


Netanyahu: Nuclear deal with Iran unleashes a 'tiger'

 **Oren Dorell, USA TODAY** 4:29 p.m. EDT October 1, 2015



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu heavily criticized a multi-national nuclear deal with Iran while speaking at the United Nations Thursday. USA TODAY



(Photo: Kevin Hagen, AP)

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Thursday that a widely celebrated nuclear deal with Iran will provide the Islamic Republic with funds to expand terror networks and threaten the rest of the world.

While Israel stands ready to defend itself, the global community must ensure Iran meets its obligations under the agreement, Netanyahu said.

"Make sure that inspectors actually inspect. Make sure the snapback sanctions actually snap back. And make sure that Iran's violations aren't swept under the Persian rug," he said in a dramatic speech before the 70th United Nations General Assembly in New York City. "Keep Iran's feet to the fire."

While Iran was seeking to clinch the nuclear deal with world powers in the past six months, it sent forces and Shiite militias to Syria and Yemen, smuggled anti-aircraft and anti-ship cruise missiles into Lebanon and set up terror cells in Cyprus, Netanyahu said. Iran has also continued to work on intercontinental ballistic missiles and expand terror cells, he added.



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[\(http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2015/09/30/carter-calls-russia-syria-airstrikes/73090262/\)](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2015/09/30/carter-calls-russia-syria-airstrikes/73090262/)

Netanyahu's speech, which also touched on Syria and the Palestinian peace process, stuck to a recurring theme of his during much of the past two years — warning world leaders to beware of a deal with Iran that leaves the nation's nuclear program intact. The agreement allows Iran to expand its peaceful nuclear program in return for the removal of crippling economic sanctions.

Netanyahu predicted Iran's behavior will worsen once sanctions are lifted. "Unleashed and unmuzzled, Iran will go on the prowl, devouring more and more prey," Netanyahu said. "You think hundreds of billions of dollars in sanctions relief and fat contracts will turn this rapacious tiger into a kitten? If you do, you should think again."



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Iran's President Rouhani wants global role after nuclear deal

While the deal imposes some restrictions on Iran, many of those lift after a decade, Netanyahu said.

"The greatest danger facing our world is the coupling of militant Islam with nuclear weapons," he said. "I'm gravely concerned the nuclear deal with Iran will prove to be the marriage certificate for that unholy union."



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Palestinian Authority's Abbas says he'll abandon agreements with Israel

(<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2015/09/30/pa-leader-abandons-agreements-israel/73091738/>)

Netanyahu criticized world leaders, many of whom celebrated the nuclear deal in speeches from the same podium this week, for remaining silent about Iran's ruling mullahs and generals who've spoken openly of Israel's destruction.

After the deal was reached, Netanyahu said, Iran's supreme leader Ali Khamenei published a book that amounted to "a screed about his plans to destroy Israel" and a pledge that "there will be no Israel in 25 years."

"Seventy years after the murder of 6 million Jews, the Iranian regime talks about murdering my country, my people," he said. "The response from nearly every one of the governments represented here has been absolutely nothing, utter silence. Deafening silence."

Netanyahu accentuated his point by remaining silent himself for about a minute, facing an uncomfortable pause in the U.N. hall.

Israelis are dismayed, he said when "we see the world celebrating this very bad deal, rushing to embrace and do business with a regime openly seeking our destruction."

He urged world leaders to "check Iran's regional aggression, (and to) support and strengthen those fighting Iran's aggression, beginning with Israel."

Netanyahu suggested Iranian leaders take a look at the 4,000-year history of the Jewish people, which is rife with enemies and empires who sought to destroy them.

"Babylon and Rome... are long gone, but Israel lives," Netanyahu said.

On Syria, Netanyahu said Israel will continue to respond forcefully to any attacks against it from Syria, and to prevent the transfer of strategic weapons to Hezbollah from and through Syrian territory.

On the Palestinian peace process, Netanyahu said he is prepared to immediately resume "direct peace negotiations with the Palestinian Authority without any preconditions." He urged Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, who on Wednesday expressed frustration with Israeli settlement building in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, not to give up and not to allow a Palestinian state to become "a stepping stone for another Islamist dictatorship."

"I know it's hard," Netanyahu said. "But we owe it to our peoples to try."

