

PRESS RELEASES

U.S. Government Fully Re-Imposes Sanctions on the Iranian Regime As Part of Unprecedented U.S. Economic Pressure Campaign

November 5, 2018

WASHINGTON – Today, in its largest ever single-day action targeting the Iranian regime, the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) sanctioned more than 700 individuals, entities, aircraft, and vessels. This action is a critical part of the re-imposition of the remaining U.S. nuclear-related sanctions that were lifted or waived in connection with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). OFAC's action is designed to disrupt the Iranian regime's ability to fund its broad range of malign activities, and places unprecedented financial pressure on the Iranian regime to negotiate a comprehensive deal that will permanently prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon, cease Iran's development of ballistic missiles, and end Iran's broad range of malign activities. This brings to more than 900 the number of Iran-related targets sanctioned under this Administration in less than two years, marking the highest-ever level of U.S. economic pressure on Iran.

"Treasury's imposition of unprecedented financial pressure on Iran should make clear to the Iranian regime that they will face mounting financial isolation and economic stagnation until they fundamentally change their destabilizing behavior. Iran's leaders must cease support for terrorism, stop proliferating ballistic missiles, end destructive regional activities, and abandon their nuclear ambitions immediately if they seek a path to sanctions relief," said Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin. "The maximum pressure exerted by the United States is only going to mount from here. We are intent on making sure the Iranian regime stops siphoning its hard currency reserves into corrupt investments and the hands of terrorists."

Today's action includes the designation of 50 Iranian banks and their foreign and domestic subsidiaries; the identification of more than 400 targets, including over 200 persons and vessels in Iran's shipping and energy sectors, and an Iranian airline and more than 65 of its aircraft; and the placement on the list of Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons ("SDN List") of nearly 250 persons and associated blocked property that appeared until today on the List of Persons Identified as Blocked Solely Pursuant to Executive Order (E.O.) 13599 ("E.O. 13599 List"). OFAC has deleted the E.O. 13599 List as part of the cessation of the United States' participation in the JCPOA. For a complete list of targets sanctioned today, please click [here](#).

As of today, significant transactions with most persons moved from the E.O. 13599 List to the SDN List (other than those Iranian financial institutions identified solely pursuant to E.O. 13599) could be sanctionable. Such persons will have a notation of "Additional Sanctions Information – Subject to Secondary Sanctions" in their SDN List entries.

This action targets the Iranian regime, not the Iranian people. OFAC continues to maintain humanitarian authorizations and exceptions to our Iran sanctions that allow for the sale of agricultural commodities, food, medicine, and medical devices to Iran.

OVERVIEW OF TODAY'S ACTION

On May 8, 2018, the President ceased the United States' participation in the JCPOA. That same day, the President issued National Security Presidential Memorandum–11, instructing the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury to begin taking steps to re-impose all U.S. sanctions lifted or waived in connection with the JCPOA, including to prepare to relist persons removed from U.S. sanctions lists in connection with the JCPOA as appropriate. The President directed that these steps be accomplished as expeditiously as possible, and in no case later than 180 days from May 8, 2018.

Yesterday marked the end of the 180-day wind-down period. As of today, all U.S. sanctions lifted or waived in connection with the JCPOA are re-imposed and in full effect. OFAC has published additional frequently asked questions (FAQs) with respect to the re-imposition of these sanctions [here](#).

As part of the re-imposition of U.S. sanctions and the relisting of persons removed from U.S. sanctions lists in connection with the JCPOA, hundreds of targets were designated or identified and added to the SDN List today. Among those identified are 92 entities owned or controlled by Ghadir Investment Company, which OFAC previously identified as an investment firm affiliated with the Execution of Imam Khomeini's Order (EIKO).

Additionally, persons and associated blocked property that were previously included on the E.O. 13599 List have been moved to the SDN List. OFAC has removed the E.O. 13599 List, which was created on January 16, 2016 to denote the continued status as blocked of persons solely identified pursuant to E.O. 13599 as meeting the definition of the terms "Government of Iran" or "Iranian financial institution."

