

Editor's Note

The Solution to Tehran's Nuclear Threat

Last week, Rafael Grossi, the chief of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), expressed dissatisfaction with Tehran's cooperation during his recent visit to Iran, stating, "We are almost at an impasse, and this needs to be changed."

This sentiment should not surprise observers, as the Iranian Resistance has long cautioned against expecting meaningful cooperation from the clerical regime. The failure to address this issue effectively has contributed to a deepening nuclear crisis in the region.

It is evident that obtaining nuclear capabilities is a strategic imperative for Tehran, integral to its survival and aggressive agenda. The potential ramifications of a nuclear-armed Iran for regional stability are profound.

A definitive resolution to this threat hinges on the removal of the ruling theocracy and the establishment of a democratic, non-nuclear republic by the Iranian people.

As Iranians strive for freedom, the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI) champions a steadfast commitment to global peace and regional stability.

The NCRI's pivotal role in exposing Iran's covert nuclear activities, leading to international scrutiny and sanctions, underscores its dedication to preventing the regime from acquiring nuclear weapons.

It is imperative for the international community to elevate the regime's nuclear dossier to the UN Security Council and reinstate and enforce all relevant resolutions to address this pressing issue effectively.

This week's featured article by Fox News says: "The People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (MEK), an exiled Iranian resistance group, provided a report to Fox News Digital presenting evidence of a top-secret unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) site in the Islamic Republic of Iran, north of Qom City in the Ganjine region."

Human Rights

Execution of 40 prisoners in Iran in ten days May 1-10, 2024

Iran HRM (May 10) - During the first ten days of May 2024, the Iranian judiciary has carried out the execution sentences of 40 prisoners in Iranian prisons. On average, four prisoners are executed daily in Iran, which means that every six hours, one prisoner is executed in Iran. This comes at a time when compared to the ten days of April, the number of executions has grown close to 160 percent. The increase in the number of executions in Iran is highly concerning. Among the executed individuals, there is also a

political prisoner and a female prisoner. Over 90 percent of the executions during the first ten days of May have not been reported by any state media or institutions affiliated with the Iranian judiciary, and they have been carried out in silence. These executions have taken place in the prisons of Urmia, Semnan, Kerman, Isfahan, Qom, Kermanshah, Zanjan, Tabriz, Qazvin, Shiraz, and Ardabil. More than 60 percent of the executed individuals during the first ten days of May had previously been sentenced to death on charges related to drug offenses. It is notable that the prisoners involved in drug crimes are often from marginalized areas and considered as impoverished members of society who are disproportionately sentenced to execution through unfair judicial processes. According to international laws, individuals convicted of drug-related offenses should never be subject to the death penalty. [Read more...](#)

The transfer of seven prisoners to solitary cells for the execution of their death sentences

Iran HRM (May 8) - On Tuesday, May 7, 2024, seven prisoners in Urmia, Qazvin, and Kerman prisons were transferred to individual cells in preparation for the execution of their death sentences, all in a single day. Among these prisoners, a female inmate has also been observed. On Tuesday, May 7, 2024, four prisoners in Urmia prison were transferred to individual cells for the execution of their death sentences. These four prisoners had previously been sentenced to death for drug-related charges. The Iran Human Rights Monitor (Iran HRM) is striving to gather more information regarding these prisoners and their identities. The transfer of these prisoners to individual cells for the execution of their death sentences has taken place. On the same day, May 7, two prisoners in Karaj's Ghezel Hesar Prison were transferred to individual cells for the execution of their death sentences. One of these prisoners had previously been sentenced to death for drug-related charges, while the other prisoner had been condemned to death for murder. The identities of these two prisoners are currently being investigated by Iran HRM (Iran Human Rights Monitor). [Read more...](#)

