

# THE LEADERS

A Monthly News Analysis & Review

Special Issue | December 2020



## THE ASSASSINATION

OF MOHSEN FAKHRIZADEH AND THE QUESTIONS OF PEACE

# MARTYRS OF SCIENCE

## A REVIEW OF THE GOALS UNDERLYING THE ASSASSINATION OF NUCLEAR SCIENTISTS

State terrorism, in collaboration with the CIA and Mossad intelligence agencies, has assassinated some of the Islamic Republic's Nuclear Scientists in recent years. Various dimensions of these assassinations and the issue of Iran's progress in Nuclear Sciences are reviewed in this infographic that is based on speeches delivered by the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution.



**MARTYR DR.**  
**MAJID SHAHRIARI**



AGE: 44



NOV. 29, 2010

- Devoted struggle for science



**MARTYR DR.**  
**MASOUD ALIMOHAMMADI**



AGE: 50



JAN. 12, 2010

- Martyrdom for divine goals



**MARTYR DR.**  
**MOSTAFA AHMADI ROSHAN**



AGE: 32



JAN. 11 2012

- Manifestation of spirituality with scientific endeavor



**MARTYR DR.**  
**DARIUSH REZAEI-NEJAD**



AGE: 35



JULY 23, 2011

- Bravery in scientific struggle



### OUR STANCE

Continuing Iran's scientific progress

Decisive punishment of perpetrators & planners of the crime



### ENEMY'S ACTION

Using terrorism to reach their illegitimate goals

The perpetrators & designers' cowardice to admit to these cowardly assassinations



### EFFECTS OF MARTYRDOM

Brings honor to the Islamic Revolution and scientific environment

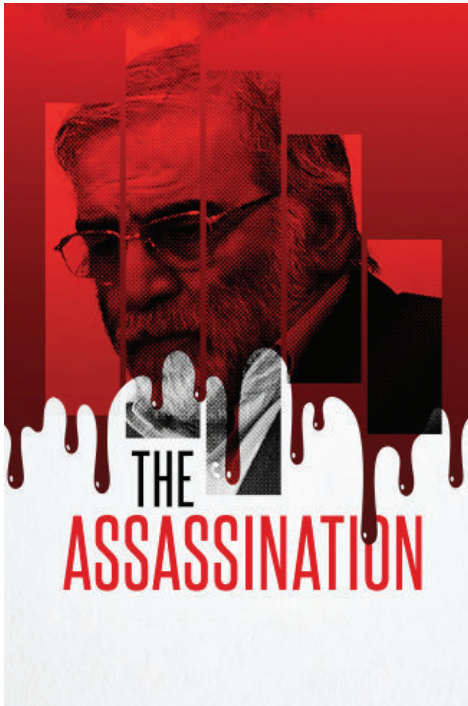
Promotes scientific growth through the efforts of pious, brave youth



### ENEMIES' GOALS

Damaging Iran's scientific progress by intimidating & eliminating scientists

Preventing Iran from becoming a role-model for the world's Muslims



# THE LEADERS

A Monthly News Analysis & Review

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## EDITORIAL

**D**r Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, Iran's top scientist and physicist was assassinated on Friday November 27 outside Tehran. His car was ambushed by terrorists. He sustained serious injuries and was rushed to hospital but succumbed to his injuries. According to latest information from Tehran, an ambush was set up for him at a round about. As his convoy of cars approached the round about, shots were fired at his car. He was travelling with his wife at the time.

Dr. Fakhrizadeh came out of his car to see what was going on. It was that time that a pick-up truck with a machine-gun mounted on it opened fire hitting him three time. It is believed the machine-gun was operated automatically and that there was no one in the attacking vehicle. A nearby parked Nissan was rigged with explosives that also blew up. While the nuclear scientist and physicist's assassination has drawn condemnation, it is widely believed that Zionist Israel was behind this latest criminal act.

"The multi-pronged attack involved at least one explosion and small fire by a number of assailants in Absard city of Damavand County, Tehran Province," Press TV reported. Quoting Fars News Agency, Press TV said that Dr. Fakhrizadeh headed the Iranian Defense Ministry's Organization of Defensive Innovation and Research (SPND). His lab had produced the test kit for Covid-19.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif roundly condemned the terror attack, saying there

were “serious indications” of the Israeli regime’s role in the assassination of Fakhrizadeh, a professor of physics at Imam Hussein University of Tehran. “Terrorists murdered an eminent Iranian scientist today. This cowardice—with serious indications of Israeli role—shows desperate warmongering of perpetrators,” he said in a tweet. Dr. Zarif called on the international community, especially the European Union, to “end their shameful double standards & condemn this act of state terror.”

