



The Politics of Nuclear IRAN

Chris Schaefer

chris.schaefer@bataandiary.com

832-428-1977

www.bataandiary.com/Iran.html



Today:

- Hostages, Iran-Iraq War
- Iran's Proxy Network
- Iran's Nuclear Program
- Iranian Politics

HEZBOLLAH



1982, Khomeini sends 1,500 Republican Guards to Lebanon to organize and train a Shi'a militia.



Qassem Soleimani speaks to troops during the Iran-Iraq War.





Hezbollah headed by Shi'ite cleric
Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah



October 1983: Nasrallah orders Hezbollah to Bomb the U.S. Marine barracks in Beirut—241 killed.



Hezbollah headed by Shi'ite cleric Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah



Fathi Shaqaqi, one of the founders of Palestinian Islamic Jihad.



Islamic Jihad



Dr. Abdel Aziz al-Rantissi (above) and Sheikh Ahmed Yassin (right), founded Hamas in 1988, during the First Intifada.



Hamas



1990s, Using its IRGC, Iran supplies weapons to Hezbollah and develops relationships with Islamic Jihad, Hamas.

SEYED ALI HOSSEINI KHAMENEI



Ali Khamenei,
About age 16



Seyyed Ali Hoseyni Khamenei serves as a liaison officer during the Iran-Iraq war.





June 1981 Khamenei severely injured by a bomb
set by the dissident group MEK.



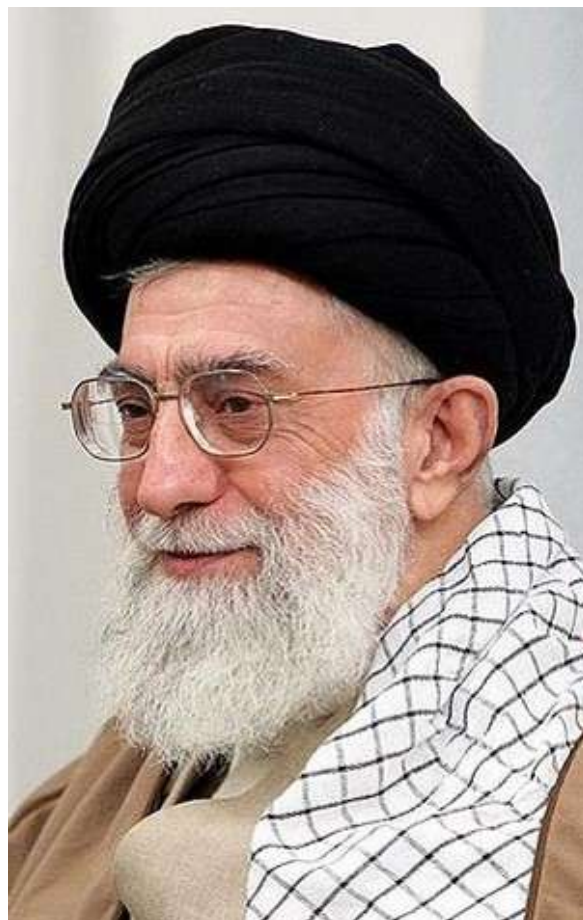
As a wounded war hero, Khamenei is elected war-time President of Iran in October 1981.



June 4, 1989 Ayatollah Sayyed Ali Khamenei
elected Supreme Leader by the Assembly of Experts.



