies and the Crif welcome the recent progress in talks with Iran. However, whilst we do hope that the new Iranian Government is genuinely interested in steps towards greater peace and security in the Middle East, we have some ongoing concerns.

Firstly, we are worried that relaxing sanctions too quickly could allow Iran to return to a path that would allow it to produce nuclear weapons, which would imperil the safety of many countries in the Middle East and around the globe. The World must watch very carefully to ensure that there is no backsliding towards an Iranian military nuclear capability. Years of disingenuity and obfuscation from the Iranian authorities should not be naively forgotten.

Secondly, it remains crucial that positive steps on the nuclear issue do not distract from other pressing topics. Iran continues to arm, fund and empower state and non-state actors, such as Syria and Hezbollah, to commit acts of violence against civilians. World powers should take decisive steps to prevent Iran's financing of global terrorism and the brutal repression of the Syrian people.

Finally, we note that there is evidence that the human rights situation in Iran itself has deteriorated significantly by some measures since Hassan Rouhani was elected President in June, with 367 executions from the time of his election to 25 November. Bahá'ís are reporting increasing levels of persecution since Rouhani's election, and Christian, LGBT and other minorities continue to suffer repression.

The international community must not fall in to the trap of allowing hope to get in the way of genuine progress. In addition to holding Iran to account on its nuclear promises and ensuring that it cannot change a civilian programme to a military one, the World must neither forsake the Iranian people to unending human rights abuses, nor permit Iran to continue to export terror via proxies such as Syria or Hezbollah.

We call on all with influence to work for peace, security, prosperity and equality across the Middle East."

Roger Cukierman, Président, le Conseil Représentatif des Institutions Juives de France (Crif)

Vivian Wineman, President, the Board of Deputies of British Jews