

WIN WITHOUT WAR



Progressive Foreign Policy Debrief

Intel for Advocacy

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SL: No Sanctions During a Pandemic

U.S. Sanctions on Iran Are Making the Whole World Less Safe

“Human security is not divisible.” This is one of the fundamental principles of a progressive approach to foreign policy, outlined in a [new video](#) that Win Without War released this week (see below for more). It’s also one of the key lessons of the coronavirus crisis. We cannot achieve safety for ourselves by making others less safe. In few cases is this clearer than in U.S. sanctions on Iran.

The U.S.’s broad-based sanctions on Iran are deadly, inhumane, and counterproductive, even in the best of times. To maintain them in a time of unprecedented global crisis is monstrous. U.S. sanctions are making Iranians, and by extension, the entire world, less safe.

It’s time to #EndCOVIDSanctions

Sanctions Kill

Broad-based sanctions are warfare by another name. By their very design, they inflict [mass suffering](#) on the people of entire nations — [deepening poverty](#), exacerbating unemployment, blocking access to essential items like food and medicine, and, ultimately, [killing](#). On top of it all, they simply [don’t work](#). While carefully-targeted sanctions can be effective in pressuring foreign government officials to take specific actions, blanket sanctions aimed at regime change have been repeatedly shown to only strengthen support for the sanctioned government. Despite this, blanket sanctions have become the go-to tool for inflicting pain and punishment on foreign countries: Iran, North Korea, Cuba, and Venezuela, to name a few.

Fueling the Pandemic

Broad-based sanctions are cruel. In the midst of a global pandemic, they’re grotesque. To see this, we need look no further than Iran — one of the earliest and hardest hit by the coronavirus. At least 32,000 people have now tested positive for the virus in Iran, with a death toll [surpassing](#) 2,300 — numbers which are likely far lower than their actual totals given the lack of

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transparency by the Iranian government and access to testing equipment. Not only has the U.S. maintained existing sanctions during this crisis, but the Trump administration even used the opportunity to [impose](#) new ones last week. In addition to constraining Iran's economy, and therefore leaving countless more people vulnerable to the economic effects of the crisis, U.S. sanctions are specifically responsible for drastic [shortages](#) of necessary medical equipment like respiratory masks, surgical equipment, and ventilators. While the Iranian government certainly holds much of the blame for its inadequate response to the outbreak, U.S. sanctions are actively throwing fuel on the fire.

Human Security Is Not Divisible

That these sanctions were killing Iranians should have been reason enough to end them. Now, they're endangering the whole world. By undermining efforts to contain the virus in one country, the U.S. has enabled its spread around the globe. This should be a wake-up call: human security is shared across borders. We can't bomb, sanction, or otherwise strong-arm others into safety for ourselves. In the face of shared global problems, from the climate crisis to pandemics, we have to rethink our approach to human security, and build a foreign policy that puts international solidarity and collaboration first.

#EndCOVIDSanctions

That's why we're proud to be a part of a [new national coalition](#) calling to #EndCOVIDSanctions.

Through joint [letters](#), [petitions](#), nationwide [call-in campaigns](#), and more, we're urging Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin, and all of the Trump administration to suspend sanctions on Iran during the course of the coronavirus crisis. And we're asking anyone in positions of [political](#) or cultural power to echo this call as well. The demand is already gaining ground. This week alone, the [UN High Commissioner for Human Rights](#), [Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan](#), [11 U.S. Senators](#) and the [New York Times Editorial Board](#) have all called for the same. We expect another Congressional [call](#), led by Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, to be released next week. As the coronavirus crisis continues to reveal the unabashed cruelty of broad-based sanctions — and the indivisibility of human security — the global outcry has gone from the grassroots to the halls of power. [Join us in demanding an end to deadly sanctions, and a new approach to U.S. foreign policy, today.](#)

Principles of Progressive Foreign Policy

As the coronavirus crisis shows, the foreign policy status quo has failed to keep us safe. We have a vision for an alternative — for the #WorldWeWant. Watch our new video on the Principles of a Progressive Foreign Policy featuring activists, movement leaders, and champions in Congress.

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😍 Win Without War is on Instagram! 😍

If a picture is worth a thousand words, why are you spending your time reading this when you can be following our brand new [Instagram account](#)?

BURIED LEDES

The budget is a clear indicator of what we [prioritize](#): corporations and the military. But fighter jets aren't going to fix the covid-19 crisis. Investing in global health initiatives would.

What do OCO, the border wall, and the stimulus package have in common? They are all considered [emergency funding](#) issues. But only one of them is an actual emergency.

While wealthier countries are dealing with the catastrophic economic fallout of COVID-19, the Global South is likely to be hit the hardest. With borrowing costs increasing and commodity prices dropping, low-income countries need [massive debt relief](#)...

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... and more. Because of economic vulnerabilities that progressives have been pointing out for years, the Global South is at risk of a liquidity crisis. **Dozens of leading economists have [signed a letter](#) calling for coordinated, global monetary intervention.** Will the IMF listen?

Instead of propping up corporations that take advantage of workers and feed the climate crisis, **over a thousand people are calling for a [Green Stimulus](#) to combat rising unemployment and carbon emissions** — be sure to check out their section on “Green Foreign Policy.”

As many western European countries **stop migratory farm workers from crossing their borders, governments and farms are [scrambling](#) to find labor to harvest crops before they rot.** (Unfortunately the economic impact on migratory workers was completely ignored by this New York Times article).

Amidst COVID-19 fears and conflict, **Mali will still hold [elections](#) on Sunday in an attempt to solve the ongoing violence within its borders via a political solution.**

Thanks to secret trials, torture, and a broken judicial system, **officials are having a hard time identifying which of the 5,000 Afghan [prisoners](#) set to be released under the U.S.-Taliban deal are innocent, and which have committed war crimes.**

In Afghanistan, **a Sikh temple was [attacked](#) resulting in the deaths of over 25 individuals. This is a devastating page in a long history of violence and repression** against the religious minority.

Youth in Taiwan are changing the [political landscape](#) of their country, identifying as only Taiwanese and pushing for major changes to China-Taiwan relations.

And finally, **over 900 outdoor cats' movements were [tracked](#) to determine what they do and where they go.** The results? Cats are lazy af.