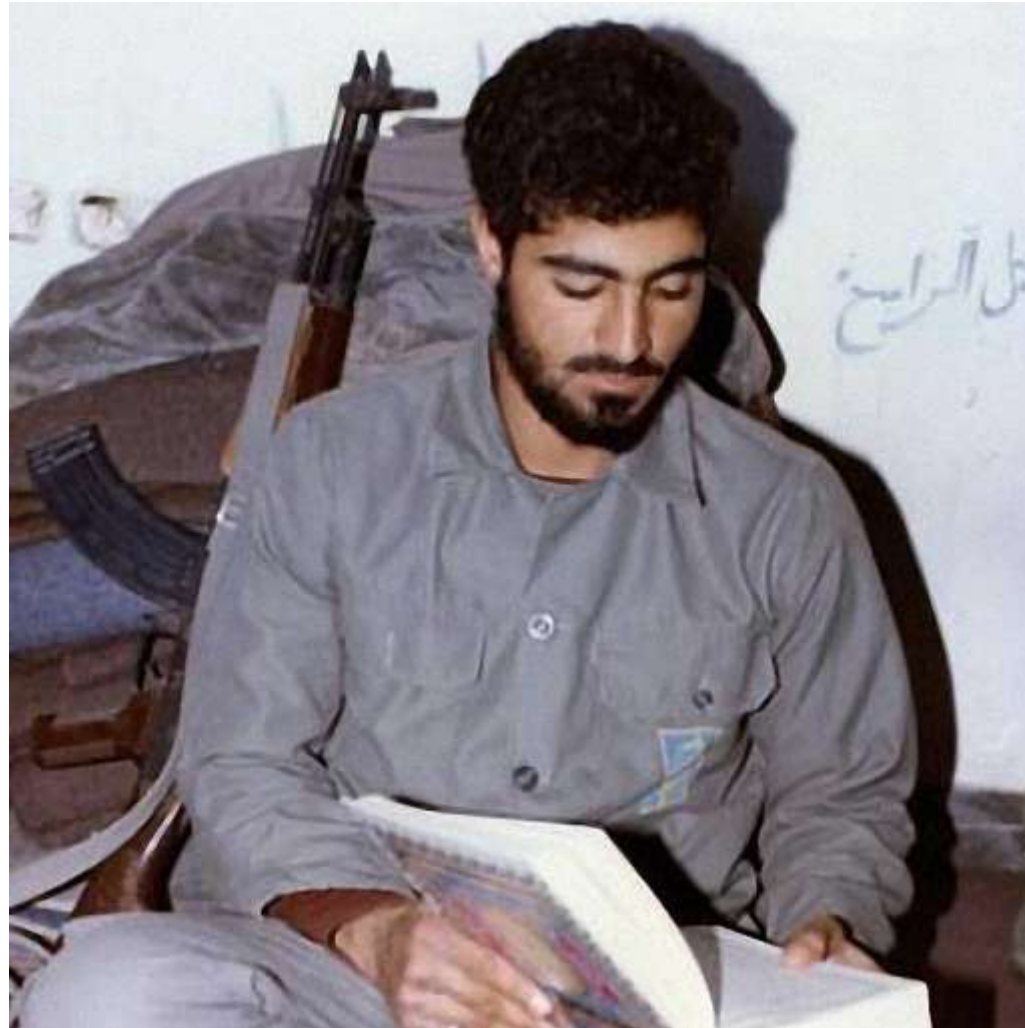
6/3/89 Supreme Leader
Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini
died.



June 4, 1989 Ayatollah Sayyed Ali Khamenei
elected Supreme Leader by the Assembly of Experts.



Qassem Soleimani and the Proxy Network.



Following the Iranian revolution, Soleimani joined the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC).



Khomeini sends 1,500 Republican Guards to Lebanon to organize and train a Shi'a militia.



1989, Suleimani sent to Afghanistan frontier.



Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei was said to regard Qassem Suleimani as a son.

9/11 and the Taliban



9/11 Attack on the World Trade Center



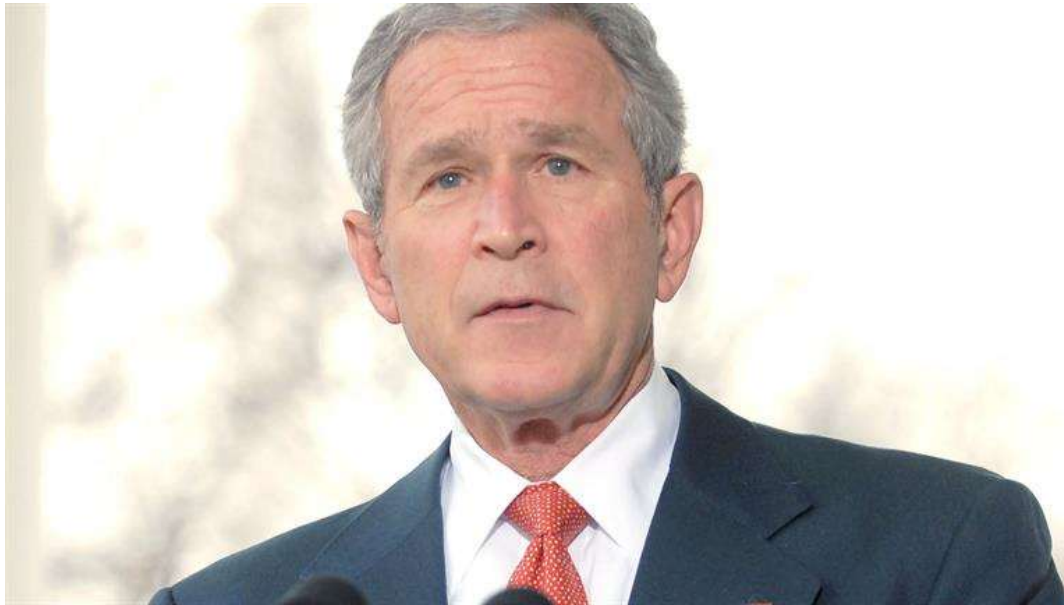
November 2001, Iran allows U.S. to use its airfields, port of Chabahar, to invade Afghanistan.



1/29/2002. George W. Bush declares that North Korea, Iraq and Iran constitute an “Axis of Evil.”



3/20/2003. Operation Iraqi Freedom—U.S. invades Iraq.



2/26/03. George Bush predicts that the invasion of Iraq will be the first step in the democratization of the Middle East.



3/21/03. Neocons William Kristol, Richard Perle and Michael Ledeen say that the U.S. is in Iraq, and Syria or Iran may be next.



