



NO WAR WITH IRAN RAPID RESPONSE TOOLKIT

This toolkit contains links to message guidance, key movement statements and background on important recent developments following President Trump's reckless actions toward Iran. It provides talking points on the need for immediate deescalation, the detention of Iranian Americans, threatened attacks on cultural sites and historical context.

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Core Messages from Win Without War

The actions of President Donald Trump threaten to bring us to the brink of war. At this crucial moment, we want to share some messaging and background on these pivotal events.



Win Without War has compiled an excellent [messaging and social media](#) toolkit emphasizing the rash nature of the President's action and that the American people don't want war.



National Action Against War with Iran

January 9th Day of Action

MoveOn, Indivisible, AboutFace, NIAC and Win Without War (along with many other progressive groups) have called for a national #NoWarWithIran day of action on Thursday, January 9th. You can find more details here: nowarwithiran.org.

Congressional Actions to Stop War with Iran

PCAF strongly supports strong Congressional action to stop further disastrous U.S. military action within the region. We are encouraging Members of Congress to support the following actions and rein in the dangerous and reckless actions of this Administration:

- Support legislation sponsored by Rep. Lee to **repeal the 2002 Authorization for the Use of Military Force**, which has been used as a blank check for military actions across the globe for nearly 20 years. The Congress must reassert its authority to declare war immediately and repeal this broad and outdated authorization for military force.
- **Support Rep. Khanna's bill to prohibit funding for war with Iran** that was excluded from the final NDAA
- Support the **War Powers Resolution** that will be introduced by Rep. Elissa Slotkin

Roundup of Key Statements

Faith-based and foreign policy organizations have issued strong statements denouncing the attacks:

- A number of faith-based groups including the American Friends Service Committee, The Presbyterian Church and the United Methodist Church among others issued a [Faith Statement on Escalating Violence with Iran](#)
- Phyllis Bennis of the Institute for Policy Studies stated that “[...Soleimani's assassination violates international law and puts peace further out of reach.](#)”
- *[Economists for Peace and Security statement placeholder]*

...And explaining the disastrous repercussions:



- [National Iranian American Council](#)
“While nuclear safeguards have been downgraded with this final step, Iran’s professed willingness to continue providing IAEA nuclear inspectors access to its nuclear sites and its continued implementation of the Additional Protocol suggest that even at this reduced state, the JCPOA is still an option on the table for the international community – and perhaps Trump’s successor – to salvage.”
- [U.S. Stops Dozens of Iranian-Americans Returning From Canada](#)
“More than 60 of the travelers, many returning from work trips or vacations, were trying to come home to the United States on Saturday when agents at the Peace Arch Border Crossing in Blaine, Wash., held them for additional questioning about their political views and allegiances, according to advocacy groups and accounts from travelers.”

Resources and Statements on Historical Context

As many groups have pointed out, U.S. involvement in Iranian affairs has been detrimental to Iran - and the region - for some time

- Just Foreign Policy noted that U.S. involvement in Iran’s sovereign affairs goes back at least as far as 1953:
“President Obama was the first president to admit US involvement in the 1953 coup which overthrew the government of Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadegh. ‘In the middle of the Cold War, the United States played a role in the overthrow of a democratically elected Iranian government,’ Obama said during his keynote speech to the Muslim world in Cairo in 2009. Iranians also remember well that the U.S. also downed an Iranian civilian airplane in 1988, killing 290 civilians, including 66 children. Actions such as these have led many Iranians to believe that the U.S. is a hostile power that is opposed to their independence and development.”
- Trita Parsi of the Quincy Institute notes that the U.S. Iran Doctrine has historically had a [destabilizing effect](#) on the Middle East and highlights the [5 major developments](#) immediately following the assassination of Soleimani.
“...by returning to the region in a show of military force, Trump may once again disincentivize the United States’ allies from taking diplomacy seriously. They may even interpret Suleimani’s killing as a license to resume their recklessness—activities like Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman’s purported [kidnapping of the Lebanese prime minister](#) and ordering of the [dismemberment of Khashoggi](#); Saudi Arabia and the



UAE's imposition of a [blockade on Qatar](#); and the two countries' further destabilization of [Libya](#), [Syria](#), [Lebanon](#), [Sudan](#), and [Yemen](#)."

Resources on Detentions of Iranian Americans at the Border

Over 60 Iranian Americans have been detained in Washington state coming back into the U.S. from Canada - [U.S. Stops Dozens of Iranian-Americans Returning From Canada](#). This is a troubling example of profiling and abuse of civil liberties by the Administration.

[Click here](#) for footage from a press conference with Rep. Pramila Jayapal, immigration attorneys, and six people who were detained on the border in Washington State.

Direct Quotes from Ryan Costello, NIAC Policy Director via email on 1/7/2020:

- "Iranian American citizens have been held at the border and subjected to extensive questioning on the basis of their national origin. Some of these reports were from individuals crossing the border at Blaine, WA, but not all as others have been subjected to questioning at airports;
- "CBP's statement that they are not detaining Iranian Americans and no directive has been issued appears to be a lie, or at least a deliberate obfuscation of the facts;
- "When risks of war rise, so do civil liberties concerns for our community - we need to make sure there isn't a backsliding of our civil rights under an admin that banned the family members of Iranian Americans in its first week."

Links to Further Statements on the Issue:

- [CAIR WA](#)
- [Church World Service](#)
- [National Lawyers Guild](#)

Resources on Attacks on Cultural Sites

President Trump threatened to attack cultural sites in Iran as well as military targets which is an internationally recognized war crime. This is a dangerous statement that violates the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and shows a frightening level of contempt for the rule of law and for the Iranian people. In 2016, the International Criminal Court held its first ever war crimes trial for the destruction of cultural sites.



President Trump doubled down on his statement saying “They’re allowed to kill our people. They’re allowed to torture and maim our people. They’re allowed to use roadside bombs and blow up our people. And we’re not allowed to touch their cultural site? It doesn’t work that way.” He later appeared to walk this statement back after the Pentagon issued a statement that it would not attack cultural sites.

Resources:

- [Photos of 22 UNESCO recognized Cultural Sites in Iran](#)
- [Washington Post story](#) on the history of cultural destruction as an act of war
- [Destroying Cultural Heritage Sites is a war crime](#) - Op Ed from international historic preservation law expert Sara Bronin