Moreover, an amendment to the Iranian Transactions Sanctions Regulations (ITSR) takes effect today that reflects the re-imposition of sanctions pursuant to certain sections of Executive Order 13846 and the changes to the SDN List and E.O. 13599 List.

BANKING SECTOR

Today marks the largest single-day OFAC action targeting the Iranian regime's abuse of Iran's banking sector to fund its destabilizing activities. For example, the Iranian regime has funneled the equivalent of billions of dollars for the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-Qods Force (IRGC-QF) through the banking sector. The action targets, in particular, Iranian banks that have provided support to, or are owned or controlled by, persons designated in connection with the Iranian regime's support to international terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) or their means of delivery, and human rights abuses. Some of the banks designated today have served as financial conduits for the IRGC-QF, the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics (MODAFL), the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB), the Martyrs Foundation, Mahan Air, and Iran's Law Enforcement Forces (LEF) — all entities that remained designated throughout the JCPOA.

"As the Iranian people suffer from fiscal mismanagement and a plummeting rial, the Iranian regime abuses the country's banking system to enrich its elite and finance repressive state institutions. The IRGC and other destabilizing entities leverage their access to the global financial system to fund proxies fighting in Syria, Iraq, and Yemen, subsidize the proliferation of WMD or their means of delivery, and arm those who abuse the human rights of Iranian citizens," said Treasury Under Secretary Sigal Mandelker. "This action is aimed at cutting off Iranian banks that facilitate Iran's domestic repression and foreign adventurism from the international financial system, and will highlight for the world the true nature of the regime's abuse of its domestic banking system."

Today, more than 70 Iran-linked financial institutions and their foreign and domestic subsidiaries were designated or identified and placed on the SDN List.

Bank Melli is being designated pursuant to E.O. 13224 for assisting in, sponsoring, or providing financial, material, or technological support for, or financial or other services to or in support of, the IRGC-QF, which was previously designated pursuant to E.O. 13224 on October 25, 2007. As of 2018, the equivalent of billions of dollars in funds have flowed through IRGC-QF controlled accounts at Bank Melli. Bank Melli has acted as a conduit for payments to the IRGC-QF. The IRGC-QF has used Bank Melli to dispense funds to Iraqi Shia militant groups, and Bank Melli's presence in Iraq was part of this scheme. Since the mid-2000s, Bank Melli increasingly provided services to Iranian military-related entities as they became further involved in all aspects of the Iranian economy. Bank Melli has enabled the IRGC and its affiliates to move funds inside and outside of Iran. The IRGC was designated pursuant to E.O. 13224 on October 13, 2017.

Bank Melli has also provided financial services to MODAFL, which was designated pursuant to E.O. 13382 on October 25, 2007.

Arian Bank, a Bank Melli subsidiary, is being designated pursuant to E.O. 13224 for being owned or controlled by Bank Melli.

Along with Arian Bank, OFAC designated another 12 entities pursuant to E.O. 13224 for being owned or controlled by Bank Melli or one of Bank Melli's subsidiaries: Bank Kargoshaee, Melli Bank PLC, Tose-E Melli Group Investment Company, Tose-E Melli Investment Company, National Industries and Mining Development Company, Behshahr Industrial Development Corp., Cement Industry Investment and Development Company, Melli International Building & Industry Company, BMIIC International General Trading LLC, Shomal Cement Company, Persian Gulf Sabz Karafarinan, and Mir Business Bank (MB Bank).

Future Bank B.S.C. is being identified as a person whose property and interests in property are blocked due to the fact that Bank Melli and Bank Saderat, entities whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to E.O. 13224, hold a 50 percent or greater aggregate interest in the bank.

The Export Development Bank of Iran (EDBI) is being designated pursuant to E.O. 13224 for assisting in, sponsoring, or providing financial, material, or technological support for, or financial or other services to or in support of, MB Bank. Three other entities are being designated pursuant to E.O. 13224 for being owned or controlled by, or for acting for or on behalf of, EDBI: EDBI Stock Exchange, EDBI Exchange Brokerage, and Banco Internacional de Desarrollo, C.A. Additionally, the Iran-Venezuela Bi-National Bank is being designated pursuant to E.O. 13224 for assisting in, sponsoring, or providing financial, material, or technological support for, or financial or other services to or in support of, EDBI.