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had mentioned Dr Fakhrizadeh’s name several times in a presentation in April 2018. Netanyahu had darkly hinted: “Remember that name, Fakhrizadeh.” When asked about the assassination and Israel’s involvement in it, Netanyahu did not reply directly but stated with his customary twisted smile, “It has been a week of achievements.” He repeated baseless claims about Iran’s nuclear program while the Zionist entity possesses more than 200 and perhaps as many as 400 nuclear weapons. The Zionist regime had on numerous occasions in the past attempted to assassinate Dr. Fakhrizadeh.

As a state sponsor of terrorism, the Zionist entity has worked through the terrorist outfit, the Mujahideen-e Khalq Organization (MKO). This tiny but violent group of extremists has the backing of many Western regimes, including the US and France as well as Saudi Arabia.

The Rahbar, Imam Seyyed Ali Khamenei has said Iran should pursue this investigation vigorously and apprehend the criminal agents and their enablers inside Iran. He also urged the authorities to ensure the work of Dr. Fakhrizadeh continued. While the Islamic Revolutionary Guards have vowed to avenge the assassination of Dr. Fakhrizadeh, they should also give exemplary punishment to those involved in this latest terrorist act, whether at home or abroad.

Agnes Callamard, the UN human rights expert and the special rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or

arbitrary executions, condemned the terrorist act as a violation of the UN Charter and international human rights law.

“An extraterritorial targeted killing, outside an armed conflict is a violation of international human rights law prohibiting the arbitrary deprivation of life and a violation of the UN Charter prohibiting the use of force extraterritorially in times of peace,” she said in a tweet. Agnes Callamard (@AgnesCallamard) November 27, 2020

Former Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt suggested that the assassination could be part of plots to block the incoming Joe Biden’s administration from re-engaging in diplomacy with Iran. Meanwhile, three US officials said that Israel was behind the assassination of Dr. Fakhrizadeh.

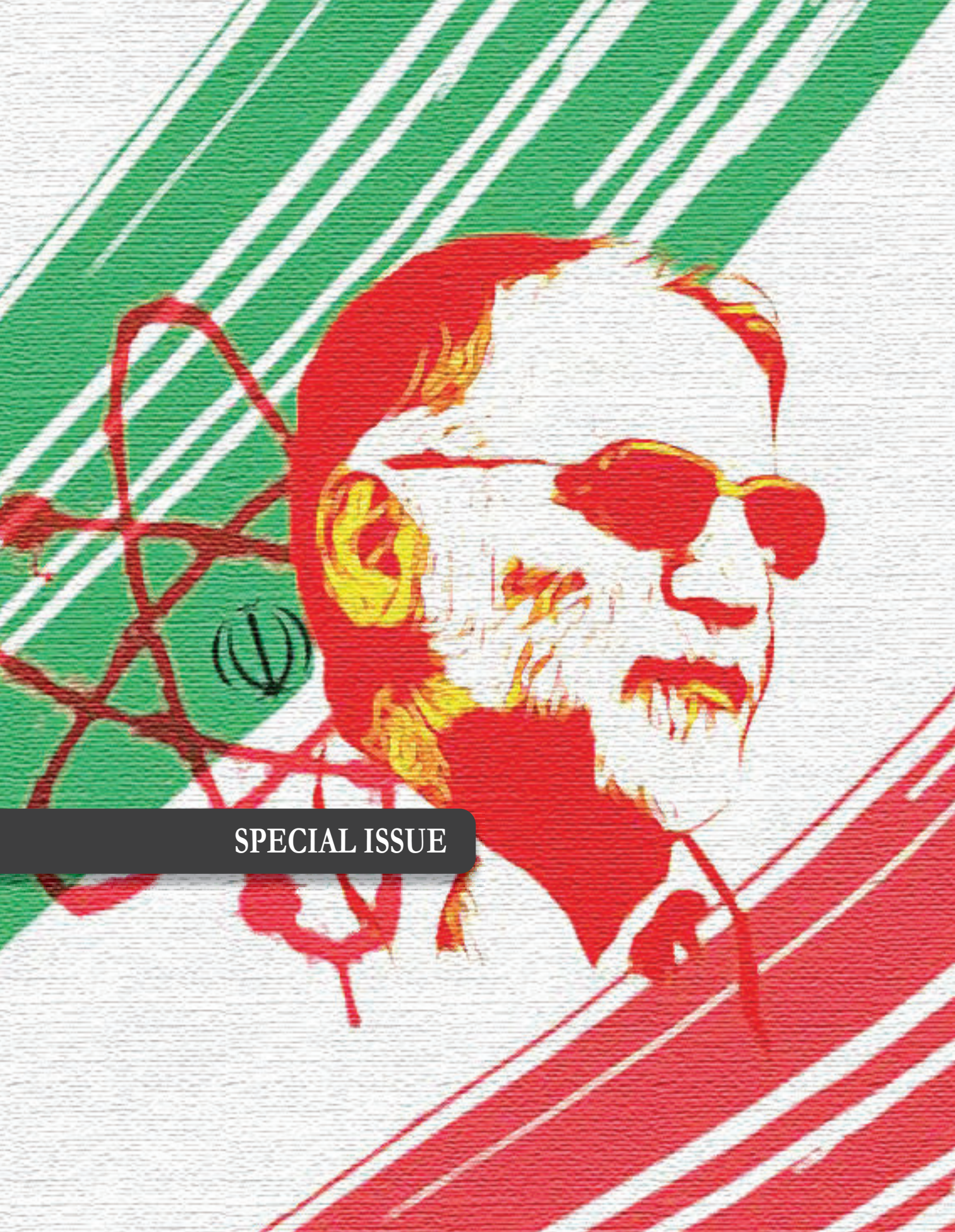
“One American official — along with two other intelligence officials — said that Israel was behind the attack on the scientist,” The New York Times reported on Friday.