Mother and daughter arrested for unknown reason

NCRI Women (May 13) - On Sunday, May 12, two members of the same family, Farangis Fat'hi and Akram Koukhian, were arrested by security forces at their home in Malekan County, northwestern Iran. An informed source close to the family reported that at 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 12, Farangis Fat'hi and her daughter, Akram Koukhian, were violently arrested by a large number of security agents in their home located in Valiasr township, Malekan County. The security agents broke the windows of their home during the search and seized personal belongings, including mobile phones, computer cases, and a family member's car. According to reports, five agents initially visited their home at 10 am. After Ms. Koukhian protested, they sprayed her and her mother with pepper spray. Later, they returned to the home, arrested them, and conducted another search. They were interrogated by agents of the Tabriz Intelligence Department at Malekan Detention Center. Mrs. Fat'hi was taken to the hospital due to her old age and lack of access to blood pressure medication. Mrs. Fat'hi and her daughter were released from the detention center of the State Security Force in Malekan on Monday, May 13, but their confiscated items have not been returned to them. [Read more...](#)

Two singers detained in Shiraz by security forces

HRANA (May 9) - On May 9, 2024, singers Vafa Ahmadpour, also known as Vafadar, and Danial Moghaddam were arrested by security forces in Shiraz and taken to an undisclosed location. The news of their arrest was announced via Ahmadpour's social media. The singers had recently released a music video titled "Amadeh Bash" (Be Ready!). The reasons for their arrests, their current whereabouts, and the specific charges against them have not been disclosed. Previously, on February 4, 2024, Ahmadpour was arrested at his home and detained for over 15 days before being released on bail from Evin Prison. He was later sentenced to one year for "spreading propaganda against the regime" by the Revolutionary Court. Moghaddam has also experienced previous arrests and legal challenges related to his protest songs. [Read more...](#)

Nationwide protests sweep Iran as retirees, workers, and business owners voice discontent

NCRI (May 13) - Today, Iran reverberated with the unified voices of discontent as protests erupted in various cities, encompassing a spectrum of grievances from pension rights to economic policies. Retirees from the telecommunications sector led demonstrations in Tabriz, Sanandaj, Ardebil, Rasht, Kermanshah, Arak, Marivan, Isfahan, and Ahvaz, demanding improved pensions and basic rights. These retirees, often facing financial strain in their twilight years, rallied under banners calling for dignified livelihoods and adherence to promised pension regulations. In parallel, gold merchants in Isfahan and Tabriz extended their strike, protesting new tax laws that threatened to burden them with heavier taxes on their assets and sales. The continuation of this strike underscores the resilience of the business community in the face of adverse economic policies. In Fasa, south Iran, nurses and assistant nurses staged a rally in front of the governorate building, decrying poor working conditions and demanding immediate governmental intervention to address their grievances. Their demonstration highlights the crucial role of healthcare workers and the urgent need for better support and working conditions amid challenging circumstances. [Read more...](#)

Western Policy, Nuclear Weapons

Biden's compromised Iran envoy deserves more Congressional investigation

National Review (May 13) – A long-overdue reckoning over the conduct of Rob Malley, President Biden's Iran envoy, might be on the way, however much the administration endeavors to bury the truth. The Washington Post reported last week that members of Congress believe that Malley emailed classified documents to a personal email address and downloaded them to his personal phone from there. Those lawmakers had done their own freelance investigative work to reach that conclusion because the State Department has been outrageously tight-lipped about the situation. After Malley failed to show up at a congressional briefing last April, officials told members of Congress that he was merely on leave rather than suspended pending the results of an investigation. Congress learned the truth through the press. The State Department appears not just to have failed to inform lawmakers about the situation but to have actively misled them. ... Malley is uncomfortably close to people implicated in an Iranian political-influence campaign. Bombshell reporting from last year revealed that some of his colleagues from his time at a foreign-policy think tank were part of a program run by an arm of the Iranian ministry of foreign affairs; its participants included European and American researchers of Iranian descent, some of whom showed undue deference to the Iranian regime. Malley reportedly tried to hire one of them, his protégé, for a role on his team at State (this was unsuccessful only because that individual could not pass a background check). [Read more...](#)

Terrorism, Cyber Warfare

I was shot in face by an Iranian assassin – if we don't stop this poisonous regime they will launch attacks across West