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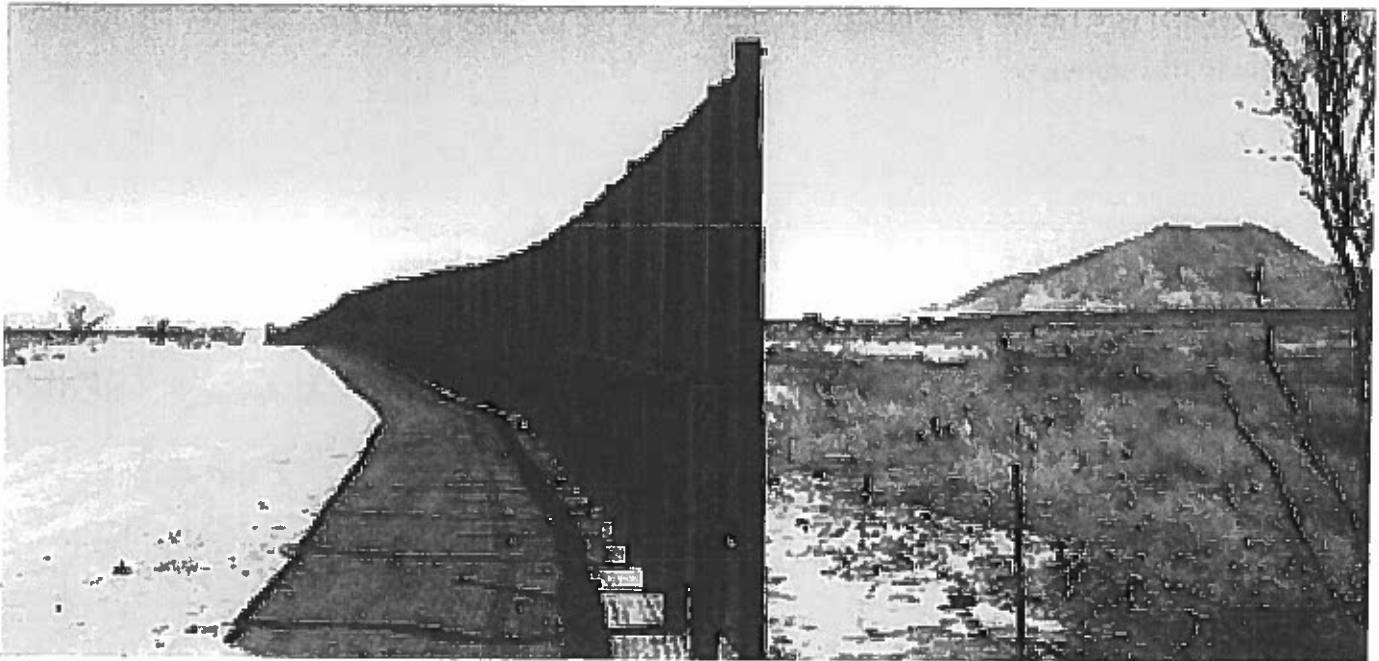
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Release of criminal illegal immigrants put Americans in harm's way

AUG 13, 2014



IMMIGRATION



The Department of Homeland Security has illegally released thousands of illegal immigrants into the U.S., and more than 600 of them were convicted criminals.

A new report [1] from the inspector general for DHS reveals that in the run-up to 2013 budget cuts due to sequestration, the Obama Administration decided to cut costs by releasing a whole lot of illegal immigrants. And now, it appears the Administration actually broke the law when it released all those illegal immigrants.

During the three weeks leading up to sequestration, in fact, the federal government released 2,226 illegal immigrants. Of those, 1,450 were released the last weekend before sequestration went into effect. Cities hit with the most released illegal immigrant convicts included Phoenix, Houston, Atlanta and Chicago.

The debacle didn't just stop with the release, though. Over at The Daily Signal, Sharyl Attkisson details [2] how Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) gave misleading information to Congress and the media, and the agency still has not resolved budget and detention problems.

ICE officials seem to be blaming the mass immigrant release on pressure they felt from Washington's budget sequestration and lack of detention space. None of their excuses pass muster.

ICE's actions only illustrate the sorry state of our nation's immigration policies. As Oklahoma Senator Tom Coburn noted, "this report provides more evidence that our nation's immigration laws are being flagrantly disregarded."

Our federal government is supposed to protect us from criminals – not disregard the law to allow them to live among us.

1- Roth, John. ICE's Release of Immigration Detainees. <http://www.oig.dhs.gov> 14 August 2014.
http://www.oig.dhs.gov/assets/Mgmt/2014/OIG_14-116_Aug14.pdf

2- Attkinsson, Sharyl. Obama Administration Released Over 600 Illegal Immigrants With Criminal Convictions. <http://dailysignal.com> 12 August 2014.
<http://dailysignal.com/2014/08/12/obama-administration-released-600-illegal-immigrants-criminal-convictions/>

Some Democrats Worry Newcomers Will Crowd Job Market

BY REBECCA BALLHAUS

Updated July 2, 2013 9:01 p.m. ET

Dexter Jackson, a chef at a barbecue restaurant in South Carolina, worries that unemployment is high and that Congress is about to make it worse. Easing immigration rules, he says, "takes jobs away from Americans."

