



Iran-China Accountability Act

Sponsored by Senator Marsha Blackburn (R-TN)

Iran-China Cooperation: In March 2021, Iran, and the People’s Republic of China (PRC) signed a 25-year, \$400 billion strategic economic agreement to advance Chinese influence in the Middle East. Despite an international sanctions regime, the PRC is Iran’s largest oil customer. The vast majority of Beijing-Tehran’s cooperation focuses on economic and diplomatic ties, including Beijing’s elevation of Tehran in the multilateral arena. The Chinese-led Shanghai Cooperation Organization decided unanimously in September 2021 to elevate Iran to full membership – joining Russia, India, Pakistan, and others in economic partnership.

Both Iran and the PRC commit egregious human rights abuses against their own citizens. Tehran perpetuates violence against its own people through the killing of protestors, the persecution of women and religious minorities, and the execution of human rights violations beyond its borders through proxy forces like Hamas and Hezbollah attacks on the people of Israel. The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is perpetrating an ongoing genocide against Uyghur Muslims and suppressing religious freedom across the country.

State of Play: The 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) required that the United Nations arms embargo on Iran expire in October 2020, which would have permitted the PRC to sell arms to Iran and vice versa. The Biden administration is engaged in negotiations to rejoin the JCPOA, or a similar agreement. Administration officials have acknowledged that rejoining a nuclear agreement with Iran would entail an easing of the economic sanctions stipulated by the JCPOA.

The **Iran China Accountability Act** would accomplish the following:

- **Requires any nuclear agreement to be ratified by a 2/3s vote of the U.S. Senate**
- **Prohibits obligation or expenditure of any funds for a nuclear agreement until:**
 - Iran terminates all agreements involving the transfer of funds from China and
 - terminates strategic security and military partnerships with China;
 - Iran terminates all ties and transfers of cash to Iranian proxy forces, including Hamas;
 - Iran verifies the destruction of all chemical weapons, materials, and infrastructure;
 - and The CCP ceases the incarceration of Uyghurs.
- **Requires a report from the Secretary of State to Congress detailing how any future agreement with Iran meets each requirement listed above.**
- **Condemns Hamas-incited terrorist attacks on Israel.**

If you have questions or are interested in supporting this legislation, please email Brendan Scheimreif at Brendan_Scheimreif@blackburn.senate.gov