

# *Israeli minister says Iran should 'disappear' off the map*

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Tel Aviv, August 9 (RHC)-- Israeli Minister of Public Security Gilad Erdan said that Iran should completely "disappear" from the map of the world. The Israeli official was responding to a question about U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to re-impose anti-Iran sanctions that were lifted under a historic nuclear deal between Tehran and six world powers.

Speaking to Israel Radio, Erdan welcomed Trump's decision in May to abandon the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and his push to persuade the remaining signatories of the 2015 deal -- the UK, France, China, Russia and Germany -- to do the same through sanctions and economic incentives.

"It would be better if the Iranian regime would disappear entirely from this world, but it would also be a blessing to see [former US President Barack] Obama's bad nuclear agreement replaced with a better one," Erdan said. The blatant statement by Erdan bears special significance given that Israel has long justified its animosity towards Iran by displaying a victim mentality.

While Israel remains the only known possessor of nuclear weapons in the Middle East, the regime has always criticized Iran's will to maintain a peaceful nuclear energy program, accusing Tehran of seeking to produce nuclear weapons.

Israeli officials, along with their Saudi counterparts, have also sought to undermine the JCPOA ever since

it was signed between Iran and the P5+1 group of countries. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was the first official to support Trump's May 8th decision to quit the deal and became the first official to congratulate the U.S. leader for re-imposing all nuclear-related bans against the Islamic Republic.

The Israeli regime continues to chastise the European Union -- the UK, France and Germany in particular -- for standing by the deal and trying to ensure that economic benefits that it guarantees will flow to Iran.

Tel Aviv's frustration with the EU was best reflected in Erdan's words, who went as far as calling the bloc "morally bankrupt."

Earlier this week, Trump signed an executive order to resume a first round of unilateral sanctions. The second phase will come into effect in November, targeting Iran's oil industry and foreign financial institutions with the Central Bank of Iran.

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