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Israel slams IAEA ending probe of Iran nuclear sites with no cost to violations

6.08.23

Kamala Harris throws judicial reform jab after learning Rothman in crowd

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Kamala Harris throws judicial reform jab after learning Rothman in crowd

American source says U.S. VP decided to add the remark alluding to Biden

administration's opposition to judicial reform only after she became aware of Rothman's presence

Nadav Eyal|| 16:07

U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris hinted at the U.S. opposition to the Israeli government's proposed judicial reform after she was informed that MK Simcha Rothman,

chairman of the Knesset Constitution, Law and Justice Committee and one of the architects of the legislation, was in attendance at her speech.

Speaking during an event marking Israel's 75th anniversary at the Israeli Embassy in Washington this week, Harris said: "The Biden administration will continue to protect the values that form the basis of the relationship between the United States and Israel, which include strengthening democracy built on strong institutions, checks and balances, and an independent judiciary."

Ynet has learned from an American source that Rothman was not on the original guest list and did not inform the embassy of his arrival in Washington. Following the incident, the embassy stated that "Shortly before the event, the Foreign Ministry informed us that MK Rothman contacted them and informed them of his intention to come to Washington and requested to be invited to the embassy event.

"We regret that the public focus on this event, which brought great honor to the State of Israel, is centered around the question of the presence of Member of Knesset Rothman. The Embassy of Israel is not a political entity and requests not to be drawn into political discussions. It represents the State of Israel with dignity and respects the elected officials of the State of Israel accordingly."

6.06.23

Russian forces blow up hydroelectric dam in southern Ukraine battle retreat

6.06.23

Flooding, fear of nuclear plant damage after attack on dam in Ukraine

Hundreds of thousands being evacuated after strike on Kakhovka dam in Russian-controlled southern Ukraine releases surging floodwaters across war zone, Ukraine and Russia blame each other's forces

Reuters|02:12

A major Soviet-era dam in the Russian-controlled part of southern Ukraine was breached on Tuesday, unleashing floodwaters across the war zone in what both Ukraine and Russia said was an intentional attack by the other's forces.

Ukraine accused Russian forces of blowing up the Kakhovka dam and hydroelectric power station in southern Ukraine. Ukrainian authorities ordered hundreds of thousands of residents downriver to evacuate. Russian officials countered that the dam was damaged by Ukrainian military strikes in the contested area.

Unverified videos on social media showed water surging through the remains of the dam with bystanders expressing their shock, sometimes in strong language. Water levels raced up by several meters in a matter of hours.

The dam, 30 meters (32 yards) tall and 3.2 km (2 miles) long and which holds water equal to the Great Salt Lake in Utah in the United States, was built in 1956 on the Dnipro river as part of the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant.

It also supplies water to the Crimean peninsula, annexed by Russia in 2014, and to the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant, which is also under Russian control and which gets cooling water from the reservoir.

Some 22,000 people living across 14 settlements in Ukraine's southern Kherson region are at risk of flooding after the blast, the Moscow-installed head of the region said on Tuesday, according to Russian state-owned news agency RIA. The Ukrainian governor of the Kherson region, Oleksandr Prokudin, announced Tuesday morning that the evacuation from the area has already begun, noting that "the water will reach critical levels within five hours."

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said there was no immediate nuclear safety risk at the plant due to the dam failure but that it was monitoring the situation closely. The head of the plant also said there was no current threat to the station.

"The destruction of the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant dam only confirms for the whole world that they must be expelled from every corner of Ukrainian land," Zelenskiy wrote on the Telegram messaging app.

Zelenskiy already warned in October of last year about a disaster in the event that the dam was bombed by Russia, and called on the West to "treat it like the use of weapons of mass destruction."

Ukraine's military said that Russian forces blew up the dam.

Russian-installed officials in Kherson said Ukraine struck the dam at 2300 GMT several times, destroying the hydraulic valves of the hydroelectric power station but said the dam was not totally destroyed.

"We ask all residents of coastal settlements to be ready for evacuation," the Russian-controlled region said. "Emergency and special services of the region are in full readiness and will provide all necessary assistance."

Reuters was unable to immediately verify the battlefield accounts from either side.

It was not immediately clear how the flood waters would affect Ukraine's long planned counter-offensive against Russian forces who are dug in across southern and eastern Ukraine.