Ghavamin Bank is being designated pursuant to E.O. 13553 for having materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services to or in support of, Iran's LEF. Ghavamin Bank has provided extensive banking services and facilitated routine financial transactions for the LEF. The LEF was designated in 2011 for being responsible for or complicit in serious human rights abuses in Iran, including operating detention centers where detained protestors were deprived of basic needs such as medical care.

Bank Sepah is being designated pursuant to E.O. 13382 for having provided, or attempted to provide, financial, material, technological, or other support for, or goods or services in support of, MODAFL. As of 2017, Bank Sepah served as a financial platform for MODAFL to pay its agents abroad.

Bank of Industry and Mine (BIM) is being designated pursuant to E.O. 13382 for having provided, or attempted to provide, financial, material, technological, or other support for, or goods or services in support of, Bank Sepah. As of 2018, BIM provided bank account services for Bank Sepah, including engaging in the exchange of Iranian rials for euros for the benefit of Bank Sepah. BIM coordinated the transfer of the equivalent of millions of dollars' worth of euros for the benefit of Bank Sepah.

Europaisch-Iranische Handelsbank AG (EIH) is being designated pursuant to E.O. 13382 for being owned or controlled by BIM, and for having provided, or attempted to provide, financial, material, technological, or other support for, or goods or

services in support of, Bank Sepah. As recently as 2018, EIH maintained active account services for Bank Sepah, including processing the equivalent of millions of dollars' worth of euro payments in support of Bank Sepah.

Post Bank of Iran is being designated pursuant to E.O. 13382 for having provided, or attempted to provide, financial, material, technological, or other support for, or goods or services in support of, Bank Sepah. As recently as 2018, Post Bank of Iran engaged in the exchange of Iranian rials for euros for the benefit of Bank Sepah through active euro accounts.

Bank Tejarat is being designated pursuant to E.O. 13382 for having provided, or attempted to provide, financial, material, technological, or other support for, or goods or services in support of, Bank Sepah. As recently as 2018, Bank Tejarat provided critical financial services for Bank Sepah. Bank Tejarat also is being designated pursuant to E.O. 13224 for assisting in, sponsoring, or providing financial, material, or technological support for, or financial or other services to or in support of, Mahan Air, a designated Iranian airline that provides transportation, funds transfers, and personnel travel services to the IRGC-QF. Mahan Air was designated pursuant to E.O. 13224 on October 12, 2011. Belarus-based Trade Capital Bank (TC Bank) is being designated pursuant to E.O. 13382 and E.O. 13224 for being owned or controlled by Bank Tejarat.

Ayandeh Bank is being designated pursuant to E.O. 13846 and the Iran Threat Reduction Act of 2012 for having materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services to or in support of, IRIB, Iran's state-media apparatus that routinely broadcasts false news reports and propaganda, including forced confessions of political detainees. IRIB was designated pursuant to E.O. 13628 in February 2013 for restricting or denying the free flow of information to or from the Iranian people. IRIB was implicated in censoring multiple media outlets and airing forced confessions from political detainees.

Day Bank is being designated pursuant to E.O. 13224 for being owned or controlled by, and for assisting in, sponsoring, or providing financial, material, or technological support for, or financial or other services to or in support of, Martyrs Foundation, an Iranian parastatal organization that channels financial support from Iran to several terrorist organizations in the Levant, including Hizballah, Hamas, and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ). The Martyrs Foundation, which was designated pursuant to E.O. 13224 in July 2007, has established branches in Lebanon staffed by leaders and members of terrorist groups to serve the families of killed or imprisoned Hizballah and PIJ members. Day Bank provides significant financial support and banking services to the Martyrs Foundation.