8/29/03. Abu Mus'ab al-Zarqawi truck-bombs the Imam Ali Mosque in Najaf, the most sacred site in Shi'a Islam. The driver of the suicide truck was Yassin Jarad, abu Mus'ab al-Zarqawi's father-in-law.





Shi'a insurgents, spurred on by cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, strike out across Iraq, but particularly in Baghdad and southern Iraq.



Moqtada al-Sadr, Shi'a Mahdi Army.



Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, al Qaeda.



Iran sees the opportunity to step in and provide funding, weapons, organization and leadership to the Shi'a. Chaos in Iraq protects Iran from the U.S. and from Iraq.



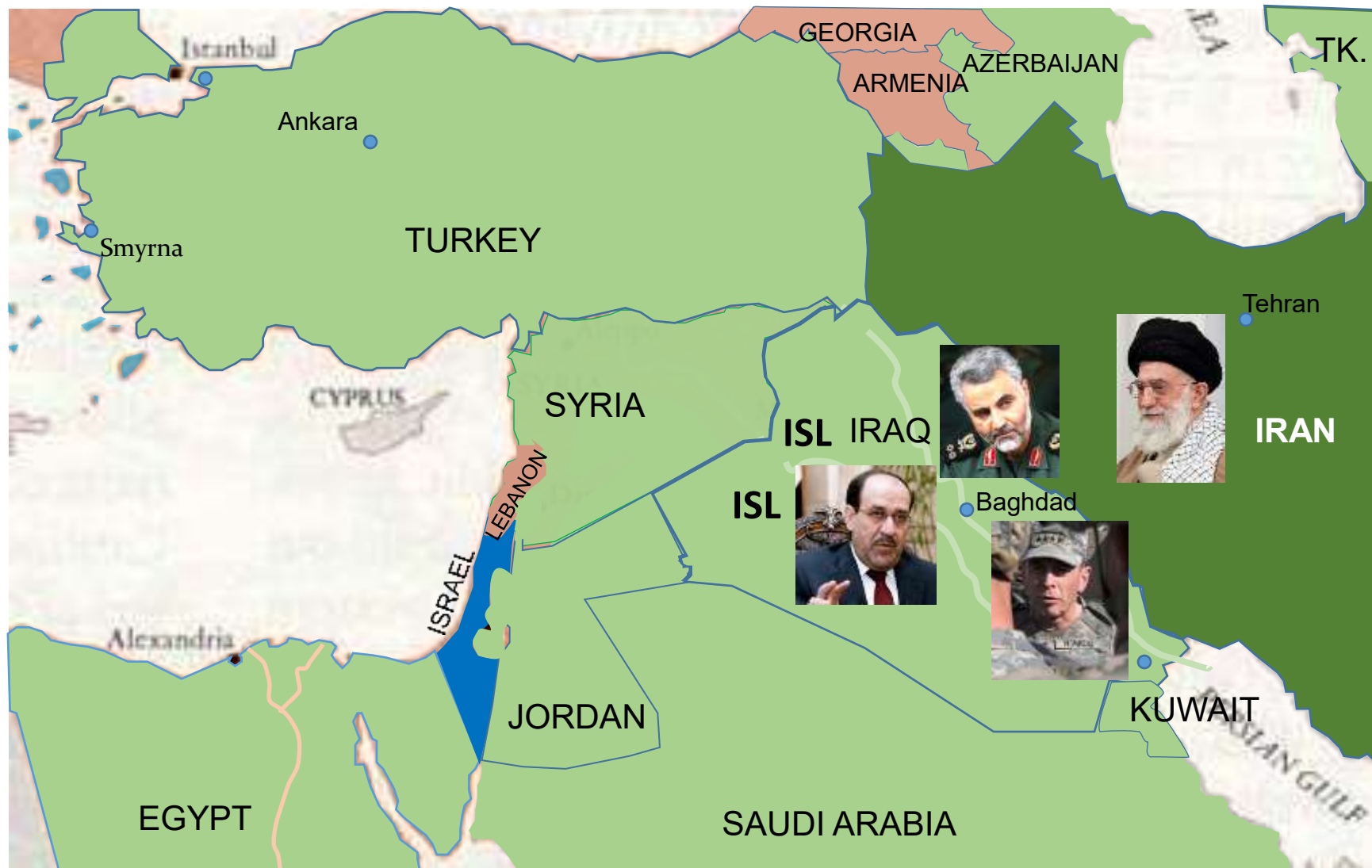
Moqtada al-Sadr, Shi'a Mahdi Army.