Hours before the announcement of the dam explosion, the commander of the Ukrainian ground forces, General Oleksandr Syrskiy, announced that Ukrainian forces continued to move forward near the battle-scarred city of Bakhmut, located in the Donetsk region in the east of the country. On the other hand, the Ministry of Defense in Moscow claimed Monday night that the Russian army repelled "another broad attack" by the Ukrainian forces in Donetsk, caused many casualties to the Ukrainian army that had made progress in the region, and even damaged tanks and military vehicles.

On Monday night, Zelenskiy praised his forces in a video he distributed, saying that he is "grateful to each of our soldiers, to all our defenders, men and women, who gave us today the news we were expecting. Well done to the soldiers in the Bakhmut sector." He added that two units of the Ukrainian army "defended our positions and destroyed the occupiers with skill, decisiveness and efficiency, and most importantly – moved forward."

The Russian military claimed on the other hand that since Sunday they had repelled two large-scale Ukrainian attacks against their forces in eastern Ukraine, but officials in Kiev did not mention anything about a new comprehensive and significant counter-offensive campaign, avoiding questions on the subject. At the same time, senior officials and Russian soldiers said that the situation in the city of Bakhmut is "very difficult" for Moscow.

According to the Russian Ministry of Defense, in the repulsed Ukrainian attack, 1,500 Ukrainian soldiers were killed, 28 tanks were destroyed - including eight Leopard tanks - as well as 109 armored vehicles. In Kiev, Moscow's claims were not addressed.

Ynet News

6.05.23

IAEA denies watering down standards in Iran investigation to 35-nation Board

6.05.23

In response to Netanyahu, IAEA denies watering down standards in Iran investigation 'We stand by our standards, we apply our standards,' says UN nuclear watchdog chief after Israeli leader accuses agency of 'capitulation to Iranian pressure'; Tehran claims depleted uranium traces in heart of investigation date back to Soviet-era News agencies|09:53

The UN nuclear watchdog's chief denied on Monday that his agency had watered down its standards in an investigation into past Iranian activities after Israel accused it of "capitulation to Iranian pressure".

The dispute centers on the International Atomic Energy Agency's years-long investigation into the origin of uranium particles found at three undeclared Iranian sites, most of which appear to have been active around two decades ago.

"We never ever, never ever water down our standards. We stand by our standards, we apply our standards," IAEA Director-General Rafael Grossi told a news conference when asked about unusually strong criticism of his agency leveled by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday.

U.S. intelligence agencies and the IAEA believe Iran had a coordinated nuclear weapons program that it halted in 2003. Although the particles were found much more recently, the IAEA is obliged to hunt down the origin of nuclear material that has not been accounted for. Iran denies ever seeking atomic weapons.

The IAEA has long denounced Iranian stonewalling of its investigation, which spurred its 35-nation Board of Governors to pass a resolution last year ordering Iran to comply immediately.

In a report to member states last week, Grossi said Iran had given an explanation for depleted uranium traces at one site, known as Marivan - the presence of a mine and laboratory operated by a country that diplomats said was the Soviet Union.

The report, seen by Reuters, said Iran had provided a "possible explanation ... Therefore, the agency at this time has no additional questions on the depleted uranium particles detected at 'Marivan' or on the location, and the matter is no longer outstanding at this stage."

Netanyahu said Iran's explanation was "technically impossible", adding: "The agency's capitulation to Iranian pressure is a black stain on its record."

However, while the particles could be explained by the presence of a Soviet-operated mine and lab there and the IAEA had no further questions, a senior diplomat said, the IAEA's assessment remained that Iran carried out explosives testing there decades ago that was relevant to nuclear weapons.

Grossi suggested on Monday that Iran has been dragging its feet over the re-installation of monitoring equipment that was removed at Tehran's behest a year ago.

So far only a fraction of the equipment the IAEA had planned to put back in place under a deal announced in a joint statement with Iran in March has been put in place.

"What needs to happen now is a sustained and uninterrupted process that leads to all the commitments contained in the Joint Statement being fulfilled without further delay,"

Grossi said in a statement to the IAEA board.

