

Dear Editor,

You have run several letters to the editor recently responding to my published statements regarding the Iran nuclear agreement and the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

Regarding the first, the agreement is based on verification, not trust. While Iran's behavior until the Interim Agreement freezing and taking initial steps toward curtailing Iran's nuclear program in November 2013 generated doubts, almost all experts rate their compliance since then as excellent.

The verification of the Iran Nuclear Agreement would be the strongest, most intrusive in history. There will be 24-7 monitoring of all declared sites for the entire nuclear production chain, from uranium mining to its final use. Suspect covert sites would be subject to prompt, intrusive inspections.

Yes, some of the limits on Iran's centrifuges and amount of enriched uranium it can possess begin to sunset after 10-15 years. Diplomacy requires compromise, and this is the best agreement that could be reached after 22 months of tough negotiations. It keeps Iran at least one year away from obtaining a bomb for up to 15 years. The strongest in history inspections remain in place permanently.

The writer labels me as naïve', but the real naiveté' is to think that walking away from this hard-won agreement will result in anything other than Iran being able to get a bomb in 2 months or less, while having international sanctions collapse. The US would be soon face another disastrous Middle East War, far worse than the ones in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Finally, the writer's figure of \$100 billion of sanctions relief is dubious. US officials in charge of Iran sanctions put the figure at about \$50 billion. While that's still a lot of money, Iran's government will remain under tremendous pressure, especially from the 60% of its population that is under 30, to invest in its civilian economy rather than supporting terrorism.

I find Iran's support of terrorism to be reprehensible, but no one agreement can realistically deal with all problems. Terrorism-related sanctions will remain in place, and we should pursue other measures to press Iran to cease such behavior. Just as with the former USSR, we should curtail nuclear weapons as an essential international security need, while pursuing other problems in parallel.

While I appreciate the support of the writer regarding the Hiroshima/Nagasaki anniversaries for my advocacy of global abolition of nuclear weapons, in no way do I countenance Japan's aggressive militarism in World War II.

When visiting Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1980, I met with leaders of the organizations of A-bomb survivors. They informed me that they had sent a delegation to Pearl Harbor the previous December 7 to ask forgiveness for what Japanese militarism had done to our country.

I invite readers to visit peacecoalition.org for further information, and I welcome readers to communicate reactions and concerns to me at cfpa@peacecoalition.org

Sincerely,

The Rev. Robert Moore
(609) 924-5022 work
(609) 937-6931 cell

The writer is Executive Director of the Princeton-based Coalition for Peace Action and Co-Pastor of Christ Congregation in Princeton.