

# Iran Says It Is Still Committed to Nuclear Treaty

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TEHRAN, Feb. 12 — A day after [Iran's](#) president warned that the country might withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty if international pressure escalated, the Foreign Ministry issued an assurance today that Iran was still committed to the treaty.

"We are committed to our commitments within the N.P.T.," a Foreign Ministry spokesman, Hamid Reza Assefi, said during his weekly press conference, the IRNA news agency reported. "But we cannot accept that the treaty is used as a political instrument."

"The agency and other parties should not block roads to Islamic Republic of Iran and should solve the case in the framework of the regulations," he was quoted as saying.

The governing board of the International Atomic Energy Agency passed a resolution this month to report Iran to the United Nations Security Council for possible penalties over its nuclear program. But the resolution gave Iran until March to halt its atomic research and development work.

On Saturday, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of Iran said at a rally that the work would continue, and insisted that the country's nuclear program was within the framework of the treaty.

But "If we feel that you want to use the N.P.T. regulations to deprive us of our rights," Mr. Ahmadinejad warned, "know that the Iranian people will revise their policies in this regard."

During his speech, Mr. Ahmadinejad repeated his much-publicized comments from late last year that the Holocaust was a myth perpetuated to allow Israel to mistreat Palestinians.

In a letter to the president, the Tehran Jewish Committee, the biggest Jewish association in Iran, reacted angrily to those comments for the first time, saying that the statements had shocked the international community and had spread fear among Jews in Iran.

"How is it possible to deny the genocide of the Jews during World War II despite the existence of so much evidence? And rely on the comments of few people whose opinions have no religious basis? And even exaggerate those comments according to one's wishes and repeat them to a naïve audience?" asked the letter, which was written by the head of the committee, Haroun Yashayae, and was posted on the group's Web site late Saturday.

The letter continued, "Mr. Ahmadinejad, the Holocaust is not only not a myth, but it has been like a festering wound on the forehead of Western civilization."

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