

## Anti-Iran Deal Groups Backed by \$145 Million

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*A [high-profile list](#) of U.S. non-proliferation, nuclear policy, Iran, and national security experts welcomed last week's announcement of a deal between the P5+1 and Iran to curb Tehran's nuclear program. Opponents of the deal, meanwhile, will make a last-ditch effort to derail the agreement reached in Vienna. They will use the 60-day congressional review period to pressure members of Congress, many of whom [owe their seats](#) to casino magnate [Sheldon Adelson](#), to vote to reject the deal.*

The groups leading this charge may be coming from a point of disadvantage. After all, it's a tall task to convince Congress to sabotage an agreement negotiated by the U.S., as well as its closest European and NATO allies. But the budgets behind these groups will no doubt amplify their voices, giving them an outsized influence during the next two months.



Sheldon and Miriam Adelson flank Benjamin Netanyahu

Taken together, eight of the most vocal groups opposing the Iran deal enjoyed a combined 2013 budget (the last year for which records are publicly available) in excess of \$145 million. That's hardly insignificant number, especially compared to other foreign-policy lobby groups..

Here's a breakdown of those groups, their 2013 budgets, and their anti-deal statements, issued either by the organizations themselves or their leadership:

### [The American Israel Public Affairs Committee \(AIPAC\)](#)

2013 budget: \$64,367,763

[Anti-deal statement](#): “Congress should reject this agreement, and urge the administration to work with our allies to maintain economic pressure on Iran while offering to negotiate a better deal that will truly close off all Iranian paths to a nuclear weapon.”

### [Anti-Defamation League](#)

2013 budget: \$58,137,559

[Anti-deal statement](#): “We are deeply disappointed by the terms of the final deal with Iran announced today which seem to fall far short of the President’s objective of preventing Iran from becoming a nuclear weapon state.”

### [The Israel Project](#)

Annual budget: \$7,165,162

[Anti-deal statement](#): “Today’s announcement of this nuclear agreement with Iran is a realization of the deepest fears and the most dire predictions of skeptics who have, for two years, been warning against exactly this outcome—a bad deal that both enriches this tyrannical regime and fails to strip Iran of nuclear weapons capability.”

### [The Foundation for Defense of Democracies](#)

2013 budget: \$7,108,010

[Anti-deal statement](#): “Ayatollah Khomeini would be proud of his successors, committed revolutionaries and skilled diplomats who, through guile and determination, have out-negotiated the envoys of the ‘Great Satan,’ thereby preparing the ground for the many battles—not just diplomatic—yet to come.”

### [Zionist Organization of America](#)

2013 budget: \$3,909,965

[Anti-deal statement](#): “This agreement will provide nuclear weapons and hundreds of billions of dollars to Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the Hitler of the Mideast, and to Iran, the Nazi Germany of the Middle East.”

### [Republican Jewish Coalition](#)

2013 budget: \$3,062,340

[Anti-deal statement](#): “This deal meets zero of the criteria for a good deal—it is not enforceable, verifiable, or in America’s national security interest. Unless Congress stops it, the world will be less safe as the United States will remove sanctions on Iran, and in return, Iran will still pursue nuclear weapons. The Republican Jewish Coalition calls on all members of Congress to reject this deal.”

### [United Against Nuclear Iran](#)

2013 budget: \$1,223,566

[Anti-deal statement](#): “Anytime you give \$150 billion, minimum, and then all the revenue that’s generated by the influx of business as sanctions are relieved, it will embolden a regime that’s already emboldened in the region and it doesn’t take that much money to fund Hezbollah, Hamas and I think we’d be naïve to think that none of that money will benefit their hegemonic ambitions.”

#### [Emergency Committee for Israel](#)

2013 budget: \$708,385

[Anti-deal statement](#): “Brilliant Obama diplomacy: In exchange for billions of dollars & removal of sanctions, Iran has agreed not to dismantle its nuclear program.”

These organizations, only a short list of the groups opposing the Iran deal, had a combined 2013 budget of \$145,682,750. And that doesn’t even begin to take into account the tens of millions of dollars being spent through various [dark-money groups](#) to run television commercials and newspaper advertisements. AIPAC, for instance, [says it will spend](#) an additional \$20 million through a newly formed advocacy group, Citizens for a Nuclear Free Iran. And the Emergency Committee for Israel last year [routed nearly \\$1 million](#) to support [Tom Cotton’s](#) Senate campaign, more than the ECI c4’s entire budget in 2013.

With Netanyahu [threatening to “kill himself”](#) to prevent a deal, and his wealthiest U.S. backer, Sheldon Adelson, apparently willing to provide critical campaign cash to Republican members of Congress and presidential hopefuls, neither Netanyahu nor the GOP will likely back down in the next 60 days. The White House is headed toward a battle with an extremely well endowed set of opponents.

*Eli Clifton reports on money in politics and US foreign policy. Eli previously reported for the American Independent New Network, ThinkProgress, and Inter Press Service.*

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