Iranian nuclear crisis / Companies should disinvest from Iran

< Iranian nuclear crisis

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Position: Companies should disinvest from Iran

This position addresses the topic Iranian nuclear crisis.

For this position

"As the antiapartheid movement found, divestment helps put more starch in government sanctions. If the 400 or so European and Asian companies doing business in Iran were forced by global investors to withdraw, they would be upset about it, but less motivated to weaken sanctions imposed by their own countries. Isolation and the threat of economic collapse wouldn't necessarily drive the regime from power, as Gaffney thinks, but it could strengthen the opposition in ways that angry rhetoric from Washington won't."

From Before We Bomb Iran ..., by Jonathan Alter (Newsweek, October 15, 2007) (view)

"Current estimates are that Iran's oil exports will drop in half by 2011, and hit zero three years later. The regime desperately needs new investment to prop up its oil production. It's up to the public - and to our leaders - to see that Western companies don't provide that investment. "

From Starving the Mullahs, by Dick Morris, Eileen McGann (*New York Post*, June 25, 2007) (view)

"The sanctions adopted by the United Nations are too weak, too puny and too late to have any deterrent effect on Iran's drive to build a nuclear bomb. But there is something the U.S. government, state governments, labor unions, pension funds and each of us as individuals can do: We can stop investing in companies that help Iran exploit the oil and gas resources on which its economy depends."

From Hit Iran Where It Hurts, by Dick Morris, Eileen McGann (*New York Post*, December 27, 2006) (view)

Against this position

"Oil export revenues for Iran are about \$150 million a day, a figure far greater than the likely annual cost of the weaponry delivered by the Iranians to be used against U.S. personnel in Iraq. Moreover, the disinvestment policy will prove ineffective because the international capital market is vast; disinvestment by California's pension funds will be replaced by investment from others."

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From Disinvesting won't stop terrorism, by Benjamin Zycher (*Los Angeles Times*, June 19, 2007) (view)

Mixed on this position

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