



Iran Lied: Could Millions Die?

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by: Joshua Spurlock, The Mideast Update

In a much-hailed agreement in 2015, the major world powers surrendered their best leverage—stiff economic sanctions on Iran—in exchange for concessions from Tehran that supposedly would prevent the Islamic Republic from developing nuclear weapons. Just four years later, Iran managed to undo two of the most important concessions in that agreement while threatening to undo a third—all in a matter of months. What’s more, new evidence has come to light that Iran wasn’t being honest when signing the deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Instead of nuclear peace, Iran’s lies and the world powers’ concessions may have merely delayed the threat of nuclear war.

Iranian Lies

To develop a nuclear weapons program, a nation needs three components, explained Dr. **Emily Landau**, senior research fellow and head of the Arms Control and Regional Security program at **The Institute for National Security Studies** in Israel. Those components are: nuclear fuel—either highly-enriched uranium or plutonium; a warhead capable of setting off the nuclear explosion; and a means for delivering that weapon, which today is done via ballistic missile. Landau acknowledges that most estimates put Iran one to two years away from developing nuclear weapons, if they choose to take that path. At the same time, she believes that estimating how close Iran is to a bomb is not nearly as important as tracking its steps to developing one. She said multiple factors can impact the timeline, noting that Iran was thought to be close to a bomb 20 years ago, but opposition hindered that plan.

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