

Vigil for Peace

Iran: Another Path

The Obama administration's current policy to pressure Iran is very dangerous. Ratcheting up military threats could get out of hand and lead to war. Cutting off Iran's financing for oil sales will drive up the world price of oil and could end up wrecking the U.S. economy.

Another path would be to put all U.S. weight behind the creation of a nuclear-weapons-free zone in the Middle East. This would end the U.S. practice of blasting Iran for nuclear weapons it doesn't have; while keeping silent about the nuclear weapons Israel does have.

The idea of such a zone is not farfetched. Five exist today. The regions currently covered under agreements include: Latin America, the South Pacific, Southeast Asia, Africa and Central Asia.

Iran has a great deal to gain from a Middle East nuclear-weapons-free zone – the elimination of the threat of Israel's nuclear weapons, now aimed at Iran. Israel and the other countries in the Middle East also have much to gain - the elimination of Iran's nuclear threat.

In the past both Israeli and Iranian leaders have expressed openness to the concept, although with conditions. In an opinion poll last November, 64 percent of Israeli Jews supported the idea of a nuclear-free zone. A 2007 poll in Iran found the Iranian people also supporting such a zone.

If this path is followed negotiations would be extremely difficult, but perhaps success would be more possible, since all the players would gain.

Source: Preventing a Nuclear Iran, Peacefully, *New York Times*, January 15, 2012

The Vigil for Peace was initiated by the Albany Friends Meeting and Peace Action.
Find out how you can work for peace. Call 518-595-9324

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