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Today

Iran accuses US, Israel in nuclear scientist murder -Updated

By: Aljazeera + Press TV on: 12.01.2010 [08:15] (773 reads)

Article image

Allegations fly over Iranian scientist's assassination

(8811 bytes) [nc]

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Bomb blast kills Iranian professor

A bomb blast has killed a university professor in the Iranian capital, Tehran, state media has reported.

Massoud Mohammadi, a lecturer at Tehran University, was killed on Tuesday in the north of the capital when a remote-controlled bomb attached to a motorcycle went off, media reports said.

"The explosion took place near the professor's home in Qeytariyeh neighbourhood, in northern Tehran," the state-run Press TV said without giving further details.

It described Mohammadi as a "staunch supporter" of Iran's 1979 revolution and said he was "assassinated in a terrorist act by counter-revolutionary elements".

The broadcaster said police and security officials have launched an investigation.

Al Jazeera's Alireza Ronaghi, reporting from Tehran, said Mohammadi was a physics professor who might have had links to Iran's disputed nuclear programme.

"Authorities who decided to remain unnamed tell me that Mohammadi had some connections with Iran's nuclear programme and this could be related," he said.

He said it was unclear who might have been behind the bombing.

"Anyone who is connected to Iran's nuclear programme could be an easy target for foreign intelligence services.

"Iran tries to protect its nuclear scientists very well but sometimes things get out of hand, and incidents like this happen."

<http://english.aljazeera.net/news/middleeast/2010/01/201011273050938177.html>

Iran accuses US, Israel in nuclear scientist murder

Tue, 12 Jan 2010 12:26:07 GMT

Ramin Mehman-Parast, the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday that it has found traces of US and Israel's involvement in the assassination of an Iranian nuclear physics scientist.

"Primary investigations into the assassination revealed signs of the involvement of the Zionist regime Israel, the US and their allies in Iran," spokesman Ramin Mehman-Parast said.

Professor Massoud Ali-Mohammadi, a lecturer at Tehran University, was killed by a booby-trapped motorbike blast in the Iranian capital earlier in the day.

The explosion took place near the professor's home in the Qeytariyeh neighborhood of northern Tehran.

Mehman-Parast strongly condemned the assassination, saying the participation of Israeli and American agents "runs counter to international regulations."

He, however, said such moves would not affect Iran's pursuit of civilian nuclear technology.

"Such terrorist moves and apparent omission of Iranian nuclear scientists will definitely cause no obstacle in the way of the country's scientific and technological development. Rather they will speed up it."

<http://www.presstv.ir/detail.aspx?id=115963§ionid=351020101>

Allegations fly over Iranian scientist's assassination

Tehran claims west was behind killing of nuclear physicist who was a supporter of Iranian opposition

Julian Borger and Saeed Kamali Dehghan guardian.co.uk, Tuesday 12 January 2010 22.37 GMT
Article history

Even for a country deep in political turmoil, the killing of Massoud Ali Mohammadi in Tehran today came as a shock. There have been arrests, disappearances and occasional shootings, but the manner of his death was as meticulous as it was disturbing.

Mohammadi was blown up outside his home in an smart northern suburb of Tehran by a remote-control bomb that had been attached to a motorcycle parked on the street. As his stunned neighbours cleared up the rubble they struggled to understand why a little-known - academic would have fallen victim to such a highly professional assassination.

The answer may lie in Mohammadi's profession and political inclinations. He was a particle physicist and a supporter of the Iranian opposition movement, raising the possibility he had become the latest victim in a covert war over Iran's nuclear aspirations. It is a war in which scientists find themselves potential soft targets.

Over the past three years, another nuclear scientist has died in mysterious circumstances, and a third vanished without trace while visiting Saudi Arabia last June. In the same period, a former deputy defence minister and general in Iran's Revolutionary Guards also disappeared while on a visit to Istanbul.

The regime in Tehran has alleged the west is behind the disappearances, and was quick to blame the US and Israel for Mohammadi's death. "Given the fact that Massoud Ali Mohammadi was a nuclear scientist, the CIA and Mossad services and agents most likely have had a hand in it," Abbas Jafari Dolatabadi, Tehran's chief prosecutor, told a state news agency.

The state department in Washington dismissed the accusation. Its spokesman, Mark Toner, told journalists: "Charges of US involvement are absurd."

In online comments, Mohammadi's former students at the University of Tehran pointed to his role as a campus organiser of opposition protests against the disputed re-election of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad last summer, and questioned what role he might have had in the nuclear programme as he was an expert on theoretical quantum physics rather than on nuclear fission.