6.05.23

Saudi normalizations demand enrichment facility & most advanced weapons in US

6.05.23

Minister says US should deny Saudi Arabia nuclear reactor

National Infrastructure, Energy, and Water Minister Israel Katz says Israel is opposed to uranium enrichment facility for the Saudis in exchange for normalization - a civilian nuclear program would be cover for producing a nuclear bomb

Moran Azulay, Attila Somfalvi|06:53

National Infrastructure, Energy and Water Minister Israel Katz said Monday that the United States might acquiesce to Saudi Arabia's demand to establish a uranium enrichment facility on its territory as part of a normalization deal with Israel.

Speaking to Ynet, Katz said that "as a matter of fact, Israel does not encourage such things. I don't think Israel should agree to such a thing, but there are ongoing talks on that matter." However, he noted that "normalization with Saudi Arabia is important, and I hope there will also be a peace agreement."

The New York Times reported in March that the approval and establishment of a civilian nuclear program are among the requirements Riyadh set for the anticipated normalization deal, but official elements in Saudi Arabia and the United States did not confirm it.

However, Israel's concern is that Saudi Arabia, or one of its other neighbors in the Middle East, would use a civilian nuclear program as the cover for producing a nuclear bomb. Another demand by Riyadh is an arms deal that would provide Saudi Arabia with the most advanced weapons available in the American weapons arsenal, everything that former President Donald Trump promised to Mohamed bin Zayed, the de facto ruler of the Emirates, and much more, as F-35 fighter jets and bunker busters are part of the deal.

The Saudi demands are not the only part of the lead-up to a normalization agreement that is causing Jerusalem to lose sleep.

Closed-door discussions in Jerusalem raised concerns that the American government will try to link the nuclear agreement with Iran to a normalization agreement between Israel and Saudi Arabia as a way to sweeten the bitter pill for Israel. The Americans may argue that Saudi Arabia cannot normalize relations with Israel without an agreement with Iran, and this could put Israel in a complex dilemma, a sort of honey trap.

Jerusalem believes that United States' move toward an agreement with Iran is the main reason for the Israeli leadership to press hard on preparations for a military strike against Iran's nuclear facilities. In other words, the latest military exercise simulating a multi-front war, including an attack on Iran, is considered an unprecedented exercise in terms of forces and involvement of state officials.

"Our policy is clear – we will not allow Iran to possess nuclear weapons," Katz said. He noted that the operation is an "intensive two-week exercise lead by the IDF, in which all systems are realistically trained for multi-front combat, including Iran and all its proxies and affiliated organizations."

According to a cabinet member, "all forces need to be trained in all scenarios. We hope that Iran's path to nuclear weapons will be curbed by the international community through diplomatic means and effective economic and military pressure. However, if it ultimately comes down to either a nuclear weapon or an Israeli operation, we will act to prevent an extremist and deranged country like Iran from possessing nuclear weapons." Katz stated that Iran "is the most dangerous country in the world. If it possesses nuclear weapons, it can back extremist organizations even beyond what it does nowadays." Reuters contributed to this article

6.05.23

Why the IAEA closed a probe in Iran; two other facility tests remain ongoing

6.05.23

Why the IAEA closed its probes in Iran

Inspectors accept Iranian claims uranium particles at the Marivan nuclear site are a result of contamination from an old chemical lab but insist probes into Varamin and Turqzabad facilities remain ongoing

Eliasaf Kosman , Agencies|01 :50

After years without progress by nuclear inspectors into suspicions that Iran had violated the Non-Proliferation Treaty, a breakthrough was reported last week for the first time –

but one that raises concerns that it may be an indication that negotiations for the renewal of the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran would soon to be resumed.

In its statement, the UN International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said it closed its investigation into the Marivan nuclear site in Iran, one of the three where particles of Uranium were found, and that Iran had not previously declared to the inspectors. According to the IAEA, Iran had supplied "a possible explanation," to the fact that particles of Uranium were found there and although the UN watchdog did not explicitly say the explanation was right, it shut the Marivan probe down.

The IAEA said in its report published last Wednesday, that there are two other investigations still ongoing, concerning sites at Varamin in the center of the country and Turqzabad near the capital and that Tehr4an had not explained the particles of uranium found there.

But its announcement that the Miravan probe has ended prompted international interest and anger in Israel - because the IAEA had for years of accused the Iranians of evading honest answers, and due to speculations over the renewed talks. The U.S. had suspended negotiations with Iran over disputes including Iran's demand that the IAEA probe end.

All three probes were opened after Israel submitted to the IAEA findings from the nuclear archive it had taken out of Iran in 2018. Marivan, located in south-west Iran, was exposed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu a year later, but he only said it was used by the nuclear military program.

