

## As Iran's proxy strategy weakens, focus shifts to nuclear program

Tehran is weeks away from military-grade nuclear enrichment, as the regime faces pressures to accelerate its nuclear project.

Yaakov Lappin / Oct. 16, 2024

[...]

**Sima Shine, director of the Iran and the Shi'ite Axis Research Program at the Tel Aviv-based Institute for National Security Studies**, highlighted the alarming progress, telling JNS that it was important to distinguish between Iran's fissile material and the actual work of building a nuclear bomb.

"Regarding fissile material, they are very, very close. Within two to three weeks, they can enrich enough for three nuclear devices, and after that, for three more within a few weeks," she said.

The next stage, she said, would be to create sufficient missile material at the 90% enrichment level and upwards.

The next step, Shine explained, would be to create a nuclear warhead, which would take more time, though she noted Iran could also decide to just create a bomb without a missile warhead. "We're talking about roughly six months to a year and a half," she said. "What is needed is a political decision" on Tehran's part.

Regarding such a decision, Shine noted that there has been chatter in recent months within Iran—not necessarily from senior regime leaders but rather former senior members—about the need to modify Iran's security and nuclear doctrine, while other voices have argued the opposite. "There is a very discernable dialogue about this," said Shine.

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