

# Iran nuclear standoff hits critical phase

The International Atomic Energy Agency – the UN's nuclear watchdog – must decide whether to refer Iran to the Security Council over concerns that Tehran might be seeking nuclear weapons. Iran says its uranium enrichment programme is for peaceful purposes

**1 Jan 30:** The five permanent **Security Council** members plus Germany – the **5+1 Group** – ask **IAEA's Board of Governors** to submit report on Iran's nuclear activities to Security Council

**Iran's President Ahmadinejad** (left) warns that **UN referral could provoke Tehran into full-scale uranium enrichment**

**2 Feb 2-3:** Emergency sessions of IAEA's 35-nation board of governors. Board votes on **5+1 Group's** draft resolution to haul Iran before Security Council

*Resolution calls on Iran to suspend all nuclear fuel work and to cooperate fully with IAEA probe. Call for punitive measures removed at Russia's request*

**3 Week of Feb 6:** IAEA to pass final resolution to head of Security Council – U.S. Ambassador **John Bolton** (above right) – will circulate it within 15-nation council



**4 Window of opportunity:** Council has one month for behind-the-scenes consultations

**5 Feb 16:** Iranian officials due in Moscow for talks on proposal to enrich uranium for Iran's nuclear programme on Russian soil



*Offer – backed by U.S. and EU – is intended to make it more difficult for Tehran to develop nuclear weapons*

**6 Early March:** IAEA head **Mohamed ElBaradei** (top right) to submit report on status of watchdog's probe into Iran's nuclear programme

**7 March 6:** IAEA board meets to review probe into crisis

**8 Mid March:** Security Council to convene to discuss whether to hold a formal meeting which could recommend punitive sanctions