The New York Times summarized the “chilling message” that “American officials” wanted to send to top scientists in Iran with the assassination of Fakhrizadeh: “If we can get him, we can get you, too.”

There is even speculation that the assassination plot was discussed between US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Netanyahu and Saudi crown prince Muhammad bin Salman when the trio met in Neom City on November 22. If true, this would make the three accomplices in the terrorist act.

Between 2010 and 2012, a number of Iranian nuclear scientists were assassinated in Tehran, again by Zionist agents in Iran.

The Zionist entity is a terrorist state. Let there be no mistake about it. ■



SPECIAL ISSUE



# Assassinated Fakhrizadeh was among architects of Iran's nuclear program



Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, a nuclear scientist and one of the most important people in the country, was recognized as the man behind Iran's nuclear program

MOHSEN

## Fakhrizadeh

- Was one of the Iranian officials sanctioned under **United Nations Security Council Resolution 1747**
- Was serving as physics professor at **Imam Hossein University, a military institution**, and head of the Research and Innovation Organization of the Ministry of Defense
- Western intelligence services described Fakhrizadeh as **"the father of Iran's military nuclear program"**
- Fakhrizadeh was one of five Iranians listed **among 500 most powerful individuals in the world** by American magazine Foreign Policy

**1957**

Born in Qom, Iran

**1979**

Served in the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps that was established after the Iranian revolution

**1989**

In previous years, Tehran prevented publication of any information about him and did not allow inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors to meet him

**2003**

According to the IAEA, the program was terminated

**2018**

Identifying him as Iranian nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said: **"Don't forget this name"**

Israeli sources confirmed that Mossad attempted to assassinate Fakhrizadeh, who was responsible for atomic reactors in Tehran, but failed

**2020**

Killed in an armed attack on his vehicle on Nov. 27 in Absard district of Tehran



**IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER**  
MOHAMMAD JAVAD ZARIF

"Strong proof has been found indicating Israel's role in the terrorist attack on scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, one of the architects of Iran's nuclear program"



**ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER**  
BENJAMIN NETANYAHU

"I want to say something is happening in the Middle East. We have a tense period ahead."



# MOHSEN FAKHRIZADEH : MILES TO GO BEFORE I SLEEP

DR SM HAQ

SENIOR JOURNALIST

**I**ran's big nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh was assassinated on 27 November. He held the rank of Brigadier General in Iran's prestigious Revolutionary Guard and was the head of the Defense Research and Innovation Organization under Iran's 'Green Salt Program'. Iran's government-backed Mehr news agency reported that a satellite-controlled machine gun was used to slay top Iranian nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh.

In a misleading way, a news stream is emerging by western media to cover up this terrorist act and to highlight Iran's nuclear program. This is while IAEA has confirmed in several consecutive reports that Iran has fully complied with the JCPOA and Iran's remedial measures in response to the US unilateral withdrawal from the JCPOA have had no impact on the IAEA's monitoring and verification of Iran's peaceful nuclear program. Indeed, Iran's peaceful nuclear program remains subject to the "most robust" inspection regime in the history.



### Who was Mohsen Fakhrizadeh?

Born in Qom, the religious capital of Iran, Mohsen received his BSc in nuclear physics from Shahid Beheshti University in 1987 and studied for a master's degree at the Isfahan University of Technology. He did his PhD in nuclear radiation and cosmic rays.