After receiving the Information, the IAEA requested access to the site in January 2020 – after Iran began destroying parts of the facility in 2019 – and was granted access in August 2020.

Despite Iranian efforts to cover its tracks at the site, inspectors found traces of the bi-product of uranium enrichment. According to IAEA reports last year, the Marivan facility was composed of two separate but neighboring sites where there were indications of activity in 2003, for the Amad project to develop nuclear weapons, which was allegedly suspended that year, although Israel claims Iran had continued it.

IAEA said in one of the sites it found bunkers where trials with conventional explosives were carried out and another described as a "support/development" area, where traces of uranium were found. Iran claimed the site had been operated by a foreign country in the 1960s and 1970s.

The watchdog rejected claims that work at the site had stopped years ago but now said the new explanation given by Iran, alleging the uranium was the result of contamination from old equipment in a chemical lab on site, could explain their findings although it insisted that was just one possible explanation. Still the IAEA had no further questions. Reuters reported a senior unnamed diplomat in Vienna said that it was the Soviet Union that had operated the site but added that the IAEA was convinced that trials carried out there were connected to the plans to develop nuclear weapons.

Those trials were in the parts of the facility that was destroyed by Iran and the IAEA insists there were still some unanswered questions. In a report last week, researchers from the D.C.-based Institute for Science and International Security said Iran claimed that the bunkers at Marivan were used "to shelter the bomb disposal unit during the deactivation

of worn-out or mal-functioned munitions” and did not address “the use of neutron detectors and the source of the neutrons, and has provided no evidence to support its responses to questions regarding the activities at the explosive test area at ‘Marivan.’”

The IAEA described the testing at the site as a cold test that involves the detonation of a fully assembled nuclear weapon absent its weapon-grade uranium core. "The neutron detectors would detect the neutrons produced by a neutron initiator at the center of the nuclear device, designed to initiate the atomic explosion. Thus, the IAEA is stating that while Iran may have prevailed on the relatively small point of the uranium particles, the elephant in the proverbial Marivan tent remains present," the Washington Institute said. Despite the IAEA insisting the investigations at Varmin and Turqzabad were still open, Israel accused the UN watchdog of capitulating to Iran. Netanyahu on Sunday said the inspectors were lax in their conduct and that closing the probe into Marivan was a black mark on the IAEA and Iran's explanations were untrustworthy and technically impossible. He warned that if the UN agency were to become political, there would be no relevance to its inspections or reports. The prime minister may be referring to Iran linking the IAEA probes to the resumption of talks with world powers. IAEA chief Rafael Grossi rejected such claims last year.

Iran had expressed anger at the IAEA and removed its surveillance equipment from some of its nuclear sites but in recent months, relations have improved and Grossi announced agreements reached to resume limited surveillance, last March, including at Fordow and in one of the facilities at Natanz as well as installing cameras at a centrifuge manufacturing plant at Isfahan. Still, no video material has been received by the inspectors from the past two years.

While Israeli officials have alluded to a possible attack on Iran's nuclear sites, Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei took a stern position against the West. "Some people are wrong to think that if we retract our position on certain matters, the hostility of the U.S. and arrogance of Israel and the rest of the world would diminish," Khamenei said at the memorial service for Ayatollah Khomeini

6.04.23

Egypt attempts to avoid religious zealots, after border guard murders

6.04.23

Egypt attempts to avoid religious zealots, terrorist in border guard force

Although not part of the military, the force seeks to conscript recruits with at least some high school education so as to have sensitivity towards Israel while attempting to affiliation with terror or crime and religious zealotry

Daniel Salami|15:58

Egypt, on Sunday, had still not revealed the identity of its border policeman who shot and killed three IDF soldiers after penetrating the border into Israel on Friday. The "member of security services," as he was described by the Egyptians, who was killed by IDF troops,

was stationed on the border with Israel, and was part of a border security force that is separate from the Egyptian military.

On Sunday, families brought the three fatalities in the attack to rest in funerals held in northern, central and southern Israel.

Egypt's account of the incident was that the assailant crossed the border and was caught in an exchange of fire, which resulted in his death along with the three Israeli soldiers. The authorities in Cairo did not claim any responsibility and did not mention his attack on the two IDF troops he shot first before encountering the Israeli force, nor did they issue any public apology or the details of his deployment.