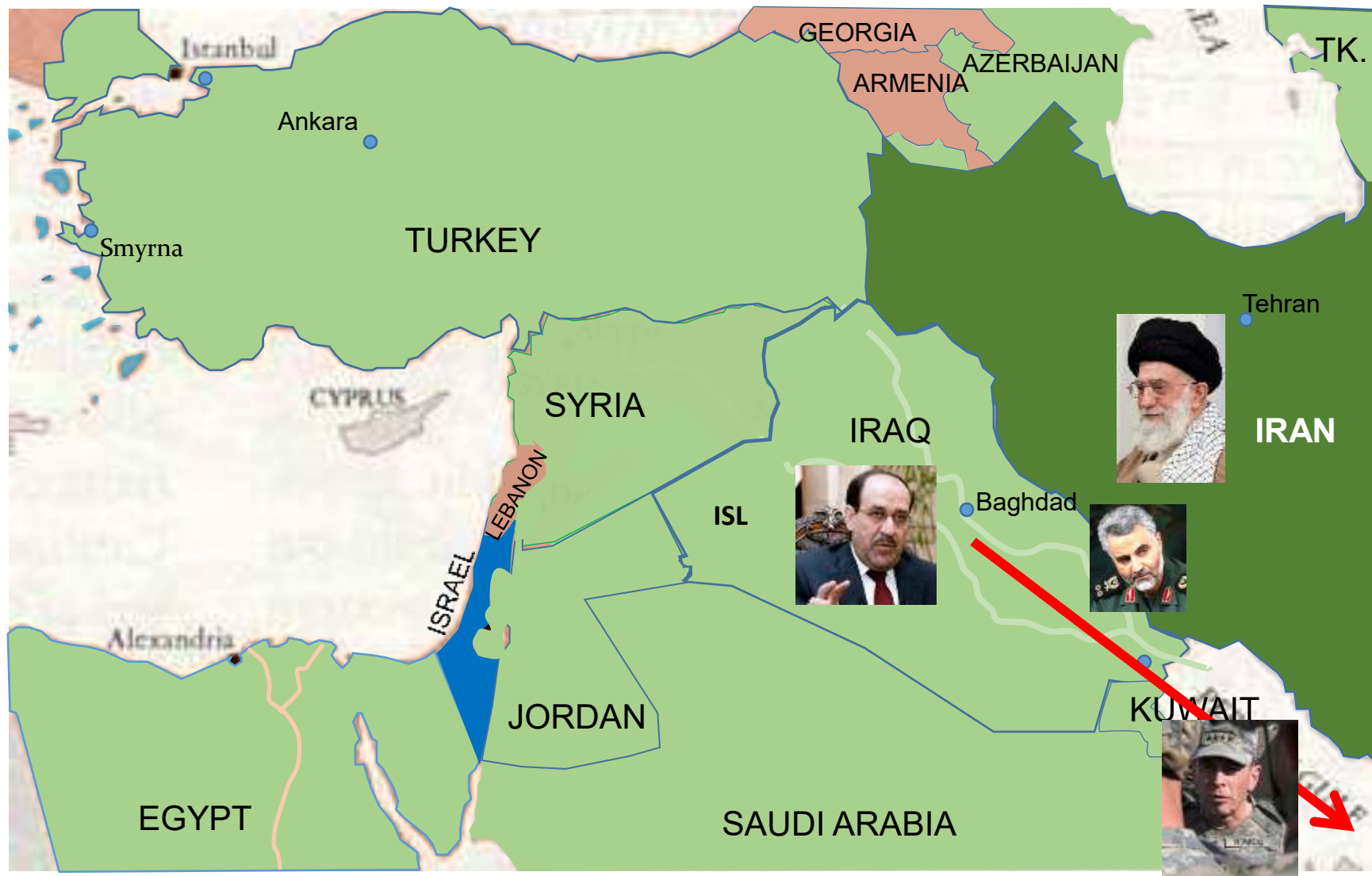
Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, al Qaeda.



Soleimani in Baghdad with Popular Mobilization Unit chiefs
Abu Mahdi al Muhandis (Kata'ib Hezbollah) and Shebl al Zaydi (Imam Ali Brigade)



2006-2010, Suleimani negotiates deals to make Nouri al-Maliki PM of Iraq.



Dec. 2011 US withdrawal leaves Nouri al Maliki in charge



Iran → Iraq → Syria → Hezbollah “Shi’a Corridor.”



About 2009-14, the Houthis in Yemen begin to receive Iranian weapons during the Yemen Civil War. Missiles in the hands of the Houthis could hit many of Saudi Arabia's major cities.



General Qassem Soleimani, pictured in northern Iraq in May 2017.

Missile Systems



Hamas manufactures Qassam rockets in Gaza.

