



Transatlantic Friends of Israel

STATEMENT ON IRAN

BACKGROUND

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and its proxies have, of late, escalated their aggressive behavior. Over the past year alone, the FBI uncovered Tehran's brazen plot to kidnap an American women's rights activist in the U.S., Hezbollah fired its heaviest barrage of rockets on our ally Israel since the 2006 war, Iran attempted to strike the U.S. consulate in northern Iraq and killed a Romanian and a British national aboard an oil tanker in the Arabian Sea, and the Yemen-based Houthis used drones and missiles to attack civilian targets in the Gulf, including the international airport in Abu Dhabi.

Despite strong transatlantic cooperation, there are inconsistencies between U.S. and EU terror designations. While both have designated Palestinian Islamic Jihad and have debated Houthi designation, only the U.S. has designated the IRGC. The U.S. terror designation of Hezbollah covers the entirety of the organization, while EU only considers the "military wing" as a terror group.

Decisive action - and consistency - by the U.S. and the transatlantic community is urgently required to curb Iran's escalating nefarious behavior.

TFI STATEMENT

**WE, LAWMAKERS FROM OPPOSITE SIDES OF THE ATLANTIC
and with diverse political views, are united in our grave concern
about the growing threat to regional and global peace posed
by the Islamic Republic of Iran, the world's leading state sponsor of terror.**

That threat is only compounded by the prospect of Iran, armed with advanced ballistic missiles and awash with the funds to finance its malign actions, becoming a nuclear threshold state. Iran's growing alliance with Russia and its supply of advanced drones for Moscow's brutal war against Ukraine further underline the danger the Islamic Republic poses not just to Middle Eastern but also to Western security.

It is therefore vital that the U.S., Canada, and European partners strengthen measures to counter the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), the regime's principal force spreading internal and external terror. We welcome the United States' 2019 designation of the IRGC as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) and support its continued commitment to maintaining this designation as long as the IRGC continues its illicit activities. Since its inception in 1979, the IRGC has created and funded a multitude of terror groups in the region, including Hezbollah and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad. The regime has used these terror proxies to spread death, terror, and instability in the Middle East and beyond.

The transatlantic community should therefore impose sanctions and designate the IRGC, and all of Iran's terror proxies, as the terrorists they are.