Additionally, 14 entities are being designated pursuant to E.O. 13224 for being owned or controlled by Day Bank. These 14 subsidiaries, which engage in a wide range of business activities across different Iranian economic sectors, are Atieh Sazan Day,

Buali Investment Company, Tejarat Gostar Fardad, Day Exchange Company, Day Leasing Company, Day Bank Brokerage Company, Tose-e Didar Iranian Holding Company, Royay-e Roz Kish Investment Company, Day E-Commerce, Tose-e Donya Shahr Kohan Company, Damavand Power Generation Company, Omid Bonyan Day Insurance Services, Omran Va Maskan Abad Day Company, and Day Iranian Financial and Accounting Services Company.

Persia International Bank PLC, First East Export Bank PLC, and Mellat Bank Closed Joint-Stock Company are being designated pursuant to E.O. 13224 for being owned or controlled by Bank Mellat. Bank Mellat was designated pursuant to E.O. 13224 on October 16, 2018.

SHIPPING SECTOR

Among those in Iran's shipping sector placed on the SDN List today are Iran's national maritime carrier, the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL), and oil transport giant National Iranian Tanker Company (NITC), both of which were identified pursuant to E.O. 13599 for meeting the definition of the term "Government of Iran." In addition, these entities have been determined to be part of the shipping sector of Iran. As a result, the knowing provision of significant financial, material, technological, or other support to, or goods or services in support of, these entities could be sanctionable.

OFAC added to the SDN List 65 IRISL subsidiaries and associated individuals pursuant to E.O. 13599. In addition, 122 vessels also were identified as property in which IRISL has an interest.

One IRISL subsidiary, Valfajr Shipping Company PJS, has been used regularly by the IRGC to transfer passengers, cargo, containers, and IRGC personnel from IRGC-controlled ports in Iran to major ports in the Persian Gulf region.

Another IRISL subsidiary, Hafez Darya Arya Shipping Company, has shipped cargo to at least one known cover company for Iran's Defense Industries Organization (DIO). DIO was previously designated pursuant to E.O. 13382 on March 30, 2007 for engaging in activities that materially contributed to the development of Iran's nuclear and missile programs.

In 2017, IRISL subsidiary Safiran Payam Darya Shipping Company shipped more than 136,000 metric tons of Iranian light crude oil from Iran to Syria.

Additionally, pursuant to E.O. 13599, OFAC identified 37 NITC-affiliated entities and vessels in which NITC has an interest. Identifying information for another 52 vessels confirmed as being property in which NITC has an interest was updated as well. Each year, these vessels move tens of millions of barrels' worth of Iranian oil, as well as Iranian natural gas, which constitute a major source of revenue to fund the Iranian regime's malign activities. It is essential to close off this funding stream to Tehran.

The Iranian shipping industry is reviving previously employed deceptive practices in an effort to obfuscate IRISL or NITC's interests in vessels and other property. Among the IRISL vessels identified today are four vessels that recently underwent name and partial ownership changes but that are still property in which IRISL has a blockable interest. The global maritime industry should be on alert for Iran's use of such tactics and make every effort to thwart Iran's use of their jurisdictions to create front companies; to revoke their flags from IRISL and NITC vessels; and to deny other means that enable Iran to conceal its interest in the vessels. For additional information related to Iran's deceptive practices, please click [here](#) for FinCEN's recent Iran Advisory.

ATOMIC ENERGY ORGANIZATION OF IRAN

Today, OFAC added to the SDN List the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) as well as 23 AEOI subsidiaries and associated individuals, and identified them as meeting the definition of the term "Government of Iran" pursuant to E.O. 13599 and section 560.211 of the ITSR. AEOI has operational and regulatory control over Iran's nuclear program and bears responsibility for nuclear research and development.

Additionally, OFAC designated Morteza Ahmadali Behzad pursuant to E.O. 13382 for acting or purporting to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, Pishro Company. Pishro Company, which is responsible for research and development efforts across Iran's nuclear program, was designated pursuant to E.O. 13382 on May 9, 2013.

