



SANCTIONS & SECURITY

RESEARCH PROJECT

The [Sanctions and Security Research Project](#) is designed as a research collaboration between the [Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies](#) of the University of Notre Dame's [Keough School of Global Affairs](#) and the [Fourth Freedom Forum](#) of Goshen, Indiana. For more than two decades, the Project has blended the Forum's focus on economic means of peacebuilding and the control of weapons of mass destruction through law, with the Kroc Institute's emphasis on peaceful settlement of disputes through international norms and institutions.

Sanctions, Incentives, and Humanitarian Crises

Since the end of the Cold War, multilateral and unilateral sanctions have become an essential instrument of global and national foreign policy. They are imposed to address international challenges to peace and security, including ending civilian wars and territorial aggression, and thwarting nuclear proliferation, mass atrocities, and terrorism.

Yet, over the past decade sanctions have become deeply entangled in major humanitarian disasters. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, Syria, and Yemen, sanctions have failed to stifle massive violence, and conversely, ample evidence points to socioeconomic deterioration. Unilateral sanctions imposed by powerful states have contributed to significant, negative socioeconomic impacts on innocent civilians, which became more pronounced during the global COVID-19 pandemic.

To fully scrutinize the humanitarian impact of sanctions, the Sanctions and Security Research Project commissioned case studies on Iran and Venezuela, and collaborated with the Carter Center's project on Syria. The attached executive summaries are condensed findings from the full case studies, which recommend stronger safeguards to prevent negative humanitarian impacts and offer ways of improving the effectiveness of sanctions and strengthening of incentives. These three studies are designed for use with various audiences concerned with these trends.

Case Study Authors

Iran study: Esfandiyar Batmanghelidj, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Bourse & Bazaar Foundation, London, UK

Venezuela study: Francisco Rodríguez, International Affairs Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations and Director, Oil for Venezuela

Syria study: The Carter Center, including Stacia George, Director, Conflict Resolution Program; Hrair Balian, Senior Advisor; Nancy Azar, Senior Program Associate; and Annie Charif, Program Associate

Summaries included in this packet were developed for Venezuela and Iran by George A. Lopez and Jirah Kaye Luison, and by the Carter Center authors for Syria.

Contact [Linda Gerber](#) for the full case studies and author information.