

“GERMANY’S INCREASING SUPPORT OF A PRO-IRANIAN REGIME”

SUMMARY OF A WEBINAR HOSTED BY

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SUMMARY OF COMMENTS MADE BY BENJAMIN WEINTHAL

- ◆ Although in 2008 Angela Merkel pledged to stand by Israel’s side, stating that “for me, as German chancellor, Israel’s security is non-negotiable”, it is not clear if the same commitment still holds vis-à-vis Berlin’s stand towards Israel when it comes to the question of pressuring Tehran.
- ◆ In the past several years leading to the 2015 JCPOA agreement, Germany had been a “zealous champion of the nuclear deal and an ardent advocate of bringing change in a process of incentivizing the Iranian regime through greater trade with Europe” – a policy that was first espoused in the early 1980s by the then German Foreign Minister, Hans Dietrich Genscher.
- ◆ The pursuit of such a policy had resulted in Germany becoming Iran’s top trading partner in Europe. As a result, the role of the German Banks in facilitating payments to Iran has played a consistently crucial role over the years.
- ◆ All of these actions taken have been oblivious of the fact that trade with Iran was helping to finance the IRI to fund its terrorist activities in the region including selected targets in Israel.
- ◆ Germany’s level of sympathetic cooperation with the IRI (the fact that Merkel sent a German Ambassador to help and advise the Iranians as to how they could circumvent US sanctions) has been revealed and underlined by the Trump’s Ambassador to Germany (2016-2018) and Acting Director of National Intelligence (2020), Richard Grenell.
- ◆ However, Grenell’s persistence while in Germany resulted in Germany being forced to sanction ‘Mahan Air’, a commercial

Iranian airline owned by the IRGC as well as taking certain important measures against Hezbollah.

- ◆ Nonetheless, German technological support (chemical products and Rockets) to Iran has been used by the Islamic regime in prosecuting the war and achieving its ambitions in Syria.
- ◆ Moreover, despite the fact that Iran holds a number of German citizens in its jails, the Germans have refused to do anything about those cases.
- ◆ According to Weinthal, Germany was the West's worst ally having helped Iran and "cosied up with Putin". He said that Germany 'was carrying the water' for both Putin and Ali Khamenei. These actions, especially with regards to Putin, have jeopardized the security of Europe.
- ◆ Weinthal said that in his recent visit to Israel, the new German Chancellor had re-issued the same empty rhetoric as before on the nuclear deal as well as on the subject of siding with Israel.
- ◆ Weinthal concluded his remarks by saying Germany had played a key role in keeping the IRI on life support for many years. But what was needed was a dramatic shift of attitude in Germany in order to change these policies - something that could only be secured through the election of new political personalities willing to take a stand against Iranian extremism.

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