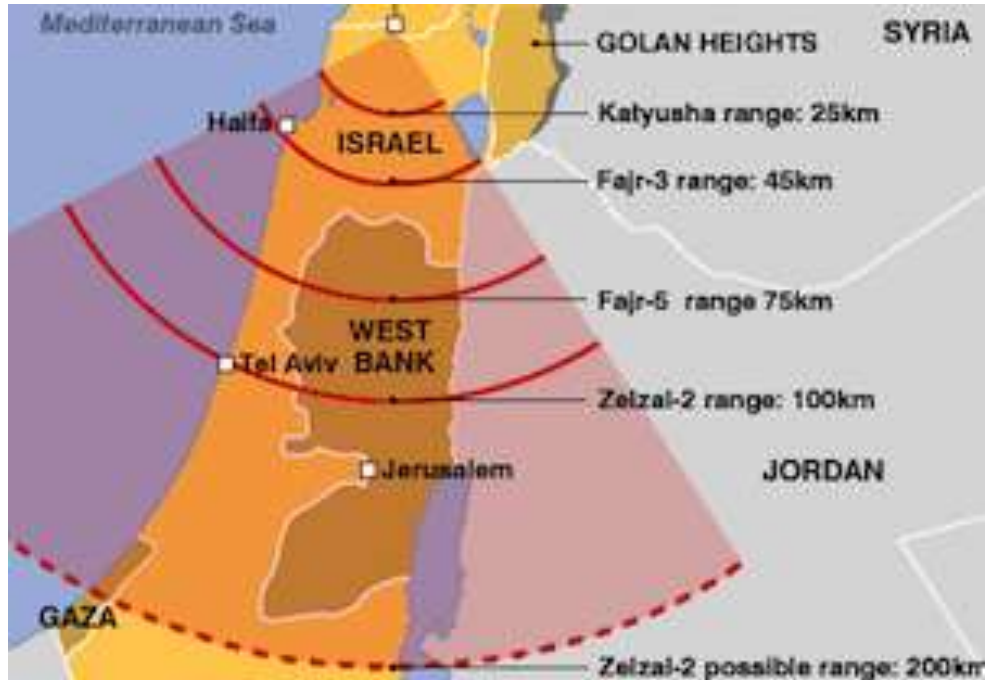


7/12/2006. Hezbollah fires Katyusha rockets at Israeli border towns.

Palestinian Islamic Jihad acquires Katyusha rocket technology from Iran



Hezbollah:



Hezbollah's Iranian missiles, supposedly, can hit most of Israel from southern Lebanon.



Emab intermediate-range precision-guided missile.



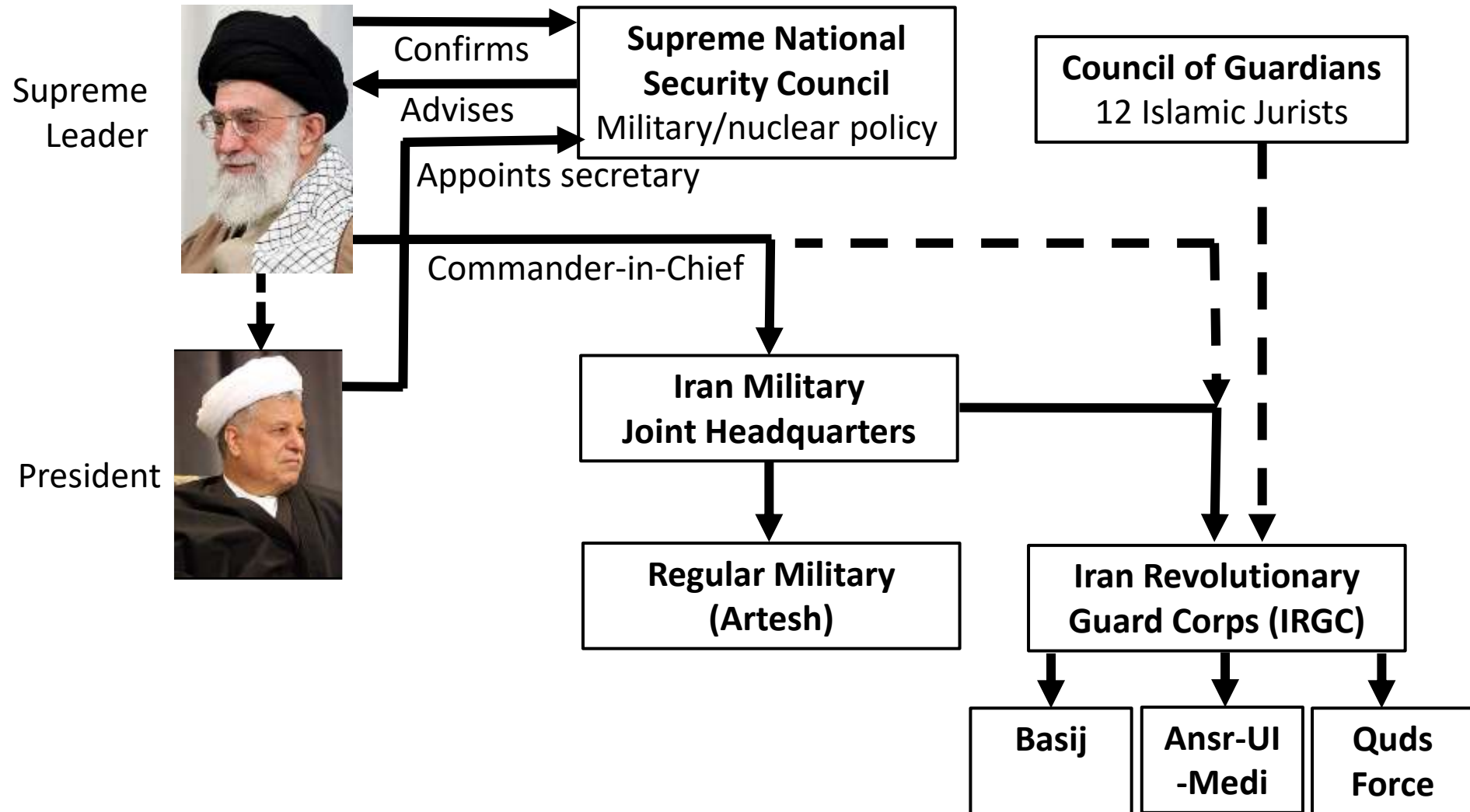
Shahed-136.

