

BAY AREA WOMEN IN BLACK

IS IRAN NEXT?

Bay Area Women in Black stand in alarm at the prospect of a U.S. or Israeli attack on Iran before George Bush leaves office. Here is why:

- Last September Congress showed its overwhelming support for Bush's confrontational approach with passage of the Kyl-Lieberman Amendment which called for designation of Iran's Revolutionary Guard, a part of its army, as a terrorist organization.
- A December 2007 National Intelligence Estimate, representing all U.S. intelligence agencies, concluded that Iran had halted its work on nuclear weapons in 2003. The Bush administration downplayed the Estimate and continued to insist that action was essential to counter the Iranian nuclear threat.
- About the same time, Congress responded to a highly classified Presidential Finding by funding \$400 million for a major escalation of covert operations inside Iran.
- Meanwhile Israel carried out an exercise over the Eastern Mediterranean that appears to have been a rehearsal for an air attack on Iranian nuclear facilities. Helicopters and 100 Israeli jets flew a distance equivalent to and from Israel and Iran's main nuclear enrichment plants.
- Now two new bellicose Congressional resolutions have been proposed. The resolutions call for the president to stop all shipments of refined petroleum products from reaching Iran, and "demand" that the president impose "stringent inspection requirements on all persons, vehicles, ships, planes, trains and cargo entering or departing from Iran." The measures called for would require a U.S. naval blockade which would amount to an act of war. Both resolutions are rapidly gaining co-sponsors. The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) has endorsed them and is encouraging lobbying Congress in their favor on its website.



All of this saber-rattling helps drive up the price of oil as speculators reasonably take into account the possibility of an air strike by the U.S. and/or Israel before Bush leaves office. The resulting out-of-control cascade of likely responses might include interruption of all oil deliveries from the Persian Gulf, a ground assault on U.S. troops in Iraq and a missile attack on Israel followed by a nuclear strike on Iran.

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Congress may vote on these resolutions as early as next week. Therefore, it is important to call or email your Senators and Congressional Representatives to demand a “No” vote on House Concurrent Resolution 362 and Senate Resolution 580.

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Bay Area Women in Black are Jews and allies who stand against militaristic and fundamentalist leadership in all countries, including our own. We wear black as a sign of our mourning for all the lives that have been lost as a result of war, militarization and violence, and particularly those in Iraq, Afghanistan, Israel and Palestine. As part of the international movement of Women in Black, we seek to transform women's mourning for the dead into a powerful refusal of the inevitability of war.

Join us at the Grand Lake Theater every Saturday at noon to register your protest and your presence as we continue to urge the end of the US military and financial support for Israel's disastrous occupation.

The group with flags and signs supporting Israel is the San Francisco Voice for Israel, a local group who oppose Bay Area Women in Black's criticism of the policies of the Israeli government and military. BAWIB is not anti-Israel. BAWIB believes Israel's occupation is wrong and deprives Palestinians of basic human rights. BAWIB calls for the end of the occupation and its violent effects on Israelis and Palestinians. The flyers distributed by Voice for Israel do not accurately reflect BAWIB.