AVIATION

Today OFAC identified Iran Air, the national airline of Iran, pursuant to E.O. 13599 for being owned or controlled by the Government of Iran. OFAC also added to the SDN List 67 aircraft operated by Iran Air.

SANCTIONS IMPLICATIONS

As a result of today's action, all property and interests in property of these targets that are in the United States or in the possession or control of U.S. persons must be blocked and reported to OFAC. OFAC's regulations generally prohibit all dealings by U.S. persons or within the United States (including transactions transiting the United States) that involve any property or interests in property of blocked or designated persons.

In addition, persons that engage in certain transactions with the entities designated and identified today may themselves be exposed to enforcement action, designation, or blocking sanctions. Furthermore, unless an exception applies, any foreign financial institution that knowingly facilitates a significant transaction for any of the entities designated today or for certain other Iranian persons on the SDN List (other than

Iranian financial institutions solely identified as "Government of Iran") could be subject to U.S. correspondent or payable-through account sanctions.

Identifying information on the entities designated today.

####

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Secretary of the Treasury Steve Mnuchin hold a news briefing on Iran Sanctions

Participants: Secretary of State Mike Pompeo; Secretary of the Treasury Steve Mnuchin; Robert Palladino, State Department deputy spokesperson

Time: 8:15 am EST, **Date:** Monday, November 5th, 2018

PALLADINO: Good morning, everyone, and welcome to the Foreign Press Center. We are pleased to have with us this morning Secretary Pompeo and Secretary Mnuchin. They'll both have some opening remarks, and then hopefully, we'll have time for one or two questions afterwards.

Secretary Pompeo?

POMPEO: Robert, thank you.

Good morning, everyone. It's a -- it's great to be here at the Foreign Press Center. It's great to see you all.

In May of this year, after President Trump withdrew from the nuclear deal, the Trump administration announced a new strategy to fundamentally alter the behavior of the Islamic Republic of Iran's leadership. At the center of this effort -- and there are multiple lines of effort, but at the center of it is an unprecedented campaign of economic pressure. Our objective is to starve the Iranian regime of the revenue it uses to fund violent and destabilizing activities throughout the Middle East and, indeed, around the world.

Our ultimate goal is to convince the regime to abandon its current revolutionary course. Just look at what happened last week: Denmark announced it had uncovered an Iranian regime assassination plot on its own soil.

The Iranian regime has a choice: It can either do a 180-degree turn from its outlaw course of action and act like a normal country, or it can see its economy crumble. **POMPEO:** We hope a new agreement with Iran is possible, but until Iran makes changes in the 12 ways that I listed in May, we will be relentless in exerting pressure on the regime.

As a reflection of that resolve, today we're reimposing all sanctions that were previously lifted under the nuclear deal. This includes sanctions on energy, banking, shipping and shipbuilding industries.

Since the Trump administration came into office we've done 19 rounds of sanctions targeting 168 Iranian entities. Today's sanctions will accelerate the rapid decline of international economic activity in Iran since the implementation of our strategy in May.

Since that time -- since back in May, over 100 companies have withdrawn from Iran or canceled plans to do business there.

It should be noted that if a company evades our sanctions regime and secretly continues sanctionable commerce in the Islamic Republic, the United States will levy severe, swift penalties on it, including potential sanctions.

I promise you that doing business with Iran in defiance of our sanctions will ultimately be a much more painful business decision than pulling out of Iran and it -- being connected to Iran entirely.

More than 20 importing nations have zeroed out their imports of crude oil already, taking more than 1 million barrels of crude per day off the market. The regime to date since May has lost over \$2.5 billion in oil revenue.

We have decided to issue temporary allotments to a handful of countries responsible to specific circumstances and to ensure a well-supplied oil market. The U.S. will be granting these exemptions to China, India, Italy, Greece, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Turkey.

Each of those countries has already demonstrated significant reductions of the purchase of Iranian crude over the past six months, and indeed two of those eight have already completely ended imports of Iranian crude and will not resume as long as the sanctions regime remains in place. We continue negotiations to get all of the nations to zero.