The Sun (May 7) - A TOP politician who narrowly survived an assassination attempt he believes was ordered by the Iranian regime has warned there'll be more attacks in the West. Dr Alejo Vidal-Quadras Roca was shot in the face outside his apartment building in Madrid, Spain, last November by a hitman on a motorcycle. In an exclusive interview with The Sun, Vidal-Quadras declared he was the Iranian regime's "Public Enemy No. 1". He accused Tehran of orchestrating the attempt on his life - which left his jaw shattered and requiring reconstructive surgery using metal plates. The politician was walking up to his front door when he heard someone say "hello sir" behind him - before he was shot. And he

warned that he and other political figures in the West could be targeted again. The former vice-president of the European Parliament accused the Iranian regime of working with organised criminal gangs in Europe to carry out his attack - which he miraculously survived after being rushed to hospital for emergency surgery. He has strongly urged governments in the West to increase political, economic and diplomatic pressures on what he called a "poisonous, terrorist regime" in Iran. The Barcelona-born politician has called on governments in the UK, USA and the European Union to cut all diplomatic ties with Iran. And he urged them to immediately declare the regime's Revolutionary Guards as a terrorist organisation - or risk further attacks on the West and "war-mongering" in the Middle East. [Read more...](#)

[Amid a flurry of executions, Iran's crisis-ridden regime conducts sham trials against resistance members and makes futile extradition demands](#)

International Committee In Search of Justice (May 5) - Upon the Iranian regime's first announcement in July 2023 of indictments against the leadership of the Iranian Resistance and over 100 members of the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI) —many of whom have resided in Europe (particularly in Albania) for decades—the ISJ alerted European leaders that through this sham trial, the regime, grappling with both internal and external crises, and deeply concerned by the growing influence and support for the PMOI and the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), is setting the stage for terrorist acts against PMOI members. This is an attempt to pave the way for their extradition or, at the very least, to impose severe restrictions on them, it wrote. We wrote to European leaders, "[Your] silence and indecisiveness vis-à-vis the regime's aggressions have emboldened Tehran to issue these indictments against individuals most of whom have been living abroad for four decades. The release of Assadollah Assadi, the Iranian regime's terrorist diplomat, was a case in point. Assadi commanded the biggest terrorist incident in Europe in decades. Similarly, the attack on the Iranian refugees in Ashraf 3 in Albania, on June 20 this year, based on false information provided by Tehran, was another such example. [Read more...](#)

Iranian Resistance

[Conference at Italian Parliament supports freedom and resistance in Iran for global peace and security](#)

EIN Newswire (May 12) - The National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI) Foreign Affairs Committee in an article published that on Thursday, May 9, a conference titled "Support for Freedom and Resistance in Iran for Global Peace and Security" was held in the Stampa Hall of the Italian Parliament. The conference featured a statement endorsed by the majority of Italian parliamentarians from various parties in support of the Iranian Resistance and the popular uprising inside Iran. During the conference, Italian legislators including Naike Gruppioni, a member of the Italian Parliament; Senator Giulio Maria Terzi, former Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs; Emanuele Pozzolo, a Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Italian Parliament; and Elisabetta Zamparutti, former MP and a founder of the Hands Off Cain Foundation, delivered speeches. In a video message, Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, the President-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, emphasized that while the regime in Iran intensifies executions, suppresses dissent, and enforces compulsory veiling, the majority of Italian parliamentarians stand alongside the Iranian people. [Read more...](#)

Featured Article

[Top secret Iranian drone site used by IRGC, terror proxies exposed by opposition group](#)

By Beth Bailey
Fox News
May 11, 2024

The People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (MEK), an exiled Iranian resistance group, provided a report to Fox News Digital presenting evidence of a top-secret unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) site in the Islamic Republic of Iran, north of Qom City in the Ganjine region.

According to the report, members of the **Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps** (IRGC) are trained to use "all kinds of drones" at the base, including the Mohajer series, manufactured by Qods Aviation Industry. Employees of Qods Aviation Industry also reportedly use the site to train small groups of Iranian proxy operatives of Hezbollah, as well as members of Iranian proxy groups from Syria, Yemen and Iraq, to use the Mohajer-4 drone platform.

The National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), based on information from the MEK, told Fox News Digital that the site is a proving ground for Mohajer-4, Mohajer-6, and Mohajer-10 drones.

Alireza Jafarzadeh, deputy director of NCRI's Washington, D.C., office, told Fox News Digital that "seven months into the regional conflict, it has become evident that the regime in Tehran is the proverbial 'head of the snake' of belligerence and terror export in the Middle East. As such, Western governments must exercise firmness instead of accommodation and engagement in dealing with Tehran and hold it to account for its malign activities."