- Delta-wing, battery powered, propeller driven
- One-way attack drone. “Kamikaze”
- Usually deployed in swarms to overwhelm defenses.
- Range = 1,200 miles
- Inexpensive to produce (\$20-50K)
- Sold to Russia for use in Ukraine



Kaman-22.

- Piston engine, propeller driven
- Combat and/or surveillance
- High-altitude, 24-hour flight time.
- Range = 1,900 miles
- Can carry 4 guided missiles.



Iranian military organization

Political groups:

- Hardliners (Principlists)
- Moderates
- Reformers
- ~~Liberals/leftists~~

Presidents of Iran:

- Banisadr 1980-81, Moderate
- Ali Rajal (1 month), Islamist
- Khamenei 1981-89, Moderate?
- Rafsanjani 1989-97, Moderate
- Khatami 1997-05, Reformer
- Ahmadinejad 2005-13, Hardliner
- Rouhani 2013-21, Moderate
- Raisi 2021-25, Hardliner
- Pezeshkian, 2025-, Reformer



Mahmoud Ahmadinejad,
President, 2005-2014

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and Iran's Nuclear Program

GUESS WHO'S BUILDING NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS.



The Shah of Iran is sitting on top of one of the largest reservoirs of oil in the world.

Yet he's building two nuclear plants and planning two more to provide electricity for his country.

He knows the oil is running out — and time with it.

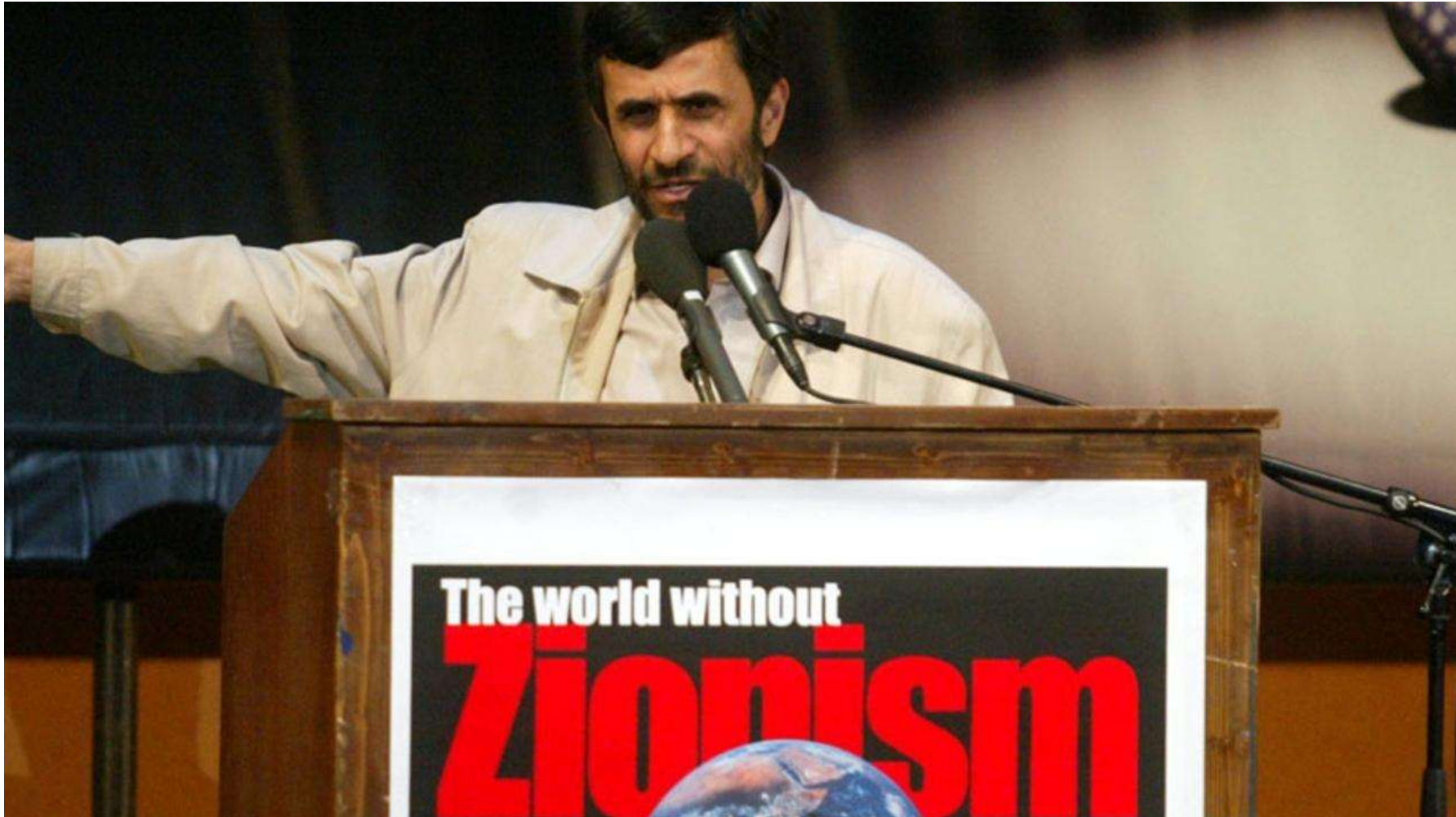
But he wouldn't build the plants now if he doubted their safety. He'd wait. As many Americans want to do.

