

Nuclear weapons: Iran and Israel Which is the bigger threat?

The prime minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, has declared that Iran must not be allowed to have a nuclear weapon, and is threatening preemptive military action against Iran. The presidential candidates from both major parties have repeated the threat and receive massive campaign donations and support, as do many politicians, from the Israeli lobby AIPAC. The mainstream media echo the idea that Iran is a danger to Israel.

	ISRAEL	IRAN
Number of nuclear weapons	estimates vary from 75 to more than 600 *	0
Signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty	NO	YES
Allows nuclear inspections by the UN International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)	NO	YES

Israel receives at least \$3 billion per year in U.S. taxpayer money, and we are expected to believe that Iran is an enemy. However, so-called “surgical” attacks on Iranian sites would kill tens of thousands, even hundreds of thousands, of Iranian people and cause a cancer tsunami. A number of U.S. and Israeli military leaders and security officials from across the political spectrum have warned that an attack on Iran would likely provoke a full-scale regional war, as well as encourage Iran to develop nuclear weapons. Enflaming the region could even lead to World War III. Given the gravity of such consequences, shouldn’t we be asking how real the nuclear threat from Iran is?

* The Arms Control Association estimated the number to be 75-200, August 12, 2012 <http://www.armscontrol.org>; Jane’s Defence Weekly estimated Israel had 100-300 nuclear warheads: “Analysts: Israel viewed as world’s 6th nuclear power.” Published April 10, 2010. Ynet. Retrieved Sept. 29, 2012 <http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-3873755,00.html>; a 2009 Center for Strategic and International Studies report, “Study on a Possible Israeli Strike on Iran’s Nuclear Development Facilities,” stated Israel may possess 300-400 nuclear weapons; investigative journalist Seymour Hersh estimated the rate of

production to mean 600 had been produced by late 2006. Interview.
DemocracyNow. November 21, 2006 www.democracynow.org.