Rahesabz, an online news service close to the leadership of the opposition "green movement", hinted at government involvement in the killing.

"Reliable sources say Dr Mohammadi was involved in Iranian defence programmes, including nuclear facility programmes and was in possession of classified information," the website reported. Meir Javedanfar, an Iranian-Israeli analyst and co-author of *The Nuclear Sphinx of Tehran: Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and the State of Iran* said it was "very, very unlikely" the regime killed Mohammadi. "It is the least likely option. It scares others from joining the nuclear programme," Javedanfar said. "If they wanted rid of him, they could have lifted him off the street, and the rest would have been history."

The killing comes at a critical time in long-running but largely unseen struggle between the west and Iran over the Islamic Republic's nuclear programme.

Diplomacy appears to be at a dead-end after Tehran refused to heed security council demands to suspend the enrichment of uranium, which Iran insists is for peaceful purposes but the west alleges is ultimately intended for nuclear weapons.

The US, Britain and France are canvassing support for further sanctions but meeting determined resistance led by China. Israeli officials have threatened to take pre-emptive military action, but privately acknowledge that attacks against deeply buried and highly secret

targets would have no guarantee of success.

Against that background, a parallel, secret effort to disrupt Iran's nuclear progress looks increasingly like the only battle the west is winning. Amid anger and disillusion over last year's election, Iran's counter-intelligence department dedicated to defending the country's nuclear secrets, Oghab 2, is having increasing problems assuring the loyalty of scientists and officials. In February 2007, Ali Reza Asgari – a former Revolutionary Guard general who had risen to cabinet rank – checked into a hotel in Istanbul and promptly vanished. According to various accounts, he was either abducted or he defected, but there is general consensus he is now in the west providing a rich stream of intelligence.

A month earlier, a nuclear scientist named Ardeshir Hassanpour, 44, died in what was officially described as a gas poisoning incident but was widely reported as an assassination, possibly by Mossad.

Last June, Shahram Amiri, a nuclear physicist at Malek Ashtar University in Tehran went on a pilgrimage to Mecca and never returned. Iran said he was seized, but according to many reports, he defected.

Vincent Cannistraro, former head of operations at the CIA's counter-terrorism centre, said: "It is clear one of them, likely Amiri, is under a different identity living in the US and has been a major source of information. So it's possible the guy just assassinated in Tehran was killed by the Iranians fearing he was one source on the programme revealed by the defector."

The west's biggest intelligence coup to date was the discovery of a secret uranium enrichment plant near Qom. The discovery announced in September – largely due to information from defectors and informants in Iran – set back Iran's hopes of building a parallel nuclear fuel cycle.

Iran's leadership, temporarily unsettled by Qom's discovery, has recovered its resolve. In November Ahmadinejad vowed to build 10 enrichment programmes. The march of the programme continues alongside the campaign to stop it. Mohammadi is unlikely to be its last victim.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/jan/12/iran-scientist-assassination-allegation-west>

18 comments

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The news title should read

by albash on 12.01.2010 [09:24]

Bomb blast kills Iranian nuclear physics professor so that people can see how desparate the GREAT SATAN USA is. However after several assasinations taking place in iran i think its high time for Iran to device a strategy in protecting the people working in sensitive positions. I believe the trend of these assassinations are tip off from the insiders- the enemies within

Wrote here earlier how the 'demonstrations' are a

by Deathtodubya on 12.01.2010 [09:57]

perfect cover for Mossad and CIA to infiltrate agents to kidnap and murder and bomb.

Sadly, I was correct. Enough is enough. Iran should now kill them all if they dare show their bloated privileged faces in the streets!

One cannot repeat it nough Iran has to

by cosmo on 12.01.2010 [12:17]

make a choice either let the ziowest kill it bit by bit or take an outright confrontation at its own terms and timing starting with the zioentity.

However, an immediate process can be started where Iran starts supporting all resistance in Iraq, Afghanistan, Yemen, Palestine etc. by supplying the stratefgic weapons whereby the ziowest is crippled is one way to begit.

Cleansing the area surrrounding Iran, like all the spy centres and military bases in UAE, Qatar Bahrain, Saudi etc should be worked on covertly and effectively, support popular resistance in all these countries,

there is enough opposition that can be used to derail these regimes.

Iran must become Proactive otherwise its a sitting DUCK.

Nothing helps Iran by giving in to the ziwest in any way, they are after the regime change and destruction of the country, in that case let the whole middle east break down is a better strategy than dying slowly and piece meal.

@cosmo

by Zoraida on 12.01.2010 [14:05]

Is it false?