Additionally today, 100 percent of the revenue Iran receives from the sale of oil will be held in foreign -- foreign accounts. Iran can only use this money for humanitarian trade or bilateral non-sanctioned -- in bilateral non-sanctioned goods.

Speaking of Iran's nuclear program, we have decided to grant narrow and temporary waivers to permit the continuation of three nonproliferation projects currently underway. Allowing these activities to continue for the time being will improve ongoing oversight of Iran's civil nuclear program and make these facilities less susceptible to illicit and illegal nuclear uses. Rest assured, Iran will never come close to getting a nuclear weapon on President Trump's watch.

I will now turn it over to Secretary Mnuchin.

MNUCHIN: Thank you.

Today the United States is executing on the final actions to withdraw on the Obama administration's fatally flawed Iran deal. This morning, we will fully impose sanctions on the Iranian regime. This is part of a maximum unprecedented economic pressure campaign the United States is waging against the world's largest state sponsor of terror.

Today we sanctioned more than 700 individuals, entities, aircraft and vessels as part of Treasury's largest ever single-day action targeting Iran. Over 300 of those sanctions are new targets. In addition, we are relisting hundreds of individuals and entities that were previously sanctioned -- granted sanctions relief under the JCPOA.

These powerful sanctions directly target Iran's banking, energy and shipping

sectors.MNUCHIN: The Iranian regime has funneled billions of dollars for the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps force -- through the banking sector. Today's designation includes 50 Iranian banks and their foreign and domestic subsidiaries, in conjunction with Iran's regime support for international terrorism, proliferation of mass destruction or their means of delivery, and human rights abuses.

Our actions include the identification of more than 400 targets, including over 200 persons and vessels in Iran's shipping and energy sector; Iran Air, the national airline of Iran, and more than 65 aircraft; the placement of nearly 250 persons in associate block properties on the Specially Designated Nationals List; the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran.

Over the last five months, Treasury has implemented some of the most impactful sanctions ever seen. Combined with the previous actions, more than 900 Iran-related targets have been sanctioned under this administration in less than two years, marking the highest-ever level of U.S. economic pressure on Iran.

We are making it abundantly clear to the Iranian regime that they will face mounting financial isolation until they fundamentally change their destabilizing behavior.

Iran's leaders must cease support for terrorism and end destructive regional activities immediately. They must stop ballistic missiles and abandon their nuclear ambitions if they seek a path to sanctions relief.

We are watching the Iranian regime with laser focus. If they try to evade our sanctions, we will take actions to obstruct their activity time and time again.

The maximum pressure exerted by the United States is only going to mount from here. Companies around the world need to know we will be strictly enforcing our sanctions.

Thank you.

PALLADINO: That will allow time for a few questions.

Let's go to Sky News, Cordelia Lynch.

QUESTION: Hello, this is a question for Secretary Pompeo.

The president invoked "Game of Thrones" when he was discussing sanctions. Do you think that was appropriate?

POMPEO: This administration has been consistent from, frankly, President Trump's campaign to the first day he was inaugurated about our intention.

We understand that the Islamic Republic of Iran presents a threat to the United States of America and we are determined to stop it.

And, you know, much has been made about this "Game of Thrones," Qasem Soleimani responded and I haven't seen any of you comment on that. This is a man

who has American blood on his hands. He's killed American soldiers. And that's not funny.

And the actions that the Islamic Republic of Iran are undertaking are not about little silly things that people get wrapped up here in Washington, D.C., but about very serious matters that impact all of Europe, all the Middle East and the world, and our young men and women who are in harm's way today.

PALLADINO: Thank you, sir.

Next question is going to be Asahi Shimbun, Uko Lanham (ph). Uko (ph)? All right, we're going to move onto F.A. (ph), Beatrice Pasquale Masais (ph).

QUESTION: Hi. Thank you very much.

I was wondering, what could you say to the European countries that were expecting to be in this list of countries that are not going to suffer the sanctions? And what kind of relations have you had with them? What are the conversations regarding this topic?

Thank you.

POMPEO: You want to take that on the financial side, Steven?

