



[United States Announces New Sanctions on Iran](#)

President Donald Trump announced new sanctions on Iran's central bank and its sovereign wealth fund, just days after the attacks on Saudi Arabian oil facilities, which his administration has blamed on the Iranian regime. These will be added to existing U.S. sanctions on Iranian oil and financial institutions. Ever since the United States withdrew from the Iran nuclear deal in May of 2018, the Trump administration has continued to ramp up economic sanctions on Iran. These latest sanctions are designed to cut off any remaining ties between Iran and the U.S. financial system. In conjunction with these newest sanctions, the U.S. also announced that it is sending additional forces and equipment to assist Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates in "defending their territory."

The new set of sanctions bars Americans from conducting business with Iran's central bank and its National Development Fund. Anyone who violates this is subject to prosecution. It may also lead to complications for those trying to deliver humanitarian supplies to Iran, although the Treasury Department clarified that it will continue to consider waivers for the delivery of food and medicine. In a statement, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said that "Attacking other nations and disrupting the global economy has a price. The regime in Tehran must be held accountable through diplomatic isolation and economic pressure." Additionally, during the announcement of these new sanctions, Trump called them the "toughest ever imposed on another country by the United States." The Treasury Department added that it was authorizing sanctions on the central bank not only for Iran's alleged nuclear work, but also for "terrorism."

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani reacted to the new U.S. sanctions by calling them an act of "desperation" in the face of growing Iranian resistance, stating that "Americans are sanctioning institutions that have already been blacklisted. This signals America's complete desperation and shows that its 'maximum pressure' has failed...as the great Iranian nation has resisted successfully." Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif condemned the new measures, saying that "the new sanctions are aimed at blocking Iran's international transactions and its access to food and medicine." He also emphasized that the country will not succumb to economic pressure from the Trump administration: "We are resisting an unprovoked aggression by the United States and I can assure you that the United States will not be able to bring us to our knees through pressure."

Iran has threatened a swift and severe response to any military strike in response to the September 14th drone attacks, which the Trump administration has blamed on their regime. The Middle Eastern nation has said that the country has no desire for any conflict in the Gulf region, and has strongly denied any involvement in the September 14th attacks – which targeted two major Saudi Arabian oil facilities in the eastern part of the country. With the increase in tensions following these drone attacks and new sanctions, Iranian Foreign Minister Zarif stated that the possibility of a meeting between the presidents of Iran and the United States is "zero" unless the United States lifts sanctions and returns to the 2015 nuclear deal.