

## Iran's nuclear 'restraint' is policy rather than technology

The U.S. is not going to attack and forestall a nuclear-armed Tehran, says Israel expert.

[Israel Kasnett](#) (July 5, 2024 / JNS)

Iran's recent declaration that it is installing additional centrifuges at the Fordow nuclear facility signifies a significant step towards nuclear weaponization. Tehran's apparent restraint in developing nuclear weapons is derived more from policy considerations than technological constraints.

On Wednesday, the Jerusalem Press Club hosted an online interview with **Dr. Ephraim Asculai, a former senior official at the Israel Atomic Energy Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**, who warned about Iran's intentions, called on the international community to do more, and cautioned the world to "be wary" of the Islamic Republic and its leaders.

"Iran can now enrich uranium up to 90% in quantities for several nuclear warheads within just a few weeks," Asculai said. "It all hangs on the decision of the supreme leader."

This is worrying, given that Iran just threatened on Saturday that an Israeli military operation against Hezbollah terrorists in Lebanon could lead to an "obliterating war" with all of Tehran's proxies, adding that "all options are on the table."

According to the Washington-based Institute for Science and International Security, "Considering the likely case where Iran installs eight more IR-6 cascades at Fordow in the next several weeks, and noting it already has two IR-6 cascades at Fordow, breakout could occur rapidly, once the Iranian regime decides to do so."

Two months after Iran commences breakout, "it could produce a total of 225 kg. [496 pounds] of weapon-grade uranium, enough for nine nuclear weapons," the institute reported.

Asculai explained that while enrichment is the most difficult part of producing nuclear weapons, there are two additional steps—design and production of the nuclear explosive mechanism and then the delivery system.

...

*For full article:*

<https://www.jns.org/irans-nuclear-restraint-is-policy-rather-than-technology/>