Nuclear Experts: “Impossible” for Iran to Hide Violations within 24 Days

The nuclear agreement reached between world powers and Iran stipulates that Iran must grant International Atomic Energy Agency inspectors access to any requested locations within a maximum of 24 days. While critics of the deal claim that this provides Iran with enough time to remove evidence of violations, the experts disagree:

- Jon Wolfsthal, Director for Arms Control and Nonproliferation at the National Security Council:
  
  “Are we worried Iran is going to build an underground enrichment or reprocessing facility? If they are, they can’t get rid of it in 24 days,’ he said, describing uranium as a ‘pesky element’ with a half-life of about 4 billion years. ‘That doesn’t easily go away.'”

- Gary Samore, Executive Director for Research at Harvard’s Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs:

  “[This] could be enough time for Iran to conceal some recent nuclear activities if it wanted to... But it wouldn't be enough time to hide evidence of the uranium enrichment facilities Iran would need to create the fissile material required for a bomb.”

- James Acton, Co-Director of the Nuclear Policy Program and Senior Associate at Carnegie Endowment:

  "It's impossible to sanitize a nuclear facility [in 24 days]... indeed it may be impossible to sanitize it at all. And if inspectors got there after 24 days, there would unquestionably still be evidence of detectable nuclear material.”

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