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China rejects US demand to join 'toughest ever' Iran sanctions

Beijing has called for diplomacy after Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent urged countries to join Washington's economic campaign against Tehran

Published 21 Aug, 2026 09:39

China has refused to join a US plan to *"squash"* Iran's economy, rejecting Washington's push to be part of the *"toughest sanctions in history"* against the Islamic Republic.

On Thursday, US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent called on American allies and other countries to choose sides and stop doing business with Iran, as Washington prepares what he touted as *"the greatest coordinated economic isolation in the history of the world."*



FILE PHOTO: an aerial view of crude oil storage tanks at a port terminal in Qingdao, China. © Getty Images

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In an interview with CNBC, Bessent described the plan, expected to be unveiled on Monday, as *“a one-two punch”* combining a naval blockade with *“the toughest sanctions in history.”* He claimed it would *“squash”* the Iranian economy and *“collapse this regime.”*

Beijing, however, has rejected Washington’s call.

“Regarding the Iran issue, sanctions and pressure do not help resolve the problem,” Reuters quoted a spokesperson for the Chinese Embassy in Washington as saying. *“China calls on the relevant parties to take responsible actions and resolve the issue through political and diplomatic means.”*

Bessent’s remarks followed US President Donald Trump’s announcement on Wednesday of what he called an *“economic D-Day”* against Tehran, threatening *“tremendous Economic Consequences”* against countries providing Iran with *“any type of lifeline.”*

China has also rejected that threat. In response to a question by Bloomberg on Thursday, Foreign Ministry spokesman Lin Jian said *“sanctions and pressure tactics are not the solution”* and called for a *“political and diplomatic approach.”*

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has also dismissed the threat.

“Doubling down on failed policies will only bring further defeat,” Araghchi wrote on X on Thursday. *“US economic terrorism threatens global economy and sovereignty worldwide.”*

China is the biggest buyer of Iranian oil, having purchased more than 80% of the country’s shipped crude in 2025, according to Kpler data cited by Reuters.

Bessent argued that Beijing has a strong interest in cooperating with US sanctions because of its reliance on energy supplies passing through the Strait of Hormuz, claiming China gets *“50% [of their] energy from inside the Gulf.”*

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China's energy supplies, however, are considerably more diversified. According to AFP, China imported 36% of its crude from Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Kuwait, Qatar, and Iraq in 2025, while also buying large quantities from producers outside the Gulf, notably Russia.

Around 30% of China's LNG imports came through Hormuz in 2025, but Beijing also sources LNG elsewhere and receives substantial pipeline gas from Russia and Central Asia.

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Ray 8/21/2026 at 12:24 PM

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Why would the world want to side with the losing American side???? Iran has proven that Western sanctions have made it stronger and more resilient.

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syed 8/21/2026 at 12:23 PM

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What it ultimately evil is that the jews have so much controle over the Nappy wearing Orange buffoon thatAmerica is willing to destroy their own interest for these evil jew snakes, America has completely compromised its Dollar and an 80 year old dominance over middle east oil.....it seems they will get their entire country ruined with nukes just follow the jew orders. There is something strange at play here....its not just Geopolitics.....Any thoughts?

[Reply](#)



Jam Jor 8/21/2026 at 11:59 AM

-3

I'm waiting for Israel to Nuke Iran, Russia or Iran to Nuke Israel, the US follows up with nuke on Eastern Iran Airport and Southeast Iran Truck routes. China nukes USS George Washington Aircraft Carrier.
Followed by North Korea launching nukes on US targets in Washington state, California and Colorado

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Khikus Filthius 8/21/2026 at 12:05 PM ↗

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I'm just waiting for the great city of Revelation ch18 (NYC) to be nuked along with its infestation of Jews and eradicated from the planet. Oh happy days!!!

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syed 8/21/2026 at 12:16 PM ↕

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Why go through so much trouble.....Just one 50 kilo-tonne nuke for Tel-Aviv, and maybe One 25 Kilo-tonne backup just to make sure every last evil jew is vaporised.....The rest will sort out itself

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F 8/21/2026 at 11:50 AM

7

USA, The World's Bully, really needs bringing down.

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James Richardson 8/21/2026 at 12:15 PM ↕

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Not the USA but the parasites that have infected Washington. Congress has a 12% approval rating and it has been this way for years. Elections do nothing because the parasites control who gets on the ballot.

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Hill Lancer 8/21/2026 at 12:15 PM

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Oh Zump, baby, you're no longer sexy. Now we have China's yuan for trade settlement & reserve. We don't need your dollar the terrorist currency, baby.

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William Gravely 8/21/2026 at 12:14 PM

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WORST PRESIDENT EVER!!

Trump is Israel's puppet and needs to be eliminated. Cooler heads should prevail. Mass murder means mass torture in hell for those who would harm the innocents with further violence. Make good choices people!

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David Rowe 8/21/2026 at 12:08 PM

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