

December 2016 / January 2017

## Politics:

Chairman of the Iranian Parliament's Committee on National Security and Foreign Policy Alaeddin Boroujerdi [declared](#) that if the US renewed sanctions, Iran will raise uranium production and enrichment to 190,000 SWU.

In response to US sanction renewals, Iranian parliament members [proposed](#) a triple-urgency motion to resume nuclear activities.

Iran's Supreme Court [confirmed](#) the death sentence for the Iranian billionaire Babak Zanjani, convicted of financial fraud.

Iran's Foreign Ministry [urged](#) Kenya to release two Iranian lawyers arrested in Africa. The Ministry blamed un-named 'third party' pressure on Kenya for their arrest.

Ahmad Montazeri, the son of the late high-ranking political and religious cleric Hossein Ali Montazeri, has [received](#) a 21 year prison sentence for publishing an audio file belonging to his father. The audio file implied state involvement in the execution of 4000 political prisoners in Iran in 1988.

Iranian parliament members [submitted](#) a plan to Iran's parliament to restrict Iran's diplomatic relationship with the UK. The plan was submitted after UK Prime Minister Theresa May made comments about Iranian interference in the Middle East.

Iran's President Hassan Rouhani and Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif [ordered](#) the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran to plan work on nuclear propulsion devices used in sea transport. The order was made in response to a recent US violation of the nuclear deal.

At a UN General Assembly meeting, Iran's Ambassador to the United Nations Gholam-Ali Khoshroo [declared](#) that Iran will abide by the nuclear deal only if all parties involved comply with the agreement's conditions.

The Iranian women's social and cultural council [held](#) an election to appoint their new chairs. Zahra Ayatollahi and Zahra Rasti were appointed as the new committee chairs.

Iran's Vice President for Women and Family Affairs Shahindokht Molaverdi [declared](#) that a national session on women and family will convene in the near future. This will assist government departments in planning for women and family issues.

Women activists and political leaders [met](#) with Vice President for Women and Family Affairs Shahindokht Molaverdi and Interior Minister Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli to discuss issues pertaining to women in Iran.

Iran and Russia are set to [remove](#) visa requirements for travellers' package tours through travel agencies.

## International Relations:

Slovenian President Borut Pahor [visited](#) Iran to talk about bilateral cooperation. Following his visit, Slovenia's embassy was reopened in Tehran.

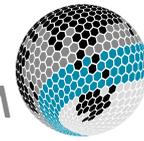
Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu [met](#) with President Rouhani and Foreign Minister Zarif in Tehran.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and President Rouhani [expressed](#) their condolences on the death of Cuba's leader Fidel Castro.

On 11th December, Tehran [hosted](#) the International Conference on Regional Security Order in West Asia.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei [condemned](#) the US sanction renewal claiming that it is in breach of their commitments to the nuclear agreement.

President Rouhani held a phone conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin to [discuss](#) efforts to extend their cooperation against terrorism in the region. They reiterated their commitment to fighting terrorism in Syria.



Foreign Minister Zarif [met](#) with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in Beijing on a three-country trip (Japan and India). Zarif sought assurances from China on Iran's nuclear deal and ascension to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.

Foreign Minister Zarif met with Japan's Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida in Tokyo. The two parties [held](#) talks to discuss enhancing economic cooperation and fighting against terrorism.

Foreign Minister Zarif [met](#) with the head of the Iraqi National Alliance Ammar al-Hakim in Tehran. Zarif stated that Iran would assist Iraq with its security and stability.

At a meeting held in Tehran, Chairman of the Iranian Parliament's Committee on National Security and Foreign Policy Alaeddin Boroujerdi met with Ukraine's Ambassador to Iran Sergei Burdulyak. Boroujerdi [claimed](#) that the intervention of foreign powers in the Middle East had intensified tension in the region.

Iran and South Africa [signed](#) a defence and military agreement.

Indonesian President Joko Widodo [arrived](#) in Tehran to hold talks with senior Iranian officials.

The head of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad movement Ramadan Abdullah Shallah [met](#) President Rouhani in Tehran.

Iran's Deputy of Science and Technology [declared](#) that Iran's cooperation with China in the field of technology and academia increased from three to six areas.

## Economics:

Iran Air and Boeing [finalized](#) the agreement for the purchase of 80 planes.

An Iranian expert [estimated](#) Iran's economic cooperation with Russia to increase to USD\$4 billion over the next four years and USD\$40 billion over the next ten years.

Iran, Bosnia and Herzegovina plan to [extend](#) their economic cooperation in the future.

Iran and Russia have [signed](#) an agreement to establish a 1400 megawatt thermal power station.

Iran's National Iranian Oil Company and Thailand's PTT Exploration and Production Public Company Limited (PTTEP) [signed](#) a basic agreement to study the Chaguleh oil fields.

Iran [signed](#) an agreement with Royal Dutch Shell to study the development of Iran's South Azadegan and Yadavaran oil fields and Iran's Kish gas field.

Iran's oil production [increased](#) to 40 thousand barrels per day in November.

Gazprom's subsidiary Gazprom-neft [signed](#) an agreement with Iran to study two key oil fields in the country's west.

According to Iranian authorities, Iran's oil [export](#) to four Asian economies (India, China, Japan and South Korea) has doubled in a year to 2 million barrels of oil per day.

Iran has [joined](#) the International Energy Charter after signing the IEC declaration in Tokyo.

Iran is [preparing](#) to switch its currency from rial to toman.

## NEW MESF IRAN PUBLICATIONS:

### **Why does Iran need Hizbullah?,** *Shahram Akbarzadeh.*

This paper analyses the dynamic strategic partnership between Iran and Hizbullah.

To view click [here](#).

### **'Iran's Syrian Foreign Policy Objectives,'** *Shahram Akbarzadeh.*

In *The Arab World and Iran: A Turbulent Region in Transition*, Amin Saikal (Eds).

This chapter explores the impact of the Syrian conflict and its sectarian politics on Iranian foreign policy calculations.

To view, click [here](#).

