

WIN WITHOUT WAR



Progressive Foreign Policy Debrief

Intel for Advocacy

TOPLINE TAKEAWAYS

- *House Republicans introduce bill that will kill the Iran nuclear deal.*
- *MSNBC hasn't seemed all that interested in covering the war and humanitarian crisis in Yemen.*
- *Does Trump think a domestic terror attack will help the GOP in 2018?*

HOUSE GOP'S IRAN BILL WOULD KILL THE NUCLEAR DEAL

House Republicans, led by Reps Liz Cheney and Peter Roskam, introduced a bill this week to address Donald Trump's desire to "fix" the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, as the Iran nuclear deal is formally known.

Trump said last week he would kill the deal at the next sanctions waiver deadline in four months' time if Congress doesn't come up with some kind of plan to unilaterally amend the accord.

(REMEMBER: The JCPOA is a multilateral agreement. The U.S. cannot unilaterally make changes.,If the U.S. tries to do so, the deal will collapse, and the U.S. will be responsible for killing it.)

The House legislation will [reportedly](#) reimpose nuclear sanctions if Iran 1) moves forward with work on missiles capable of carrying a nuclear weapon; 2) is in a position to build a nuclear bomb in under 12 months; and 3) refuses to allow inspectors so-called "anytime, anywhere" access.

TO BE CLEAR: This bill will kill the Iran nuclear deal.

- The JCPOA is meant to address Iran's nuclear program only, not its missiles. Without a nuclear weapon, Iran doesn't have nuclear-tipped missiles.
- The timeline within which Iran can theoretically build a nuke shrinks to under 12 months in the out years of the deal. HOWEVER: Iran's commitment never to build a bomb, and to submit to rigorous inspections to monitor that promise, **last in perpetuity.**
- Inspectors already have access to whatever sites they feel they need to monitor.

FURTHER MESSAGING POINTS:

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- **The Iran deal doesn't need to be fixed:** The International Atomic Energy Agency says that Iran is complying with the JCPOA, which is currently working to block all of Iran's pathways to a bomb.
- Trump and the Republicans want to kill the deal and put the U.S. on a path to war with Iran.
- At the same time, other Trump officials — like Secretary Mattis and Tillerson — support the Iran deal and are urging Trump to uphold it.
- American and Israeli experts and security officials support the Iran deal and say it **makes war less likely.**

RESOURCES:

The Arms Control Association [recently addressed](#) provisions similar to those in the House bill and explained why legislation to “fix” the deal is unnecessary and would violate the deal.

WHY ISN'T MSNBC COVERING YEMEN?

Earlier this month, FAIR [reported](#) that during the last six months of 2017, MSNBC's prime time programming didn't run one segment dedicated to the Saudi-led, U.S.-assisted war in Yemen, nor the humanitarian catastrophe that has resulted.

In an email to our membership community, Win Without War said:

This fall, activists like you finally got Congress to pay attention to the war in Yemen. But most Americans still don't know where Yemen is, let alone that the United States is intimately involved in a civil war there. The way to change that? Mainstream news coverage.

If a host like Rachel Maddow doesn't highlight the shameful role the United States is playing in Yemen, then no one in mainstream TV will. And that's not okay. **Americans deserve to hear about the atrocities committed with our tax dollars in Yemen.**

Click [here](#) to tweet at MSNBC, Maddow, and fellow host Chris Hayes asking them to report on the U.S. role in the war and humanitarian crisis there. (Use these handles and hashtag if you'd like to craft your own message: @ChrisLHayes, @Maddow, @MSNBC #YemenCantWait)

TRUMP'S 2018 PLAN INVOLVES A TERROR ATTACK!?

A Washington Post [story](#) this week buried an interesting nugget in a report about the Republicans' dim outlook for the 2018 midterm elections this November: Namely, that

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Donald Trump seemed to suggest that a terror attack on the U.S. could help the GOP's chances.

“In private conversations, Trump has told advisers that he doesn't think the 2018 election has to be as bad as others are predicting. **He has referenced the 2002 midterms, when George W. Bush and Republicans fared better after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, these people said.**”

Various [media outlets](#) have picked up the above passage, and we asked reporters to at least ask the White House to clarify the Post's reporting or to elaborate on what Trump meant.

We also emailed our members asking them to [urge Congress to speak up](#).

“[T]his is a frightening line of thought for an incumbent president and his team to be entertaining,” Vox's Matt Yglesias [noted](#), adding, “If Trump thinks a terrorist attack would serve his political interests ... **how hard is he really working to keep the country safe?**”

That's a great question.

Please [retweet](#) and/or share our [statement](#) on [Facebook](#).

BURIED LEDES

MORE WAR: Rex Tillerson [says](#) the **U.S. military should be in Syria ... indefinitely.**

MoveOn.org: “Listen to what one former Guantanamo detainee underwent while incarcerated.”
Share: [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

Women's peace groups **pressed for diplomacy with North Korea** in Vancouver [this week](#).

DISPROPORTIONATE RESPONSE? Trump's Nuclear Posture Review [would](#) **permit the use of nuclear weapons in response to a cyberattack.**

The U.N. [says](#) the war in Yemen has left **5,000 children dead and 400,000 malnourished.**

After his “shithole countries” remark, [78 former U.S. ambassadors to African states](#) **write Trump asking him to “reassess his views.”**

Slate's Joshua Keating [has a pretty good idea](#) why Sen. Lindsey Graham -- who once called Trump a “[kook](#)” and a “[jackass](#)” -- **now wants to be his BFF.**

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Given our perception of Trump's mental health, the Air Force [probably](#) **wouldn't let an Airman Trump anywhere near our nukes**. Meanwhile, a former president of the American Psychiatric Association [wonders](#): Maybe Trump isn't mentally ill. Maybe he's just a jerk.

AND FINALLY, nuke expert Jeffrey Lewis has a [tongue-in-cheek proposal](#) for a "limited strike" on North Korea: **Bomb Kim Jong-un's toilet**. "It will send an unmistakable message," he says. "We can kill you while you are dropping a deuce."