

## Israeli official says "Iran talks missed goal" By Xinhua English News

English.news.cn 2012-05-28

JERUSALEM, May 28 (Xinhua) -- Key talks last week to resolve the nuclear dispute between Iran and the world six major powers were unsuccessful, a senior Israeli government official told Xinhua Monday.

"The purpose of the talks was to convince Iran to halt its nuclear program, and that didn't happen," the official said, adding that "All the information we have is showing that (the Iranians) have no intentions of stopping their nuclear program."

During the two-day talks, which concluded last Thursday, representatives of Iran and the UN Security Council's five permanent members -- the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China -- plus Germany, known as P5+1, as well as the European Union, held intense negotiations aiming at defusing the long- escalating crisis over Tehran's nuclear program.

The Israeli official added that the only purpose of the talks from the Iranian side was to gain time.

"Five weeks passed since the first round of talks held in Baghdad, and now there's three more weeks until the next round of talks in Moscow. They are simply playing for time," said the official on condition of anonymity.

A second Israeli diplomatic source, however, said that it was too early to jump to conclusions about the Baghdad talks, since they were only the second out of five rounds.

"Anyone who understands the basics of negotiations in general and Middle East negotiations in particular can figure out that the Iranians will put their cards on the table only in the last minute of the last round," the source said.

"Only then we will know if there's a chance for a breakthrough; it's a good deal for the Iranians, since in the meantime they are gaining more time," he noted.

Earlier last week, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reiterated a call for Iran to halt its nuclear fuel enrichment, warning that "Iran's goals are clear. It wants to annihilate Israel and is developing nuclear weapons to realize this goal."

Netanyahu called on the western power to take a much harsher stance toward Iran. "They do not need to make concessions to Iran, " he said of the P5+1 envoys.

"They need to set clear and unequivocal demands before it: Iran must halt all enrichment of nuclear material. It must remove from its territory all nuclear material that has been enriched up until now and it must dismantle the underground nuclear facility in Qom, " he said.

"Only thus will it be possible to ensure that Iran will not have a nuclear bomb. This is Israel's position, it has not changed and it will not change," the prime minister cautioned.

Israel, along with some Western nations, has long accused Iran of secretly developing nuclear weapons. Iran, however, denies the accusation and insists that its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes, such as power generation.