The Egyptian forces deployed along the border with Israel are part of Egypt's internal security directorate. The terms of the peace agreement signed with Israel in 1979, stipulate that no military personnel can be deployed to the Sinai except on a narrow strip east of the Suez Canal. Over the past decade, when Egypt requested to bring forces in, on special occasions, to combat ISIS forces in northern Sinai, Israel has always consented. The Egyptian border guards are not only separate from their country's military, they also have far inferior equipment at their disposal. They do not have armored vehicles and travel in SUVs and possess light-arms weapons only. When Egypt sets out to fight the ISIS cells, they bring in the ground and air forces of the military, in coordination with Israel.

According to reports in Egypt over the years, the border guards are mostly residents of peripheral counties in the Sinai and often come from impoverished backgrounds.

Egypt's security services never officially announced how to join the border guard forces but discussion in online forums and testimonies from Egyptian civilians on social media indicate they try to identify people who are not themselves nor are their families affiliated with criminal or terrorist elements and are not religious zealots.

The Egyptians Defense Ministry's website says candidates must have an average of at least 60 out of 100 in their matriculation exams. They look for people with a high school degree at the very least so that they would be able to comprehend the sensitivities on the other side of the border and many of their conscripts reside near it or in northern Sinai and are relatively new to the force with under one year of deployment since being inducted.

"Egypt needs Israel "in its efforts to combat terror in the Sinai that was responsible for the death of some 3,200 Egyptian soldiers since 2013, for the downing of a Russian airliner and for severe damage to tourism. Israel needs Egypt to prevent terror groups from entrenching near its borders and for maintaining stability and calm in the area," Dr. Ofir Winter, a senior researcher at the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS) said.

While Cairo has its own narrative of the Friday event, there are different voices on social media. Some note the lack of clarity in the Egyptian statement and others see the assailant as a hero and attribute conspiracy theories to Israel," he said. "By not revealing his name, Egypt is demonstrating its discomfort and perhaps is attempting to prevent the border policeman from becoming a national hero. The attack shows the possibility of an Egyptian soldier becoming a terrorist must be taken into account," Winter said adding

that the authorities must ask themselves how the general public is educated to regard Israel 44 years after a peace treaty was signed.

The Israeli defense establishment was growing convinced that the **assailant acted alone** and **was not sent by any terror organization**. The investigation into the deadly incident was still ongoing but there was a growing assessment that he was a devout Jihadist while serving as a border guard.

Egyptian defense officials arrived at the area on Saturday. The IDF on Sunday published a picture of officers of **both militaries standing together while a joint probe was underway**.

6.04.23

Netanyahu cancels American Jewish Committee speech amid protesters

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Netanyahu cancels American Jewish Committee speech amid protesters

Protesters say they will be inside the hall, surrounding the hotel, on the roads, and even in the sea and air, **prime minister to send a video instead**; no meeting set with **Open AI CEO** during his **visit** to Israel either

Itamar Eichner, Adam Kutub|Updated:09:41

First reported by Ynet, the **conference** will take place **next week in Tel Aviv** in the David InterContinental Hotel; however, ahead of Netanyahu's planned participation, **protest leaders** issued a **call to demonstrate**, promising they "will be inside the hall, surrounding the hotel, on the roads, and even in the sea and air." Now, instead of attending, the prime minister will send a recorded greeting to the event.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister's Office attempted to schedule a **meeting** between **Netanyahu and Sam Altman, CEO of OpenAI**, the company behind the popular ChatGPT chatbot. However, some involved in the matter said that **Altman declined** to meet **due to the ongoing judicial reform**.

The Prime Minister's Office said in a statement that "there was no formal request by it for a meeting with Sam Altman." **Altman**, who is **visiting Israel**, **will meet** with President Isaac **Herzog** on **Monday**. He also will **visit** the **Microsoft headquarters** and participate in a **conference at Tel Aviv University**.

Meanwhile, Education Minister Yoav Kisch couldn't escape the protests either, during his visit to a startup company, Masterschool, in Tel Aviv on Sunday. Upon arrival, Kisch encountered a group of **high-tech protesters** who raised **signs** and called out "**shame**." "Visiting a startup company and talking about **artificial intelligence will not conceal what this secretive government is trying to do** to Israeli democracy," the protest movement said in a statement.