In his skepticism about current proposals for overhauling immigration, Mr. Jackson, a 24-year-old living in Piedmont, S.C., joins many lawmakers in Congress. But unlike most of them, he is a Democrat who has voted for President Barack Obama.

Democrats wary of immigration are a minority within their own party, but it is a group that is largely made up of lower-earning people. Now, with immigration proposals facing a difficult path through the House, the voices of these Democrats, combined with similar concerns voiced by Republicans, could add fuel to the arguments that allowing more guest workers into the U.S. and legalizing illegal immigrants would squeeze the wages and jobs of native-born workers.

"I'm still a liberal....I just don't think they should pass immigration," said Rebecca Leach, a 36-year-old former licensed nurse assistant in Laconia, N.H., who has gone back to school so she can get a higher-paying job. Ms. Leach, a Democrat who voted for Mr. Obama, said she finds the idea of bringing more workers into the country "very frustrating," given her own challenges in earning a living.

"I have to struggle, and I've been in this country all of my life," said Ms. Leach, a single mother.

When a Wall Street Journal/NBC News survey asked in April whether immigration strengthens or weakens the country, 68% of all Democrats polled said it strengthened the country. But among Democrats with household income under \$30,000 a year, 53% saw immigration as beneficial, with a large minority of 42% saying it weakened the country.

Republicans remain more apt to see immigration in a negative light and to oppose efforts to overhaul immigration laws. Among all Republicans, the Journal/NBC survey found, only 37% said immigration strengthens the U.S., with 52% saying it weakens the country.

Fears of immigrants' effect on the working class prompted some labor unions and Democratic lawmakers to oppose the last big push for an immigration shake-up, in 2007. Similar sentiments are being heard again, though they are more muted this time.

Now, labor unions are among the most important supporters of the Senate's plan to rewrite immigration laws, as they see newly legalized workers as potential members at a time of big

declines in union enrollment. Democratic lawmakers increasingly see Latino voters, who tend to favor an overhaul of the laws, as a key constituency.

And this time, a Democratic president is backing the overhaul, whereas it was a Republican, George W. Bush, who put his weight behind the last push.

That leaves Republican lawmakers as the most vocal advocates for the argument that adding foreign workers will harm native-born workers.

"This bill is going to bring in huge amounts of new workers to take the few jobs being created," said Sen. Jeff Sessions (R., Ala.) on the Senate floor recently.

In interviews, some Democrats cite similar fears of competing with newly legalized immigrants or guest workers. "A citizen should get the job before an immigrant," said Max Morcha, who works for a concrete placement company in Olathe, Kan. "I've been doing this type of work for the last 20 some years, and I've seen it change from citizens that live here to a bunch of Spanish descent. It's a shame."

As a result of such sentiments, some lawmakers in both parties have tried to add worker-training provisions to immigration legislation, aiming to give native-born workers a better opportunity to take jobs that are open, particularly high-skill jobs.

Labor unions, a key component of the Democratic coalition, argue that legalizing immigrants will boost all workers, making it easier to enforce wage standards and labor-condition rules. Jeff Hauser, political media liaison for the AFL-CIO, said native-born workers already are competing with illegal workers. The overhaul, he said, means that "unscrupulous" employers who rely on illegal labor will have to return to fair hiring practices.

Similarly, Adriana Kugler, professor of public policy at Georgetown University and former chief economist at the Department of Labor, said immigration makes it easier for companies to hire in the U.S. for jobs that might have been sent abroad. "It's not that immigrants are taking jobs away from people who are here. What seems to be happening is that immigrants are taking jobs away that are otherwise being outsourced elsewhere," she said.

Ms. Kugler also rejected the fear that increased immigration would drive down wages, pointing to a clause in the bill that requires employers to hire immigrants at the prevailing wage.

Obama Soaks the Rich, Drowns the Middle Class

By Jon Kyl
And Stephen Moore

The curse of the U.S. economy today is the downward trend in "take-home pay." This is the most crucial economic indicator for most Americans, but when President Obama said in a recent speech at Northwestern that nearly every economic measure shows improvement from five years ago, he conspicuously left this one out.

Most workers' pay has not kept up with inflation for at least six years. Even as hiring picked up over the past year, wages and salaries have inched up by 2%, barely ahead of inflation. This probably explains why half of Americans say the recession never ended. They are experiencing what Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen last week described as "stagnant living standards for the majority."

Why aren't wages rising? There are several reasons, including that many jobs today don't pay as well as the ones lost during the recession. ObamaCare has made health insurance more expensive for businesses—as the nation's biggest employer, Wal-Mart, recently reported—and that takes a bite out of take-home pay. Yet one factor is often overlooked: the tax increase on "the rich" at the beginning of 2013.

