End the War Threats and Support the Struggle

Sanctions ProgramAgainst Iran for Democracy Inside Iran

We, the undersigned, oppose the U.S.-led campaign to impose harsher sanctions on Iran, and the ongoing threat of war against that country. Despite Washington's claims, its policy is clearly not animated by a genuine concern for protecting the world from the threat of nuclear war; otherwise how could Washington support such nuclear-armed states as India, Israel, and Pakistan, or maintain its own huge nuclear arsenal? Nor is U.S. policy driven by the goal of defending democracy. If it were, how could the United States support brutally authoritarian regimes such as those in Saudi Arabia and Egypt?

Months after it began its recent program to sanction Iran for its nuclear activities, the United States, in a move described by The New York Times as “more symbolic than substantive,” froze the foreign assets and denied visas to eight Iranian officials, citing their role in the post-elections crackdown. This symbolic gesture cannot obscure the fact that Washington’s fundamental motivation for imposing the comprehensive sanctions aimed at Iran’s nuclear program is to neutralize or eliminate a major threat to its power in the region. In June 2009 people around the world were inspired by the courageous protests in Iran, when hundreds of thousands, possibly millions, took to the streets to demand their democratic rights. Despite Washington’s claims, its policy is clearly more right than any other nation’s to support democratic movements in the Middle East, and to promote the interests of ordinary Americans and real peace in the world.

U.S. belligerence — its continual warnings that “all options remain on the table,” its threats of military force — has no greater aim than to undermine the rationale for Iran and other countries developing their own nuclear weapons. These actions would also be the most effective way to strengthen women’s, labor, and other democratic movements in the Middle East, and to promote the interests of ordinary Americans and real peace in the world.

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Women Gathering in front of the University of Tehran. @ISNA

To: Joanne Landy and Thomas Harrison, Co-Directors, CPD

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