First published: 17:35, 06.04.23

6.01.23

Gallant says Israel may have to act amid 'intensifying threats from Iran'

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Gallant says Israel may have to act amid 'intensifying threats from Iran'

Defense minister says 'State of Israel, the IDF, and all the security forces will know what to do to ensure Israel's security in the present and also in the future'

Yoav Zitun|14:18

Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said Thursday that following the "intensifying threats by Iran" Israel may be required to act to defend the country and the future of the Jewish people.

"In light of the International Atomic Energy Agency's report stating that Iran possesses a sufficient amount of enriched uranium for two nuclear bombs, the threats facing the State of Israel are growing and intensifying and we may be required to fulfill our duty in order to protect the integrity of Israel," Gallant said at a ceremony for the promotion of two major generals in the IDF.

According to Gallant: "The tasks are heavy and the challenges are great. The reality in which we find ourselves is complex, but the State of Israel, the IDF, and all the security forces will know what to do to ensure Israel's security in the present and also in the future, with the help of you, the current and incoming members of the general staff."

The report by the IAEA stated that, in recent months, Iran has continued to violate the terms of the nuclear agreement and has significantly increased its stockpile of enriched uranium.

According to the report, the amount of enriched uranium in the Islamic Republic is now 23 times higher than the permitted amount in the 2015 nuclear agreement between Tehran and the P5+1 countries. As of May 13th, the quantity of enriched uranium was 4,744.5 kilograms, while the nuclear agreement limits the quantity to 202.8 kilograms. Additionally, Iran continues to enrich uranium beyond the allowed level in the nuclear agreement, which stands at 3.67%.

According to the IAEA, approximately 42 kilograms of enriched uranium at a level of 60% is enough to possess what the agency defines as a "significant quantity," a term that means "the estimated amount of nuclear material from which, if stored, the possibility of manufacturing a nuclear explosive device cannot be ruled out." It should be noted that in order to develop such a device, further enrichment to 90% is required, but the process is relatively fast.

Meanwhile, Israel's Foreign Ministry on Thursday slammed the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for closing its investigation of an Iranian site where remnants of uranium had been detected.

The site in Marivan, one of three Iran had not revealed, "is very disturbing," the ministry said in its official statement. "The explanations Iran had submitted on nuclear materials

on the site, were not credible or technically possible. It continues to lie to the IAEA and deceive the international community," the statement read.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday night referred to the decision of the IAEA to close the investigation against Iran, saying that "I have a clear message, both to Iran and to the international community, Israel will do everything she needs to do to prevent Iran from getting a nuclear weapon."

6.01.23

Israel slams IAEA ending probe of Iran nuclear sites with no cost to violations

6.01.23

Israel slams IAEA for ending probe into Iranian nuclear sites

After Israel exposed the nuclear site at Marivan in southern Iran, inspectors found traces of uranium but accepted Iran's explanation that the site had been unused; The probe into Fordow was met with Iranian claims that foreigners sabotage left uranium remnants
Itamar Eichner|12:44

Israel's Foreign Ministry on Thursday slammed the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for closing its investigation of an Iranian site where remnants of uranium had been detected.

The site in Marivan, one of three Iran had not revealed, "is very disturbing," the ministry said in its official statement. "The explanations Iran had submitted on nuclear materials on the site, were not credible or technically possible. It continues to lie to the IAEA and deceive the international community," the statement read.

On Tuesday, Iran said that, following understandings reached with the IAEA, the probe into the Marivan site near the southern city of Abadan, where remnants of uranium were found, was closed. Israel uncovered the site in 2019 and Iran later destroyed large sections of it. According to the IAEA, the investigation ended after Iran supplied "explanations."

Iran reported that another investigation into uranium remnants in the underground Fordow nuclear site in the center of the country was also closed. The uranium found in Fordow last February was enriched to a level of 83.7% just short of the 90% military-grade enrichment needed to develop nuclear weapons.

This is the highest level of enrichment found by the nuclear watchdog inspectors to date. Tehran had claimed its centrifuges were oriented to enrich uranium to a level of no more than 60%. Still, the IAEA confirmed that the probe had ended.

"The IAEA's capitulation to political pressure from Iran is very disappointing," the Foreign Ministry said. "Especially due to the information on file pointing conclusively to Iran's blatant violation of the inspection agreements."