Google translation from Repubblica

ht tp://www.repubblica.it/esteri/2010/01/12/news/scenziato_iran-1913562/

TEHRAN - Massoud Mohammadi, university professor of nuclear physics at the University of Tehran, was killed in an attack with a bomb in front of his house Gheytaieh district in northern Tehran. Currently there is confusion about the political views of Mohammad. While the sources of information close to the government portray him as a supporter of the regime, some sites reformists argue that Mohammadi had given public support for the opposition leader, Mir Hossein Moussavi, a candidate for president in June and defeated dall'ultraconservatore Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. According to these sources, the victim's name was included in the list of 240 university professors who argued Moussavi. Not to mention, then, that the man worked at the University of Tehran, one of the centers from which matches student protests reformists.

Why the imperialists get away with murder

by Iranian-Shi'ite on 12.01.2010 [14:11]

Because no one returns the favor.

Zoraida

by cosmo on 12.01.2010 [16:00]

Could be false. He could have supported the opposition but its the same killers who would have done it in that case to discredit the regime . Either way its the ziwest or their proxies who are the perpetratos.

We saw what happened in Iraq where most of capable scientists were eliminated.
However, I think Iran has learnt the lesson from Iraq and do protect their assets.

Still what I wrote in my comment is the reality of the matter, I do appreciate that Iran needs more time and hope to avoide a confrontation by stretching things out in time which is one wise way but a criminal bully like the ziwest cannot be trusted for a second.

Plans must exist for all scenarios.

A group has claimed responsibility.

by Iranian-Shi'ite on 13.01.2010 [04:00]

An Iranian group based in the USA called the "Iran Royal Association" has claimed responsibility.

They support the old x-shah's family.

Nobody knows if their claim is true, or who helped them if their claim is correct.

It was not a secret facility

by Iranian-Shi'ite on 13.01.2010 [05:19]

Understand this.

The Zionist West's media propaganda is claiming that the Qom facility was secret.

That is a huge, massive deception.

The plant was not secret at all.

Iran notified the IAEA of the plant on Sept 21, 2009.

The USA announced it's "discovery" of the plant on Sept 25.

Iran had notified the IAEA a full four days before the USA "revealed" the existence of the plant.

Furthermore, by the rules of the NPT, Iran is not required to announce the existence of any plant until 6 months before it begins operation.
However, Iran had notified the IAEA 18 months before operation.

A newer version of the NPT treaty that altered code 3.1 stated that a plant must be declared when intention of construction exists.

Iran had initially agreed to the new version of the 3.1 code, but after the USA pushed Iran's dossier to the Security Council, Iran withdrew from the new version of code 3.1.

The IAEA argued that it had not agreed to reverting back to the original version of code 3.1, however, there is nothing in the NPT treaty itself which forbids a signatory from returning to an original version under mitigating circumstances such as those that the USA had created.

So again, understand this.

Iran notified the IAEA on Sept 21.
The USA "revealed" the plant's existence on Sept 25.

It was not a secret plant, the USA exposed nothing but its own stupidity, and the Western media is false when it claims that the Qom plant was clandestine.

Again, remember;
Sept 21 - Iran
Sept 25 - USA

USA-UK-Israeli State Terrorism

by BlackPanther on 13.01.2010 [05:54]

The murder of this scientist is USA-UK-Israeli state terrorism. It cannot be denied.

And this Guardian article is peddling more disinformation that it did about "Iraqi WMDs."

The same nations that lied about Iraqi WMDs are now brazenly trying to push exactly the same type of lies "Iranian WMDs."

Goebbels would be proud.

Iran is showing demonstrable and admirable patience

by pilot-x on 13.01.2010 [08:05]

with these young upstart twit-filled countries.

If there ever was a case for 'pre-emptive' strikes it is onside of the Iranians whacking the vulgar barking zio-hounds.

What is most unbelievable is:

by ILYANA_ROZUMOVA on 13.01.2010 [13:42]

That 99% of US citizens believe that their government is righteous without blemish knight in shining armor who represent the ultimate goodness and the rest of the world are only savages and terrorists.
(Seriously: this is not a joke this is reality. as a result of brainwashing and Zionist propaganda.)

Iranian-Shi'ite

by Syrian on 13.01.2010 [15:30]

Don't try to use logic to convince them.

The only thing they understand are light arms fire.

To show US hypocrisy

by Q' on 13.01.2010 [19:27]

US has an obligation to assist Iran on nuclear development under NPT treaty. It is the US that is breaking that treaty as they have done for century with other countries. What else for a country known to use nuclear bomb against civilians?