

**Mark D. Wallace** is an American businessman, former diplomat and lawyer who has served in a variety of government, political and private sector posts. He served in several positions during the administration of President George W. Bush, including as the United States Ambassador to the United Nations, Representative for UN Management and Reform.

Wallace is currently the CEO of United Against Nuclear Iran (UANI) and the Counter Extremism Project (CEP) and is widely considered an expert in economic and cyber warfare. He is a frequent media contributor and op-ed author and has been featured in news outlets around the world including *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *Financial Times*, *The Washington Post*, CNN, Fox News, *USA Today*, *TIME*, *The Huffington Post*, *New York Post*, CNBC, *Asharq Al-Awsat*, *Okaz*, *Le Parisien*, and *Die Welt*.

## Political career

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Wallace began his political career under Florida Governor Jeb Bush and was active in his election campaigns in 1994, 1998 and 2002. In 2000 Wallace played a key role working for then Governor George W. Bush's legal team in the decisive Florida recount in 2000 where he served as counsel to the campaign in Florida.

During President Bush's administration Wallace served in a variety of federal government general counsel positions. At the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), he oversaw and managed all aspects of the FEMA Office of General Counsel, and acted as counsel to the FEMA-led New York and World Trade Center recovery effort in the wake of the September 11 attacks.

In 2003, Wallace joined Bush's reelection campaign as the deputy campaign manager. Wallace led the campaign's debate team at each of the Presidential and Vice-Presidential debates.

## UN Ambassadorship

In 2005 President Bush nominated Wallace to serve in the United States Department of State, United States Mission to the United Nations as Ambassador, U.S. Representative for UN Management and Reform.

During his tenure as Ambassador to the United Nations, Wallace most notably sought to uncover corruption in UN programs. He exposed the "Cash for Kim" corruption scandal in North Korea, revealing, among other issues, that the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) had funneled millions of dollars in hard currency to North Korea which was diverted to illicit activities including the country's illegal nuclear program.

Upon his departure from the State Department, *The Wall Street Journal* compared Wallace to a list of "distinguished" Americans who tried to make the United Nations live up to its original ideals including Daniel Patrick Moynihan, Jeane Kirkpatrick and John Bolton.

## 2008 U.S. presidential campaign

During the 2008 presidential campaign Wallace was a senior advisor to Senator John McCain. In that role, he led the debate preparation team for Senator McCain's running mate, Alaska Governor Sarah Palin. After the debate, *The New York Times* commented that Governor Palin's debate performance against Democrat Joe Biden "exceeded expectations..."

## Current work

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### United Against Nuclear Iran

Wallace serves as Chief Executive Officer of United Against Nuclear Iran (UANI), a bipartisan non-profit dedicated to prevent Iran from producing nuclear weapons. Wallace founded UANI in 2008 alongside the late Richard Holbrooke and Dennis Ross. In August 2015, former Connecticut Senator Joe Lieberman became chairman of the group. Under Wallace, UANI and its Advisory Board has grown to include prominent former government officials and lawmakers including former U.S. Homeland Security Advisor Fran Townsend, former Mossad Chiefs Meir Dagan and Tamir Pardo, former head of the German Intelligence Service Dr. August Hanning, former head of the British MI6 Chief Sir Richard Dearlove, and former governors Jeb Bush and Bill Richardson, among others. In August 2013, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif described UANI as "the biggest active lobby against Iran." The following month, in his debut speech before the UN General Assembly, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani was further critical of UANI, labeling it "extremist," and proposed a new group called "World Against Violence and Extremism" – in reference to United Against Nuclear Iran.

Since its founding, Wallace has led UANI in launching campaigns warning more than 1,000 companies of their Iran business ties, resulting in dozens of multinational firms such as General Electric, Huntsman, Caterpillar, Ingersoll, Porsche, Hyundai, Fiat, Royal Dutch Shell, Terex and Siemens to end their business dealings in Iran. Wallace and UANI led the first successful campaign to convince a Chinese company to end its work in Iran. After various discussions between Wallace, UANI and Huawei, the company announced that it was scaling back its business in Iran. The decision by Huawei and the role of UANI was prominently featured in the news media including *The Wall Street Journal*, *Financial Times* and Reuters. In *The Wall Street Journal* piece, Wallace was quoted saying of the decision: "This is a significant milestone. For the first time a major Chinese business is pulling back from Iran in the face of mounting international scorn for Iran's brutal regime."

Wallace and UANI launched a campaign calling on SWIFT to terminate its relationships with Iran's banks and financial institutions, arguing that SWIFT was in violation of U.S. and EU sanctions by affording Iranian banks BICs and access to SWIFT and, therefore, access to the international financial system. Subsequently, SWIFT announced that it would comply with new EU sanctions and cease providing messaging services to sanction designated Iranian banks. "It's a good positive step forward and it will cause real difficulties for the regime," said Wallace. SWIFT's decision and UANI's campaign were extensively covered in media outlets around the world. UANI and Wallace

pursued a successful "Auto Campaign" that has focused on the lucrative Iranian automobile industry. UANI has called on international automobile manufacturers to leave Iran including, among others, Nissan, Fiat, Peugeot, GM and Hyundai.