How could higher taxes on the top 2% or 3% hurt the middle class? Part of the answer is that when upper-income Americans spend their

money on vacations or cars, they are taxed only once, after they earn it. But if they put their money to work by, for example, building out a family business, they got socked a second time by higher investment taxes. And this discourages the investments that grow the economy.

The ripple effect of the president's tax hikes is swamping take-home pay.

Although the Obama administration argues otherwise, these tax hikes were not minor. The tax rate on capital gains for high-income earners shot up to 23.8%—20% plus the 3.8% ObamaCare investment surtax. Ditto for the tax on dividends. So taxes on business investment rose by nearly 60% in 2013 and are nearly 20% higher than in the Clinton years.

For estates more than \$5.3 million in value, the estate tax in 2013 rose to 40% from 35% in 2012. This tax is a confiscatory double tax on a lifetime of savings, and the money reinvested in stocks or a family business.

The overall effect of the 2013 tax hike was not minor. The highest income-tax rate on small business income has risen to almost 42% from 35%. That's a 20% spike in the small business tax for successful companies. When the

government takes more, there is less to plow back into the business or invest elsewhere.

This may help explain the paradox that even as American businesses today are generally efficient and highly profitable, they aren't reinvesting in new plants, equipment and technology or hiring more workers at the pace they normally would. Business investment was up last quarter—a hopeful sign—but over the recovery the trend has been sluggish.

A comparison with the Reagan years when investment taxes were cut tells the story. From 1983 to 1988, private investment averaged 12% of GDP, one-third faster than the 9% since 2009 under Obama. In the aftermath of the Kennedy, Clinton and George W. Bush capital-gains tax cuts (1998-2006), the investment rate rose sharply and immediately.

What does investment have to do with stagnant wages? Everything. As Paul Samuelson, the premiere Keynesian economist who sold more economics textbooks than anyone in history, once explained: "What happens to the wage rate when each person works with more capital goods? Because each worker has more capital to work with, his or her marginal product [or productivity] rises. Therefore, the competitive real wage rises as workers become worth more to capitalists and meet with spirited bidding up

of their market wage rates."

History bears this out. Workers did very well in jobs and rising incomes in the 1960s, 1980s and late 1990s when capital gains and dividend taxes fell.

The high corporate tax rate is also holding the economy back. Twenty years ago the U.S. rate was about at the international average, but now we are about 15 percentage points above the rate of most of our competitors and nearly three times higher than countries like Ireland. The American Enterprise Institute has found that "a 1% increase in corporate tax rates is associated with nearly a 1% drop in wage rates" because when corporations invest less here at home, worker productivity suffers.

Mr. Obama's investment tax hike was designed to soak the rich. But it is the middle class who have taken a bath. Republicans should be telling American wage-earners that the best way to increase their take-home pay is to repeal Mr. Obama's tax hikes and chop the corporate tax rate to the international average, so more and better jobs are created on these shores, not abroad.

Mr. Kyl, former Republican senator from Arizona, is a visiting scholar at the American Enterprise Institute and senior counsel at Covington & Burling LLP. Mr. Moore is chief economist at the Heritage Foundation.



Duke study finds 'natural variability' impacts global warming

Posted: Apr 21, 2015 2:08 PM CDT

Updated: Apr 21, 2015 2:08 PM CDT

by Justin Quesinberry, WNCN News **CONNECT**

DURHAM, N.C. - Researchers at Duke University say global warming is not progressing as fast as it would under the most severe scenarios outlined by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Looking at 1,000 years of temperature records, researchers found that natural variability in surface temperatures over the course of just a decade can account for increases and dips in warming rates. Researchers said that variability could be caused by interactions between the ocean and atmosphere, or other natural factors.

As such, they say trends over just a 10-year period do not show much about long-term warming the Earth can expect to experience over a 100-year period.

"If that message gets out, then I think there would be less back and forth arguing about these short-term temperature trends because it doesn't really matter that much scientifically," explained Patrick Brown, a doctoral student in climatology at Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment.

Brown, as well as Wenhong Li, assistant professor of climate at Duke, found that the Earth is looking at IPCC's more of a middle-of-the-road warming solution and not the fastest-track prediction.

"That matches up well with what we're seeing," Brown said.

Li, though said, there is no guarantee the rate of warming will remain steady.

"Our analysis clearly shows that we shouldn't expect the observed rates of warming to be constant," Li said. "They can and do change."

The study, "Comparing the Model-Simulated Global Warming Signal to Observations Using Empirical Estimates of Unforced Noise," was published Tuesday in the peer-reviewed journal *Scientific Reports*.

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