The ministry also claimed that closing the investigations would have dangerous repercussions and "send the message that there is no cost attached to the violations and

Iran can continue **deceiving** the international community on its way to achieving its nuclear military program, in full. In addition, ending the probe in such a way is **harmful to the credibility of the IAEA,**" the ministry said.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said when the Marivan site was revealed by Israel, that Iran used it to develop nuclear weapons and destroyed part of its facility when Tehran realized the site would be exposed. **Remnants of uranium were found and in June of last year, Iran claimed they were the result of sabotage perpetrated by a foreign country.**

The IAEA asked Iran for access to the site in January 2020 and was allowed in only in August of that year. Despite action taken by Iran to clean it up, the IAEA still found traces of uranium. The IAEA said Iran had claimed there was no activity on the site between 1994 and 2008. Its inspectors then showed the Iranians **satellite images proving otherwise,** at which point the story had been amended to say no mining activity had taken place, which was the primary work done at the site, and that **only security guards remained there.** It is still **unclear what explanations could have led the IAEA to shut down the investigation.**

Another IAEA report that was published on Wednesday said that, in recent months, Iran had **continued to violate the 2015 nuclear agreement** and had significantly **increased its stockpile** of enriched uranium. The report said Iran had **23 times the amount permitted** under the agreement and continues to enrich uranium over the **3.67% permitted** under the 2015 JCPOA, or Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

Reuters reported that the IAEA report reveals the stockpile of uranium enriched to 60% is sufficient to make two nuclear bombs. According to the **watchdog,** some **42 kilograms (92.5 pounds)** of uranium would be enough to be in possession of what the agency says is a "significant" amount, a term that **means** that, once it is **stockpiled,** the option of its use in a nuclear device cannot be ruled out. **To develop a nuclear bomb,** uranium **must be** enriched to **90%** but that process takes a relatively short time to complete.

Although theoretically, 45 kilograms would be enough, in reality, over 55 kilograms (121 pounds) of enriched uranium to a level of 60% is needed because some material is lost in the enrichment process.

The **conclusions from the IAEA report are that Iran does not yet possess a nuclear weapon.** It would need not only the enriched uranium but also a nuclear warhead and the **delivery mechanism, via ballistic or cruise missiles, or a plane that could carry a warhead and bomb to a distance of more than 1,000 kilometers (621 miles).**

Defense Minister Yoav Gallant warned that Israel is facing growing dangers. **"We may have to exercise our responsibility to defend Israel** and especially the future of the Jewish People. These are heavy missions and the challenges are great. But Israel and the IDF as well as all the security agencies will know what to do, to **ensure the security of Israel now and in the future,"** he said.

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5.30.23 – Tu- - - News Placed in May 29 spot – Monday
Calls to cut funds at New York Univ Law school, after antisemitic graduation speech

5.30.23 – Tu- - - News Placed in May 28 spot – Sunday Omer 50 FOW 1st day
PA terror group runs student exchange program with Europe to spread its agenda

5.30.23 – Tu- - - News Placed in May 30 spot – Tuesday Omer 50 FOW 1st day
Delegation of 20 UK House of Lords arrived in Israel for a four-day visit

5.30.23 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday Omer 50 FOW 1st day
Israeli murdered in a West Bank drive-by attack; PA remove camera footage

5.30.23 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday Omer 50 FOW 1st day
IAEA to issue quarterly reports on Iran this week of three sites investigated

5.25.23 – Th- - - News – Thursday Traditional FOW start
Israel nabs suspect in 2022 shooting & firebomb attack on bus carrying IDF soldiers

5.24.23 – We- - - News Placed in May 25 spot – Thursday
Judicial overhaul is on the table; Gantz & Lapid vow to destroy negotiations

5.24.23 – We- - - News Placed in May 24 spot – Wednesday
Knesset passes budget 64 to 56 for 2023 & 2024; Opposition calling it destructive

5.23.23 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday
IDF soldier arrested for racially motivated attack on 2 Arab minors

5.23.23 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday
Iranian official threatens war if nuclear sites attacked

5.23.23 – Tu- - - News Placed in May 23 spot – Tuesday
Turkish election favors Erdogan by arrest of 11 Mossad spys in Istanbul

5.23.23 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday
Policy and Strategy Conference by IDF Chief Halevi outlined enemies & goals

5.23.23 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday
UAE invites Netanyahu & Herzog to November climate conference in Dubai