

Iran's Mohammad Javad Zarif Overreaches by Putting Biden On the Spot

by Hugh Fitzgerald



Javad Zarif, Iran's Foreign Minister, has shown he believes that the Biden Administration can be threatened into rapidly submitting to Iran's demand that it lift all sanctions on Iran without there being any change to the 2015 nuclear deal. In an interview with a leading Iranian newspaper, published on February 6, Zarif insisted that the Americans must do this "within two weeks" of his interview. It's easy to see why Zarif might have assumed this would be possible. Biden has repeatedly mentioned his intention to return to that deal, and has appointed the pro-Iranian anti-Israel Robert Malley to be the Special Envoy on Iran. Zarif may think such a threat – "lift all sanctions by February 21 or else" Iran's "stance will harden" – would work on the Biden Administration. But it is certain to have the opposite effect: neither Biden, nor

Secretary Blinken, would want to be seen as succumbing to such blatant threats, and Zarif has badly miscalculated. A report on his demand, made in an interview with the Hamshahri newspaper, is here: "Iran FM tells Biden to rejoin nuclear deal within 2 weeks, before stance hardens," [*Jihad Watch*](#),