MNUCHIN: Well, I don't think we've ever said as it relates to the European countries, that they'll be exempt. I think quite the contrary: We've said that we expect them to honor the sanctions.

Having said that, there are certain transactions that they can continue to do, whether they're humanitarian transactions or specific trade in the restricted accounts. **MNUCHIN:** And again, let me just emphasize, as I said last week, we will make sure that humanitarian transactions are really going for those purposes. So, this is not about hurting the people of Iran, but we will not let money be diverted to humanitarian purposes and then put for terrorist activities.

POMPEO: And just to follow up, with respect to the relationship, we've been very candid, clear with all of the European countries. There are more than three, we should note. And many of them are fully supportive of what it is that we are undertaking. They have taken a different approach with respect to the JCPOA.

But it is also something that the whole world should know: European businesses have already made their decisions. They've decided not to do business with the Islamic Republic of Iran. And so, we're very confident that the sanctions regime that we're putting in place will be effective.

Sir?

PALLADINO: Al Jazeera English, James Bays.

QUESTION: James Bays from Al Jazeera English.

You talk about the destabilizing behavior of Iran in the region. How does that differ from the behavior of Saudi Arabia?

POMPEO: So let me just go through the list: underwriting Lebanese Hezbollah, that presents a threat to the United States of America and to Israel; underwriting the Houthis in Yemen, causing an enormous conflict to take place there in that country; the efforts in Iraq to undermine the Iraqi government, funding Shia militias that are not in the best interest of the Iraqi people; their efforts in Syria. The -- the list goes on.

The difference in behavior between those two countries is remarkable.

Since we've taken office, the -- the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been very supportive of our efforts on counterterrorism. They have assisted us. I know Secretary Mnuchin has worked with them on a couple of projects, as well.

It is completely clear: The Islamic Republic of Iran is the destabilizing force in the Middle East today.

So you want to add to that?

MNUCHIN: No, I think it's well-said.

PALLADINO: Last question's for (ph) TASS, Dmitry Kirsanov.

QUESTION: Thank you, gentlemen. Thanks a lot for coming over to brief us.

For Secretary Pompeo, sir, you mentioned that three waivers had been issued for the civilian nuclear energy project. Would you clarify what those are? And Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant, will it be the one under the waiver?

Thank you.

POMPEO: Thank you. That's a great question.

It's a pretty complicated area, the non-proliferation issue. There are three; Bushehr is one of the three. But if I may, we will get out a full fact sheet on that here in the next hour or so that you will all be able to see.

What we have authorized is very narrow, very limited, very time-limited as well, but important nonetheless that these non-proliferation projects are not things that are taking place without some ability to see what's going on. And we'll -- we'll give you the full details of the scope of those waivers.

PALLADINO: All right. We -- we have one time for -- this is the last one. Let's go right to the front, right here, please.

QUESTION: Rohrs Dalla (ph) with Rodal TV (ph) in Iraqi Kurdistan.

Mr. Secretary, Iran has very powerful hands in Iraq. Are you not concerned that with

these sanctions the Iran might increase the pressure on some of your allies in -- in Iraq? And in that case, what can you do to reassure those allies?

POMPEO: So it's a very reasonable question.

Here's the facts: Since the United States entered the JCPOA in 2015, Iran has turned up the heat on those very entities to which you're referring. So we have a history. We have data set. We have a historical basis upon which to say that we know that the JCOP -- JCPOA didn't impede Iran one bit from putting pressure on Kurdistan, pressure in Baghdad, pressure throughout the region.

We are very hopeful that the set of efforts we're undertaking -- we've focused here on the financial and economic, but the full range of efforts we're taking to push back against the Islamic Republic of Iran will have the intended effect of reducing Iran's capacity to be destabilizing and -- and present risk to the Middle East, to Europe and the world.

PALLADINO: That -- that concludes this morning's briefing. Thank you very much to Secretaries Pompeo and Mnuchin.

POMPEO: Thank you all.

PALLADINO: Thank you, sir.

Thank you all.

END

