

Iranian – Israeli Conflict

The Background

The tensions between the United States and Iran lie within the strategic position of the Strait of Hormuz. Iran is threatening to blockade the strait which would cut off international trade within the Persian Gulf, directly violating the United Nations (Article 25(3), UN Convention on the Law of the Sea), stating all countries must have passage through the gulf; no single country can control the large waterway. International law dictates that international water exists so far outside of a country. For example, in the United States, 10 miles off the mainland, the jurisdiction turns to international.

The United States has a permanent Naval strike force

consisting of four war ships in the strait. The lead ship is the American air craft carrier the USS Abraham Lincoln. The American strike force has received multiple threats from the Iranian government about trespassing in their waters by making normal scheduled patrols in and out of the gulf. The blame for the high gas prices in the recent months is perpetrated by tensions between the two navy's.

The problem is much more sophisticated than what meets the eye. The main problem lies with the strategic vantage point of the Strait of Hormuz. Because of the potential power of this strait, it is used as a tool against Iran by the EU.

The strait is the only passage leading outside the Persian Gulf, which is where many of the oil exports from Iran come from. Iran is threatening to close the strait in retaliation for the Iranian trade and oil embargo imposed by the EU in January 2012. This would be detrimental to countries such as Russia and China who depend upon the Iranian oil. The Embargo is a direct result of the broken sanctions on Iran that have been brought together by the UN.

Iran is on the verge of war with Israel and the United States. Israel is considering a preemptive strike that will be designed to protect its assets.

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It is believed that if Iran is to achieve short range nuclear ballistic missiles, Iran intends to destroy Israel. The retaliation to the sanctions on the Iranian side are not being welcomed warmly by any government. This is creating even more stress in international

affairs. If Iran is to attack either Israel or one of the American naval vessels in the Strait of Hormuz, the countries that are associated with the sanctions designed to limit Iran and protect surrounding countries may take military action against the Middle

Eastern country of Iran. The latest sanction broken is the United Nations' Security Council Resolution 1929 passed on June, 9 2010. This resolution bans Iran from participating in anything to do with ballistic missile production.

Possible outcomes

Iran is currently building up a naval force within the Strait of Hormuz that is a direct threat against the United States military presence.



From the American standpoint, the issue with Iran is something that needs attention as soon as possible. Although, we do not get our oil directly from the Persian Gulf, we are currently upholding international law. The contention overseas is contributing to higher gas prices. Whether or not this is just another excuse for corporate manipulation, the issue needs to be resolved so the excuse of the Middle East is gone. The issue is threatening the only ally we have in the Middle East, Israel. Iran needs to be dealt with in a way that is non-provocative respecting the rights of the UN as well as the country Iran itself .

While Americans agree the Iranian conflict is frightening and costly,

the countries in the Middle East may feel as if the sanctions brought upon them are demoralizing infringing on their rights as a country. The occupants of the country of Iran might see this as an opportunity to retaliate against the oppressive force the UN represents. If I walk over and say to my neighbor that he is not allowed to own a gun because I think he might shoot my neighbor on the other side, I am restricting his rights and freedoms. This creates a huge challenge in that this conflict could be seen as a way to gain independent from a governing force that has no right enforcing sanctions.

If special attention is not paid to the dynamic situation in Iran, Israel, the EU, and

the United States, we may end up in a nuclear war as the worst case scenario. Iran is rumored to have a nuclear program that is well underway showing progress with the possibility of short range intercontinental ballistic missiles being available for military use in just a couple years. The threat of Iran attacking Israel is high. If Israel is attacked, the United States will be obligated to defend Israel in honoring our defensive agreements that date back to World War II.

Another consequence of the contemporary issues with Iran is the Strait of Hormuz. If that is closed, international law is broken under the Law of the Sea through the United Nations.

Possible Outcomes (contd)

The United States is part of the UN, along with 192 other countries. The United States is obligated to protect the rights that are guaranteed through the UN. If the UN needs to step in and defend the Law of the Sea, Iran will most likely defend themselves which will escalate to an armed conflict. No one wants

another ten year five-trillion dollar war. Iran is building up a military presence in the Persian Gulf with new naval vessels and submarines rumored to have suicide bombs on board. Iran is not afraid to show off their might. We, as a country, need to decide if we are going to intervene with

the UN and force an agreement, or if we are going to finally cut Israel loose and hope that Iran doesn't go on a genocidal holocaust to the Israelis



Iran's Buildup of naval vessels specifically their Submarine

This is a question of keeping to George Washington's warning of keeping out of foreign affairs or to intervene and uphold UN sanctions.

Who It Affects

This situation in the Middle East is affecting almost everyone in the world from increases in oil in the United States to the possible cut of oil from the country of China. Gas is hitting

the highest it has ever been right now with no end in sight. The Israelis are threaded with being destruction. Our relationship with Iran is on the verge of being unsalvageable.

In the long term, everyone in the United States is affected.

Why it matters

The issue of Iran is important because our relations in the Middle East are. America is in a bind needing to decide whether or not to protect human

rights and to uphold The Geneva Convention which was the convention that afterworld War II, stated that no country shall use a nuclear weapon again after the devastation in Japan. If

nuclear war does break out between Israel, Iran and the United States, the world as we know it will change forever.

My Proposal

My proposal to solve the problem Israel, the United States, and Iran is to uphold humanitarian rights under the UN, keep the trade ordinances open under the International Law of the Sea, and get rid of sanctions put on Iran with their nuclear program. This means that our role in the Middle East is to protect life not dictate policy. The Strait of Hormuz is threatened of mining and closure. The strait needs to be kept open at all times to protect the rights of other exporting countries relying on travel through the Persian Gulf for transportation of goods.

The International Law of the Sea should be upheld so that trade

through the Strait of Hormuz continues. This means the UN must keep a military presence within the Strait. This takes the pressure off of the United States by switching the control from United States to the UN. This allows America to fix problems in our own country.

The threat of the Strait of Hormuz being mined is a serious to economic traffic in the Middle East. This needs to be fixed. I would propose taking action against Iran if they violate basic trade ordinances. The action should be taken by the UN against the government of Iran if needed; this responsibility does not depend on one country alone

The sanctions

over Iran must be lifted in terms of the nuclear program. The sanctions are a restraint on Iran which is turning the issue of Iran into a fight for rights. There are no laws that grant the UN sanctions on countries that have no power in the UN. This is like the issue with America's independence from Great Britain. America was taxed without representation. Iran is being told what they can and can't do without representation. Our involvement should be strictly defensive our allies if Iran is to attack.