

Amazingly I got an opportunity that happens less than once in many a life time. It turns out that president Obama has been reading my Facebook posts (well, he is not actually one of my friends and my posts are usually not public but of course this does not stop the President from reading them) and he got upset enough to suggest that I could interview him if I liked. Of course I jumped at the opportunity. Although I had a large number of topics I wanted to raise, he restricted the interview to only one topic, the nuclear deal with Iran. So here is the full text of the interview:

A.K.: Thank you very much Mr President for agreeing to be interviewed by me. It is, of course a rare honour and I am very grateful for it, but I am also really interested to find out the answers to some of the questions that have been troubling me and which never seem to be asked by the kind of people who get a chance to ask you a question. You know, I mean people like Jon Stewart, who you know is a comedian and it shows. So I hope you don't mind if I ask you some questions about the nuclear deal with Iran.

Obama: Go ahead, make my day.

A.K. : Mr. President you have said that there is no alternative to the deal you have signed with Iran. Please let me know what would happen if there was no deal.

Obama: Iran would produce a nuclear bomb in less than one year. It would be a great threat to Israel and to world peace.

A.K.: Mr. President, according to your own words, Ayatollah Khamenei, the Supreme Spiritual Leader of Iran, and one who has been declared a Marja (Source of Emulation), has issued a fatwa which asserts that nuclear weapons are un-islamic and the Islamic Republic of Iran would never built them or use them. So I would like to know if you, who as we know is an expert on Islam and a Marja in his own right, think that a nuclear weapon is un-islamic and in if it is, then why do you claim that Iran would produce such a weapon in less than one year, in spite of the Ayatollah's fatwa (which unfortunately is not available in writing anywhere).

Obama: Well, of course nuclear weapons are un-Islamic since as I have said many times Islam is a Religion of Peace. But the problem is that we do not really know if Ayatollah Khamenei is really a Muslim or if he has nothing to do with Islam. If the latter is the case, he will go ahead and built a nuclear bomb (without the deal of course).

A.K.: I see now. The real reason for the deal is that we are not sure if Ayatollah Khamenei is a true Muslim. Some people might say that the well documented and frequent executions of homosexuals in Iran have provided enough evidence already. But let's not be carried away by emotions. Let's assume then that Ayatollah Khamenei is not a true Muslim and would build a nuclear weapon without the 150 billion dollars incentive that your deal has offered him not to do so very soon. (As you said yourself: in ten years time he or his successor will be able to do so in no time at all). You are also on record saying that although Ayatollah Khamenei is

clearly anti-semitic, he and the other Iranian leaders are also rational and open to incentives. Like 150 billion dollars. But if they are rational, why would they built a nuclear weapon without the deal? Would attempting to do so not enormously increase the chance that Israel would attack and try to destroy these weapons? Would it not be irrational for him to built a nuclear weapon, which he did not intend to use, and which would greatly increase the chance of Israeli attack?

Obama: You should know better than that. Since I have a better understanding of foreign affairs than any one else, including my advisors, I know that if we do not provide Iran with sufficient incentives, rational leaders like Ayatollah Khamenei could be replaced or succeeded by irrational ones. So by providing Iran with billions of dollars we are showing the Iranians that rationality pays.

A.K: Let me see if I got it right. The real reason for the deal is to keep in power Ayatollah Khamenei and ensure that someone similar to him replaces him in due time. We do not know whether he is a true Muslim but we at least know that he is rational and undertands that it is better to take 150 billion dollars and still keep the chance to built a nuclear weapon at the time of one's choosing, than to go ahead and built a nuclear weapon without the 150 billion. at least a part of which will (according to Susan Rice, your National Security advisor) is going to be spent on support of Shia terrorism and on other rational things that have nothing to do with Islam, which Iran has been engaging in for many years. Now, what worries me is this: what will Iran do when it decides that after all, it needs more money, just like Kim Jong Il found in 2006? And what will other similar "rational states" do when they come to the same conclusion?

Obama: You are making improper allusions to Bill Clinton and his flawed 1994 deal with North Korea, but this is a false analogy since Clinton was a mediocre wheeler-dealer and not a genius like me. Of course I cannot guarantee that the next president will be a genius. If the American people want to make sure the world stays safe they had better get rid of the 22nd Amendment. Or elect Michelle as president.

A.K.: Thank you Mr President, I think I now understand everything. There is just one more question. If the Iranian leadership is so rational, why was it not possible to include in it the release of the 4 American hostages in Iranian prisons: Marine Amir Hekmati, Saeed Abedini and Vahid Salemi, and Robert Levinson but you have released an Iranian scientist Mojtaba Atarodi, arrested in California for attempting to acquire equipment for Iran's non-existent military-nuclear program. Why is keeping these hostages more important to Iran than subjecting themselves to what you have claimed are very stringent conditions of the nuclear deal?

Obama: you are amazingly slow. You claim to have understood everything but it seem to have missed the whole point. Do you know how much time Khamenei has for bargaining? Till the end of his life. I have just over a year left. Do I need to say more?

A.K.: Thank you Mr. President, now everything is clear.