

Iran Under Pressure: Why America's Sanctions Strategy might Work

Tehran has been signaling through its behavior over the past year that it does not want to leave the JCPOA because any other option will be worse from its point of view.

by [Emily B. Landau](#) / July 3, 2019

Iran announced on July 1 that it had crossed the threshold of a three-hundred-kilogram stockpile of low enriched uranium that it is allowed under the terms of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and the International Atomic Energy Agency confirmed later in the afternoon that this was indeed the situation.

While the reason that Iran is lashing out has to do with the fact that it is suffering the effects of the sanctions that the United States has put in place as part of its “maximum pressure” campaign, Iran’s message in the nuclear realm is directed primarily to the Europeans. In line with its long-time tactic of “divide and conquer” with regard to the Americans and Europeans, Iran wants to get the Europeans to blame the United States for Iran’s provocations (accepting that Iran “had no choice but to lash out”). It wants to finally secure a financial mechanism that will circumvent U.S. sanctions, and allow economic deals to flourish between Iran and European companies.

...

Emily Landau is a senior research fellow at the [Institute for National Security Studies \(INSS\)](#) and head of its Arms Control and Regional Security Program.

For full article:

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/middle-east-watch/iran-under-pressure-why-americas-sanctions-strategy-will-work-65456>