The Shah knows that nuclear energy is not only economical, it has enjoyed a remarkable 30-year safety record. A record that was good enough for the citizens of Plymouth, Massachusetts, too. They've approved their second nuclear plant by a vote of almost 4 to 1. Which shows you don't have to go as far as Iran for an endorsement of nuclear power.

NUCLEAR ENERGY. TODAY'S ANSWER.

BOSTON EDISON EASTERN UTILITIES ASSOCIATES NEW ENGLAND POWER COMPANY
PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE NEW ENGLAND GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANIES





10/26/2005 Mahmoud Ahmadinejad speaks at the “World Without Zionism” conference in Tehran.

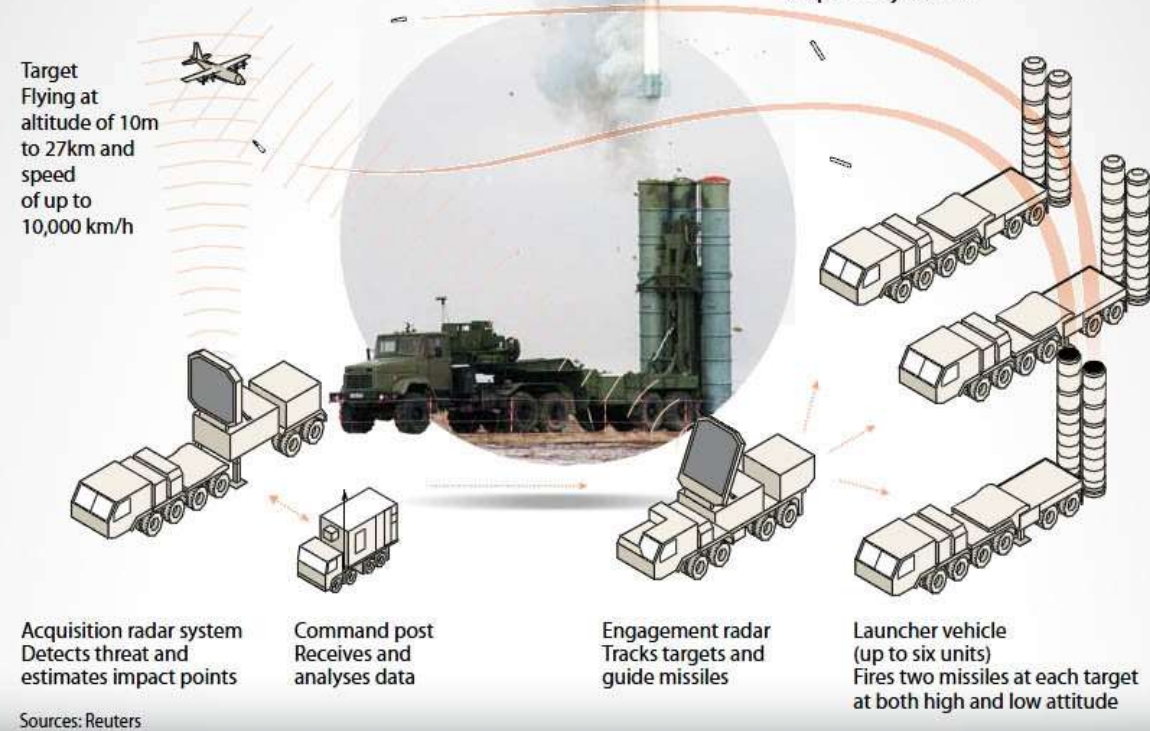


Iran's proxy network, "The Axis of Resistance."

