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ח"כ יחיאל (חיליק) בר
סגן יושב ראש הכנסת
הכנסת, גבעת רם
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Wednesday, 15 July 2015

Dear Friend & Colleague,

I write to you regarding the just signed P5+1 nuclear deal with Iran, as both a concerned Israeli citizen and Chair of the European Forum of the Knesset.

Allow me to say at the outset, that I, and all of other Israelis, have strongly and consistently supported diplomatic efforts to reach an agreement with Iran to ensure it does not develop nuclear weapons, and we are grateful to all those who have been instrumental in the negotiation process.

However, we are gravely concerned that this agreement is a deeply flawed and dangerous one, which represents a direct threat to Israel's national security and existence, but also is detrimental to Europe.

The deal, which will help pave the way for Iran to obtain a nuclear weapon while removing many of the key sanctions, does not take into account that the Iranian regime continues to be the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism, human rights abuse, Anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial, while repeatedly threatening the State of Israel with annihilation.

Meantime, Iran will be rewarded with hundreds of billions of dollars that will help fund its worldwide terror activities and aggression, while its proxies, including terror groups Hamas and Hezbollah, which continue to be active throughout Europe, will also present a direct threat to the EU and the national security of your citizens. A number of European nations and companies have already expressed willingness to increase trade with Iran.

Hassan Nasrallah, the head of Iran's terrorist proxy Hezbollah, which has also committed a number of terrorist's acts on European soil, was quoted as saying that: "A rich and strong Iran will be able to stand by its allies and friends in the region more than at any time in the past."

Despite the best intentions of those negotiating this deal, unfortunately the world and our region today has become a much more dangerous place, with the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism, one step closer to nuclear weapons.

Across Israel today, there is almost no opposition and near unanimity in our shared concern at the terms of this deal and the clear, direct and unmistakable threat it poses to our national security.

The bottom line of this very bad deal is exactly what Iran's President Rouhani said today: "The international community is removing the sanctions and Iran is keeping its nuclear program."

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As a strong friend of Israel, whom I know cares deeply about peace and the joint security threats posed by this dangerous Iran deal, I ask that you please speak out in your Parliaments and communities about the dangers of this deal, including not only the very existence of the State of Israel, but also to the national security of the EU.

Together, I am certain we can ensure Iran does not obtain nuclear weapons that could pose such a grave and existential threat to millions of people.

I of course remain at your disposal should you have any questions.

Respectfully Yours,

MK Hilik Bar

Deputy Speaker of the Knesset
Chair, The Knesset caucus for Furthering Relations between Israel and Europe, "European Forum of the Knesset" (EFK)