

# Two-week deadline in Iran confrontation

The United States and Europe want the UN Security Council to give Iran a two-week deadline to halt suspect nuclear work or face possible sanctions. Iran has warned the U.S. that it could inflict “harm and pain” to match whatever punishment the Security Council decides to inflict



## IRAN

**Cut oil exports:** OPEC's second biggest oil producing nation could squeeze oil markets by reducing exports. **Europe, China and India** would feel cuts immediately

▶ ***Such a move would hurt Iran's economy as much as it would damage the United States***

**Cause turmoil in the Middle East:**

▶ **Lebanon:** Iran has heavy influence with militant group **Hezbollah**

▶ **Palestine:** Ties with Islamic militant group **Hamas** and **Islamic Jihad**

▶ **Iraq:** Believed to have sway over powerful Shi'a groups and has sent elements of its **Revolutionary Guard**

## UNITED STATES

**Military action:** Threat of invasion remains a powerful tool

**Airstrikes:** Could target Iran's nuclear infrastructure. Operation would have to take out multiple sites, some hidden underground

▶ ***Even a limited strike would be highly unpopular with U.S. allies***

**Sanctions:** Push for economic and political sanctions through UN Security Council. A travel ban or asset freeze against top officials could severely isolate Tehran's regime

▶ ***Sanctions are difficult to enforce. Russia and China – Security Council members with veto power – oppose such moves***