



## Who Supports the Iran Nuclear Agreement?

32 top American scientists: 32 American scientists and engineers penned a letter to President Obama on August 8 praising the President and his negotiating team for the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on Iran's nuclear program. The letter reviews the technical achievements of the deal and closes with: "In conclusion, we congratulate you and your team on negotiating a technically sound, stringent and innovative deal that will provide the necessary assurances in the coming decade and more that Iran is not developing nuclear weapons, and provides a basis for further initiatives to raise the barriers to nuclear proliferation in the Middle East and around the globe."

Read the full letter, which had 29 signatories at the time of publishing, here.

More than 100 former American Ambassadors: Over 100 former U.S. ambassadors, including five former ambassadors to Israel, wrote to President Obama on July 16 offering support for the "landmark agreement" that blocks Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. The former ambassadors write, "In our judgment the JCPOA deserves Congressional support and the opportunity to show it can work. We firmly believe that the most effective way to protect U.S. national security, and that of our allies and friends is to ensure that toughminded diplomacy has a chance to succeed before considering other more risky alternatives." Click here to read the full letter.

**60 national security experts:** On July 20, 60 former senior U.S. officials and prominent national security leaders published a congratulatory statement to President Obama and his team for negotiating a deal to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. "The consequences of rejection are grave," they write. "The unraveling of international sanctions; U.S. responsibility for the collapse of the agreement; and the possible development of an Iranian nuclear weapon under significantly reduced or no inspections. A rejection of the agreement could leave the U.S. with the only alternative of having to use military force unilaterally in the future." **To read the full letter, click here**.

**The Gulf Cooperation Council:** Earlier this week, all six members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) - Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates – publically endorsed the Iran nuclear deal during a visit to the region by Secretary of State John Kerry. Speaking on behalf of the Council, Qatari Foreign Minister Khalid bin Mohammed al-Attiyah said of the deal: "This was the best option among other options — to come up with a solution . . . through dialogue... We are confident that all the efforts that have

been exerted make this region very secure, very stable." **The Washington Post** has the full story <u>here</u>.

67 Former Israeli intelligence and military officials: On August 3, a petition signed by 67 retired Israeli generals urging Netanyahu to accept the Iran deal for the sake of US-Israeli relations was released. Signers include Efraim Halevy, former head of the Mossad, Ami Ayalon, former head of Shin Bet (the Israel Security Agency), and Amos Yadlin, former Israeli Air Force general, IDF military attaché to Washington, and head of the IDF Military Intelligence Directorate. See <a href="here">here</a> or <a href="here">here</a> for a more extensive list of former Israeli officials who see the Iran deal as a positive development for Israel's security.