Wallace and UANI have authored and/or supported a variety of federal and state legislative and regulatory initiatives designed to enhance Iran's economic isolation. Their model legislation has been incorporated into both federal bills and state bills, including the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (CISADA), the Iran Transparency and Accountability Act (ITAA), the Iran Financial Sanctions Improvement Act of 2012 (H.R. 4179 as introduced by Chairwoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and Congressman Brad Sherman), California's Iran Contracting Act of 2010 (AB1650) and New York's Iran Divestment Act of 2011 (A08668) among others. In May 2012, Wallace along with Meir Dagan, August Hanning, R. James Woolsey, Lord Charles Guthrie and Kristen Silverberg co-authored an op-ed in *The Wall Street Journal* calling for "the most robust sanctions against Iran in history" as a means "for the international community to truly isolate the regime." Wallace described a proposed strategy to implement such sanctions during testimony before the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs on May 17, 2012 by proposing legislation focused on four areas, namely Banking, Insurance and Reinsurance, Disclosure and Debarment and Shipping (UANI BIDS) in order to achieve an "economic blockade" of Iran.

In an October 2012 profile on UANI in NBC News by chief foreign correspondent Richard Engel and Robert Windrem, Wallace stated, "Our message is clear: You have to choose between doing business with our checkbook or their checkbook—with the reality being we're the biggest checkbook in the world. Notwithstanding the purported demise of the United States, we're still the biggest checkbook in the world."

Wallace and UANI advocated against the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) nuclear agreement between the P5+1 and Iran. In the *New York Times*, Wallace said, "Americans have been presented with a false choice: diplomacy or war," in a cynical effort to frame opponents of the deal as warmongers.

Following the implementation of the JCPOA, UANI launched an educational and advocacy campaign calling on international companies to not do business in Iran. In the *Financial Times* Wallace said, "As they get on a plane to Tehran, companies need to have a hard look at the business risk... The risk profile has not fundamentally changed." In November 2015, UANI published an open letter in the *Financial Times* signed by dozens of prominent defense and foreign policy experts calling on the global business community to consider the substantial risks of business ties in Iran. By July 2016, *Politico* reported that within the past six months, UANI had sent more than 200 letters to companies exploring or engaged in business in Iran. Wallace commented, "We wanted to professionally and thoroughly spread the word ... of the enormous risk still associated with Iran."

In June 2016, UANI released an open letter signed by high-ranking former government officials and policy experts calling on the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) to keep Iran on its blacklist and "maintain and strengthen counter-measures against Iran" as a threat to the integrity of the international financial system for its rampant money laundering and terrorism financing activities. On September 19, 2016, UANI hosted an "Iran Risk Summit," examining the political and economic environment since the signing of the JCPOA. The event featured prominent Middle Eastern officials including UAE Ambassador to the U.S. Yousef Al Otaiba, Israeli lawmaker and former Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, and Bahraini diplomat and former President of the United Nations General Assembly Haya Rashed Al-Khalifa.

## **Counter Extremism Project**

Wallace is the Chief Executive Officer of the Counter Extremism Project (CEP), launched in September 2014. CEP is a not-for-profit, non-partisan, international policy organization formed to combat the growing threat from extremist ideology. The organization is led by Wallace and a team of former world leaders and former diplomats, including Frances Townsend and Senator Joseph Lieberman. CEP aims to combat extremism by pressuring financial support networks, countering the narrative of extremists and their online recruitment, and advocating for strong laws, policies and regulation. The group produces research, having conducted a comprehensive survey on the public's attitudes and knowledge of extremism in order to ensure measurable results of its projects and campaigns. CEP also is building a clearinghouse and database of extremists groups and their supporters, mapping the social and financial networks, tools and methodologies.

Wallace, Townsend and the group have engaged in a "Digital Disruption" campaign. In an attempt to curb extremist online-activity, ranging from incitement of violence to recruitment of youth, the group has petitioned Twitter to take down jihadist accounts.

In June 2016, CEP unveiled its "eGlyph" software tool for use by Internet and social media companies to "quickly find and eliminate extremist content used to spread and incite violence and attacks." CEP Senior Advisor Hany Farid, a Dartmouth college computer scientist, developed the software. eGLYPH functions similarly to PhotoDNA, a system that uses robust hashing technology Farid worked on developing with Microsoft, which is "now widely used by Internet companies to stop the spread of content showing sexual exploitation or pornography involving children." This development was covered widely in the international press, including by *The Washington Post*, *The Atlantic*, *Foreign Policy*, Bloomberg, Reuters, and AFP.

To operationalize this new technology to combat extremism, CEP proposed the creation of a National Office for Reporting Extremism (NORex), which would house a comprehensive database of extremist content and function similar to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC). The White House has signaled its support for this initiative. Lisa Monaco, President Obama's top counterterrorism adviser, said, "We welcome the launch of initiatives such as the Counter Extremism Project's National Office for Reporting Extremism (NORex) that enables companies to address terrorist activity on their platforms and better respond to the threat posed by terrorists' activities online." Wallace stated that if this system were to be adopted by social media companies and the private sector, it "would go a long way to making sure that online extremism is no longer pervasive."

## Private sector work

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Wallace serves as the CEO of Tigris Financial Group, a New York-based investment, advisory and asset management firm that focuses on natural resources and the natural resources sector. He also served as COO of an affiliate of the Tigris Group Inc., The Electrum Group, LLC, a private investment firm founded in 2012, where he is now a Senior Advisor.

## Personal

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Wallace is married to Nicolle Wallace, a *New York Times* best-selling novelist and political commentator who is the anchor of *Deadline: White House* and chief political analyst for MSNBC and NBC News.