Qods Aviation Industry is listed on the Treasury Department's Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons List, as is its new moniker, Light Airplanes Design and Manufacturing Industries.

The newest drone in its arsenal, the Mohajer-10, can carry a payload of 300 kilograms for a range of 2,000 kilometers, according to Breaking Defense. Released in August 2023, the drone has a 450-liter fuel tank and can stay airborne for 24 hours. In a photo of the new drone shared on an Iranian television station, text in both Hebrew and Persian advised viewers to "prepare your shelters," **Reuters reported.**

Brett Velicovich, a U.S. Army veteran and author of "**Drone Warrior: An Elite Soldier's Inside Account of the Hunt for America's Most Dangerous Enemies**," said that the schematics for deadly Mohajer- and Shahed-series drones are being exported to Iranian proxies around the world. "One or two guys can launch one of these drones from the middle of a field...and they have the capability to conduct just as powerful a strike as major nation states could before," Velicovich said.

Velicovich added this allows Iran to "sow chaos and discord" while also "having plausible deniability." He claims the regime "want to use these long-range drone systems to show that they somehow have control over the Middle East and the region."

Drones have played a role in the escalations taking place overseas following Oct. 7. The United States Institute of Peace notes that "U.S. forces deployed across the Middle East were attacked more than 160 times by pro-Iranian militias" between October 2023 and February 2024.

One of those strikes was deadly. On Jan. 28, an Iranian proxy used a drone to **kill three U.S. service members** in Jordan. National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby stated that the Islamic Resistance in Iraq was behind the attack. He did not state which of the Iranian proxy groups under the resistance umbrella bore responsibility. The Pentagon stated it could not provide answers to Fox News Digital's request for information about the group behind the attack or the type of drone that was used. United States Central Command told Fox News Digital that it does not comment on ongoing investigations.

The MEK provided documents and aerial imagery to Fox News Digital showing how the Qom site has expanded in recent years. According to translated documents MEK provided from the Iranian Armed Forces' Real Estate and Land Organization, the site was first proposed as a UAV testing ground in February 2005. In May 2006, 1,800 hectares (more than 4,400 acres) of land near Qom were handed over to the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics.

The MEK reports that just 949 hectares have been used for the site. Aerial photographs show the site's first 500-meter runway, created in 2007. In 2014, photos demonstrated that the runway was expanded to 1400 meters. Photos show the runway was further enlarged in 2020 to 1500 meters "so larger drones could also be tested." Additional photos show that a hangar of about 30 by 40 meters was added in 2021.

According to the MEK's report, asymmetric warfare forms "a critical part of a deliberate strategy" that relies on "extensive use of drones and missiles, which the regime is capable of manufacturing with the support of its allies. Proxies execute these operations on behalf of the regime." The MEK also cites "intelligence sources" claiming that Supreme Leader of Iran **Ali Khamenei** "has personally overseen Iran's drone project since 2004."

The MEK urges other Western states to follow suit with the U.S.' 2019 designation of the IRGC as a **foreign terrorist organization**.

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Suggested Reading

[Iran: The Ayatollah's Hidden Hand](#)

In this informative and well-presented volume, Professor Ivan Sascha Sheehan pulls back the curtain on the regime's propaganda franchise. He reveals the excessive investment of funding, infrastructure, and workforce frantically trying to convince Iranians and the world not to believe their own eyes and ears. After years of trying to ignore the MEK, hoping others would do the same, regime officials now seemingly cannot stop talking about how effectively the MEK's message and organizing efforts are empowering the national uprising. Sheehan's research makes clear that the regime is scared, knowing that there is a blueprint and a competent political organization – run at every level by women – ready to help guide Iran to a legitimate constitutional future when the regime crumbles, just as happened with the Shah.

[Read more here.](#)



About Iran Weekly Roundup:

This weekly is compiled by the US Representative Office of National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI-US). The NCRI is a broad coalition of democratic Iranian organizations, groups, and personalities founded in 1981 in Tehran. The NCRI is an inclusive and pluralistic parliament-in-exile that has more than 500 members representing a broad spectrum of political tendencies in Iran. The NCRI aims to establish a secular democratic republic in Iran, based on the separation of religion and state. Women comprise more than half of the Council's members. Mrs. Maryam Rajavi is the president-elect of the NCRI.

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