

Biden's Israel Policy Has Led Us to the Brink of War on Iran

By [Medea Benjamin](#) and [Nicolas J. S. Davies](#)
Global Research, October 03, 2024

Region: [Middle East & North Africa, USA](#)
Theme: [Intelligence](#)
In-depth Report: [IRAN: THE NEXT WAR?, PALESTINE, THE WAR ON LEBANON](#)

On October 1, Iran fired about 180 missiles at Israel in response to Israel's recent assassinations of leaders of its Revolutionary Guard (IRGC), Hezbollah and Hamas. There are [conflicting](#) reports about how many of the missiles struck their targets and if there were any deaths. But Israel is now considering a counterattack that could propel it into an all-out war with Iran, with the U.S. in tow.

For years, Iran has been trying to avoid such a war. That is why it signed the 2015 JCPOA nuclear agreement with the United States, the U.K., France, Germany, Russia, China and the European Union. **Donald Trump** unilaterally pulled the U.S. out of the JCPOA in 2018, and despite **Joe Biden's** much-touted differences with Trump, he failed to restore U.S. compliance. Instead, he tried to use Trump's violation of the treaty as [leverage](#) to demand further concessions from Iran. This only served to further aggravate the schism between the United States and Iran, which have had no diplomatic relations since 1980.

Now, Israeli **Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu** sees his long-awaited chance to draw the United States into war with Iran. By killing Iranian military leaders and Hamas leader **Ismail Haniyeh** on Iranian soil, as well as attacking Iran's allies in Lebanon and Yemen, Netanyahu provoked a military response from Iran that has given him an excuse to widen the conflict even further. Tragically, there are warmongering U.S. officials who would welcome a war on Iran, and many more who would blindly go along with it.

Image: President Masoud Pezeshkian of Iran addresses the general debate of the General Assembly's 79th session. (UN Photo/Loey Felipe)



Iran's newly elected president, **Masoud Pezeshkian**, campaigned on a platform of reconciling with the West. When he came to New York to speak at the UN General Assembly on September 25, he was accompanied by three members of Iran's JCPOA negotiating team: former foreign minister **Javad Zarif**; current foreign minister **Abbas Araghchi**; and deputy foreign minister **Majid Ravanchi**.

President Pezeshkian's message in New York was conciliatory. With Zarif and Araghchi at his side at a [press conference](#) on September 23, he talked of peace, and of reviving the dormant nuclear agreement.

"Vis-a-vis the JCPOA, we said 100 times we are willing to live up to our agreements," he said. "We do hope we can sit at the table and hold discussions."

On the crisis in the Middle East, Pezeshkian said that Iran wanted peace and had exercised restraint in the face of Israel's genocide in Gaza, its assassinations of resistance leaders and Iranian officials, and its war on its neighbors.

"Let's create a situation where we can co-exist," said Pezeshkian. "Let's try to resolve tensions through dialogue...We are willing to put all of our weapons aside so long as Israel will do the same."

He added that Iran is a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, while Israel is not, and that Israel's nuclear arsenal is a serious threat to Iran.

Pezeshkian reiterated Iran's desire for peace in his speech at the UN General Assembly.

"I am the president of a country that has endured threats, war, occupation, and sanctions throughout its modern history," he said. "Others have neither come to our assistance nor respected our declared neutrality. Global powers have even sided with aggressors. We have learned that we can only rely on our own people and our own indigenous capabilities. The Islamic Republic of Iran seeks to safeguard its own security, not to create insecurity for others. We want peace for all and seek no war or quarrel with anyone."

The U.S. response to Iran's restraint throughout this crisis has been to keep sending destructive weapons to Israel, with which it has devastated Gaza, killed tens of thousands of women and children, bombed neighboring capitals, and beefed up the forces it would need to attack Iran.

That includes a [new order](#) for 50 F-15EX long-range bombers, with 750 gallon fuel tanks for the long journey to Iran. That arms deal still has to pass the Senate, where Senator Bernie Sanders is leading the opposition.

On the diplomatic front, the U.S. vetoed successive cease-fire resolutions in the UN Security Council and hijacked Qatar and Egypt's cease-fire negotiations to provide [diplomatic cover](#) for unrestricted genocide.

Military leaders in the United States and Israel appear to be arguing [against](#) war on Iran, as they have in the past. Even **George W. Bush and Dick Cheney** [balked](#) at launching another catastrophic war based on lies against Iran, after the CIA publicly admitted in its 2006 National Intelligence Estimate that Iran was not developing nuclear weapons.

When Trump threatened to attack Iran, **Tulsi Gabbard** [warned him](#) that a U.S. war on Iran would be so catastrophic that it would finally, retroactively, make the war on Iraq look like the "cakewalk" the neocons had [promised](#) it would be.

But neither U.S. **Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin** nor Israeli **Defense Minister Yoav**

Gallant can control their countries' war policies, which are in the hands of political leaders with political agendas. Netanyahu has spent many years trying to draw the United States into a [war with Iran](#), and has kept escalating the Gaza crisis for a year, at the cost of tens of thousands of innocent lives, with that goal clearly in mind.

Biden has been out of his depth throughout this crisis, relying on political instincts from an era when acting tough and blindly supporting Israel were politically safe positions for American politicians. **Secretary of State Antony Blinken** rose to power through the National Security Council and as a Senate staffer, not as a diplomat, riding Biden's coat-tails into a senior position where he is as out of his depth as his boss.

Meanwhile, pro-Iran militia groups in Iraq [warn](#) that, if the U.S. joins in strikes on Iran, they will target U.S. bases in Iraq and the region.

So we are careening toward a catastrophic war with Iran, with no U.S. diplomatic leadership and only Trump and Harris waiting in the wings. As Trita Parsi [wrote in](#) Responsible Statecraft, "If U.S. service members find themselves in the line of fire in an expanding Iran-Israel conflict, it will be a direct result of this administration's failure to use U.S. leverage to pursue America's most core security interest here — avoiding war."

*

Click the share button below to email/forward this article to your friends and colleagues. Follow us on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) and subscribe to our [Telegram Channel](#). Feel free to repost and share widely Global Research articles.

[Birds Not Bombs: Let's Fight for a World of Peace, Not War](#)

Medea Benjamin is the cofounder of [CODEPINK for Peace](#), and the author of several books, including [Inside Iran: The Real History and Politics of the Islamic Republic of Iran](#).

Nicolas J. S. Davies is an independent journalist, a researcher for CODEPINK and the author of [Blood on Our Hands: The American Invasion and Destruction of Iraq](#).

Medea Benjamin and Nicolas J. S. Davies are the authors of [War in Ukraine: Making Sense of a Senseless Conflict](#), published by OR Books in November 2022. They are regular contributors to Global Research.

Featured image is from CODEPINK

The original source of this article is Global Research
Copyright © [Medea Benjamin](#) and [Nicolas J. S. Davies](#), Global Research, 2024

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: **[Medea Benjamin](#)**

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca