



Department of the Treasury Financial Crimes Enforcement Network

Advisory

FIN-2008-A002

Issued: March 20, 2008

Subject: Guidance to Financial Institutions on the Continuing Money Laundering Threat Involving Illicit Iranian Activity

The Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) is issuing this advisory to supplement information previously provided¹ on serious deficiencies present in the anti-money laundering systems of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) stated in October 2007 that Iran's lack of a comprehensive anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) regime represents a significant vulnerability in the international financial system. In response to the FATF statement, Iran passed its first AML law in February 2008. The FATF, however, reiterated its concern about continuing deficiencies in Iran's AML/CFT system in a statement on February 28, 2008. Further, on March 3, 2008, the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 1803 (UNSCR 1803), calling on all states to exercise vigilance over activities of financial institutions in their territories with all banks domiciled in Iran and their branches and subsidiaries abroad. The FATF statement, combined with the UN's specific call for vigilance, illustrates the increasing risk to the international financial system posed by the Iranian financial sector, including the Central Bank of Iran.

Iran's AML/CFT deficiencies are exacerbated by the Government of Iran's continued attempts to conduct prohibited proliferation related activity and terrorist financing. Through state-owned banks, the Government of Iran disguises its involvement in proliferation and terrorism activities through an array of deceptive practices specifically designed to evade detection. The Central Bank of Iran and Iranian commercial banks have requested that their names be removed from global transactions in order to make it more difficult for intermediary financial institutions to determine the true parties in the transaction. They have also continued to provide financial services to Iranian entities designated by the UN Security Council in its Resolutions 1737 and 1747 as entities involved in nuclear proliferation activities. The U.S. Department of the Treasury is particularly concerned that the Central Bank of Iran may be facilitating transactions for sanctioned Iranian banks.

UNSCR 1803 calls on member states to exercise vigilance over the activities of financial institutions in their territories with all banks domiciled in Iran, and their branches and subsidiaries abroad. While Bank Mellî and Bank Saderat were specifically noted, the United States urges all financial institutions to take into account the risk arising from the deficiencies in Iran's AML/CFT regime, as well as all applicable U.S. and international sanctions programs, with regard to any possible transactions with the following Iranian institutions:

¹ See "Guidance to Financial Institutions on the Increasing Money Laundering Threat Involving Illicit Iranian Activity," FIN-2007-A001, October 16, 2007.

[This list has been updated as of June 22, 2010. Please see FIN-2010-A008 at (http://www.fincen.gov/statutes_regs/guidance/html/fin-2010-a008.html)]

NAME	LOCATION
AGRICULTURAL BANK (a.k.a. BANK KESHAVARZI)	Tehran, Iran
AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE BANK OF IRAN (a.k.a. BANK TAAVON KESHAVARZI IRAN)	Tehran, Iran
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BANK OF IRAN (a.k.a. BANK JOSIAIYI KESHAHVARZI)	Tehran, Iran
ARIAN BANK (a.k.a. ARYAN BANK)	Kabul, Afghanistan
BANCO INTERNACIONAL DE DESARROLLO SA	Caracas, Venezuela
BANK KARGOSHAEE	Tehran, Iran
BANK MASKAN (a.k.a. HOUSING BANK (of Iran))	Tehran, Iran
BANK MELLAT	Tehran, Iran
BANK MELLAT	Seoul, South Korea
BANK MELLAT	Ankara, Istanbul, Izmir, Turkey
BANK MELLI IRAN	Tehran, Iran
BANK MELLI IRAN	Paris, France
BANK MELLI IRAN	Hamburg, Germany
BANK MELLI IRAN	Central, Hong Kong
BANK MELLI IRAN	Baghdad, Iraq
BANK MELLI IRAN	Muscat, Oman
BANK MELLI IRAN	Al Ain, Deira, Dubai City, Fujairah, Ras al-Khaimah, and Sharjah, United Arab Emirates
BANK MELLI IRAN ZAO	Moscow, Russia
BANK OF INDUSTRY AND MINE (of Iran) (a.k.a. BANK SANAD VA MADAN)	Tehran, Iran
BANK REFAH (f.k.a. WORKERS WELFARE BANK, f.k.a. BANK REFAH KARGARAN)	Tehran, Iran
BANK SADERAT IRAN	Tehran, Iran
BANK SADERAT	Paris, France
BANK SADERAT	Frankfurt, Hamburg, Germany
BANK SADERAT	Athens, Greece
BANK SADERAT	Baalbak, Beirut, Saida, Lebanon
BANK SADERAT	Muscat, Oman
BANK SADERAT	Doha, Qatar
BANK SADERAT	Ashgabat, Turkmenistan
BANK SADERAT	Abu Dhabi, Ajman, Al Ain, Dubai City, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates

Financial institutions also are reminded of the existing U.S. sanctions that are administered by the Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) with respect to Iran and the Government of Iran, including but not limited to Iranian Government-owned banks, as well as other sanctions imposed on Iranian entities that have been linked to terrorist activity and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Information about these sanctions is available on OFAC's website at <http://www.treasury.gov/offices/enforcement/ofac/>.