



## U.S. will not re-impose sanctions on Iran's Nuclear Programme

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The administration of President **Trump** chose to continue waiving nuclear-related sanctions on Wednesday despite its criticism of the agreement. "Categorically", former Undersecretary of State Wendy Sherman - who led the U.S. negotiating team at the Iran nuclear talks - **said** at a panel hosted by the Cato Institute on Tuesday, which included this reporter.

The **Treasury Department** will sanction Iranian defense officials because of the country's ballistic missile program.

The State Department said Iran would continue to enjoy relief from decades-old economic measures punishing Tehran for its **nuclear program**. Nephew made the remarks in a call hosted by Diplomacy Works, a new organization of former United States diplomats and policymakers, mostly Democrats, formed to defend the deal. Some of the waivers would expire if Trump refuses to extend them this week.

One of its goals, as former Chief of Staff and Director of Policy Planning at the State Department Jon Finer told the Independent, is to "bring accurate, nonpartisan information about the deal at a time when the focus on Iran policy is increasing and there is widespread disinformation about what is in it and how it is working".

The U.S. paired the announcement with new, unrelated sanctions that go after Iran for a ballistic missiles program that **Washington** fears could target U.S. interests in the Middle East or key allies such as Israel and Saudi Arabia. This may be meant to "undercut the impression that Trump is softening on Iran", The Associated Press wrote. But continuing the sanctions relief requires the renewal of a six-month waiver.

The decision came just before a Friday presidential election in Iran, in which moderate **President Hassan Rouhani** is fighting for a second term **against hardline cleric Ebrahim Raisi**, who has called for a much tougher stance against the West. On April 18, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said Iran has complied to date with its requirements under the deal, while calling the deal a failure a day later.