RUSSIAN'S S-300 DEFENSE SYSTEM

S-300 system components

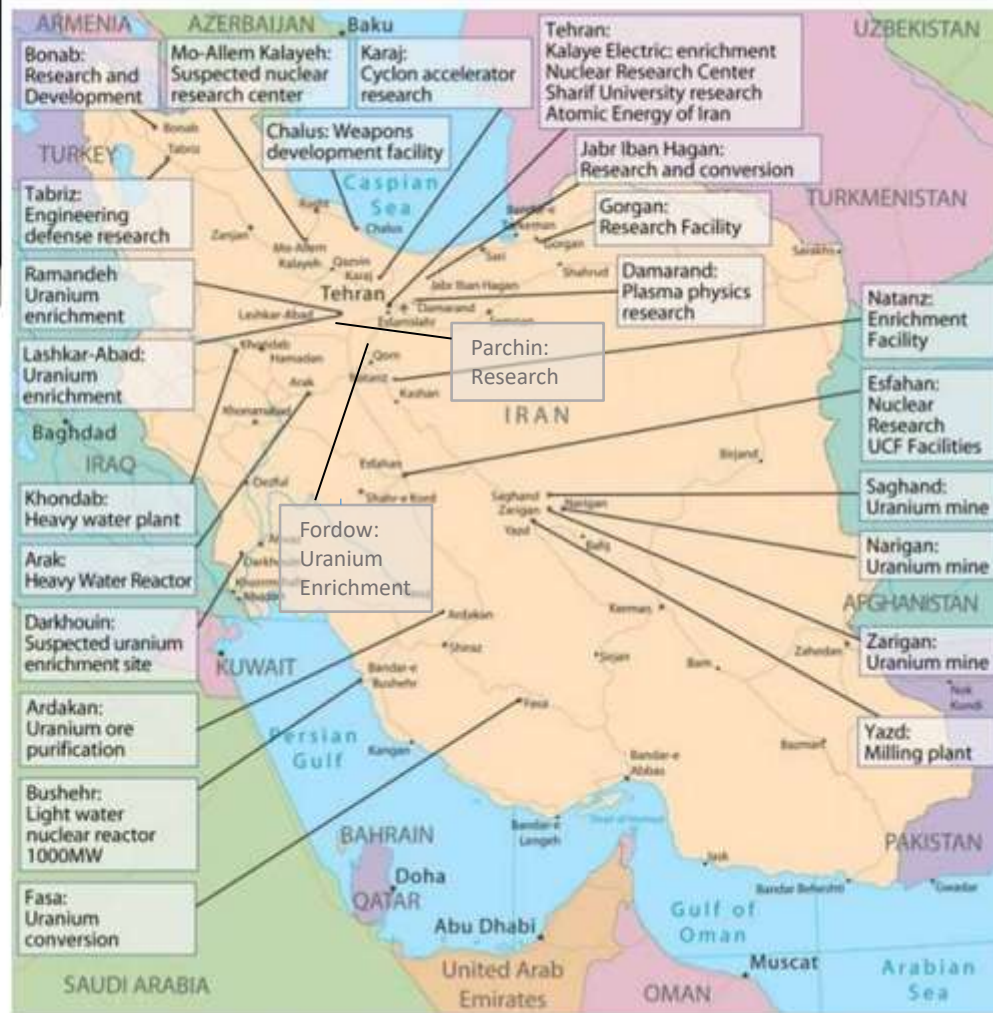
How a typical S-300 air defense system works. Russia plans to deliver the system to Syria despite objections.



2007, Ahmadinejad orders Russian S-300 Air Defense System.



Iran Nuclear Sites





Depiction of an Iranian uranium enrichment facility utilizing industrial centrifuges.

Uranium enrichment:

- Natural uranium: 1% isotope U-235
- For medical use: 3.67%
- For research reactors: 20%
- For Weapons: 90-98%





Hassan Rouhani and the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)



Hassan Rouhani as a teenager





Hassan Rouhani
Commander of Iran's
Joint Military Operations Center



Robert C. McFarlane
President Reagan's
National Security Advisor



Marine Lt. Col.
Oliver North



Benjamin Netanyahu describes Iran's nuclear ambitions during his address to the 67th session of the United Nations General Assembly on September 27, 2012. [Richard Drew/AP Photo]



May 7, 2013 Hassan Rouhani registers to run for President of Iran,
to replace Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.



Rouhani's supporters celebrate his first presidential victory in Tehran.



Rouhani designated Mohammad Javad Zarif, an experienced Iranian diplomat, as Foreign Minister.



Nov 2013. P5+1 Conference in Geneva negotiates interim nuclear deal for Iran.



P5+1 Conference in Vienna negotiates the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).



Joint Comprehensive Plan Of Action (JCPOA):

- Close Iran's weapons-capable nuclear reactors.
- Limits Iran's Nuclear program to power-generation and medical research levels—for ten years. To be monitored for 25 years.
- Ends the sanctions.
- Gives the West ten nuclear-free years to negotiate an end to Iran's external adventures.



Iran's Natanz nuclear facility.



Iran's Fordow nuclear facility.



Iran's Arak heavy water nuclear plant.



Ayatollah Khamenei speaks to students at Tehran University after the JCPOA is signed.



May 2017, Hassan Rouhani re-elected overwhelmingly as President of Iran after negotiating the JCPOA.

Potential negotiations:

- Reduce Iran's missile stockpile.
- Jointly suppress the Taliban in Afghanistan.
- Reduce drug trafficking from Afghanistan.
- Improve Iran's water resources.
- Help return refugees to Afghanistan.
- Reduce Iran's support of its proxies.



IRAN



Chris Schaefer

chris.schaefer@bataandiary.com

832-428-1977

www.bataandiary.com/Iran.html