Fakhrizadeh was a member of the Imam Hossein University (IHU) faculty beginning in 1991. At IHU, located in Tehran, he taught physics. In the early 2000s, Fakhrizadeh led an initiative called the Biological Study Centre, described as a successor to the Physics Research Centre (PHRC). The activities of this research group took place at Lavizan-Shian.

Prof. Mohsen Fakhrizadeh had an outstanding role in different peaceful scientific projects in Iran, the most recent example of which is development of the first indigenous COVID-19 test kit and vaccine, which is a great contribution to his national efforts in curbing the COVID-19 pandemic and production of its vaccine at a time when Iran is under the unilaterally imposed sanctions of the United States' regime.

Fakhrizadeh was a key figure in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, which hit Iran particularly tough. According to Majid Takht-Ravanchi, Iran's ambassador to the United Nations, Fakhrizadeh led the team that developed the first Iranian COVID-19 tests. Iran's Defense Minister Amir Hatami reported that Fakhrizadeh had taken "great strides in the field of developing COVID-19 vaccine." He added that the center led by Fakhrizadeh went through the first phase of clinical human trials in the field of developing corona vaccine and "did great things for our dear people". The head of the Coronavirus Battle Headquarters of Tehran paid tribute to Fakhrizadeh as a prominent scientist and distinguished scholar in research, technology and the health sector.

He is believed to have been involved in enrichment work under Iran's nuclear program. He was killed when he was traveling with his wife in a village outside the capital Tehran in a bullet-proof car. It is understandable that Mohsen Fakhrizadeh was associated with many peaceful scientific research of Iran.

### History of Attacks on Iranian Scientists

Over the years, many top Iranian scientists and national heroes were targeted and assassinated in various terrorist attacks. Iran has been blaming Israel for the recent assassination of a senior Iranian nuclear scientist because it considers Iran's military and nuclear program a threat to itself. While the only country with nuclear weapons in the Gulf is Israel. Since Donald Trump was elected President, Washington had pressured Israel to abandon the nuclear deal between nuclear and 5 + 1.

So far, six big scientists of Iran have been killed. Ardeshir Hosseinpou in 2007, Masoud Alimohammadi in 2010, Majid Shahriari, Darioush Rezaeinejad in 2011, Mostafa Ahmadi Roshan in 2012 and Mohsen Fakhrizadeh in 2020 this year. Fereydoon Abbasi was also attacked in the year 2010

but his life was saved. When Ardeshir was killed in 2007, the US private intelligence agency 'Startfor' said that he was a target of Israeli intelligence agency Mossad. Masoud Alimohammadi was killed by gunpowder explosion on his motorcycle. The killer, Majid Jamali Fashi, was captured and admitted to training in the Israeli city of Tel Aviv and that he killed the Iranian scientist Masoud Alimohammadi at the behest of Mossad.

Nuclear scientist Majid Shahriari was killed in a car explosion. The American magazine Time raised suspicion that the Israeli intelligence agency Mossad had committed the murder. Only 35-year-old nuclear physics scientist Darioush Rezaeinejad was shot in the chest by 5 bullets when he went to pick up his daughter from school. He was

assassinated by Tamir Prado, the then Mossad's new chief. Scientist Mustafa Ahmadi Roshan was killed by a car explosion. The murderer Arash Kerhadkish told in interrogation that he murdered at the behest of Israel. It is important to mention that Qasem Soleimani, the commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Quds Force, was also killed in January this year from a drone near the Syrian border in Iraq.

In 2015, 111 people died when a crane collapsed in Mecca during Hajj at Saudi Arabia. A total 11 devotee of Iran origin killed in the incident. Significantly, in these 11, the head of Iran's Space Research Institute, Dr. Ahmed Hatami, also died. Even today, many Indian thinkers refer to the Mecca Crane incident as the Saudi plan to assassinate Hatami, which was executed at the behest of Israel's Mossad.

### Israel: foe & fear of Iran

Israel is found in almost every attack on Iran that can shatter the capability of the great Islamic republic. Israel is believed to have been behind the explosion of the Natanz nuclear facility. It is currently part of the country's uranium enrichment program. Israel has long been targeting Iran's nuclear programs. Israel has killed nuclear scientists and carried out cyber attacks in the last decade with the intention of damaging Tehran's nuclear development. In 2011, an explosion killed Hassan Tehrani-Moghaddam, the architect of a third major pillar of Iran's national defense, another member of the IRGC, who had helped develop the country's missile program.

“Such a dastardly act of terror is a flagrant violation of international rules and moral and humanitarian principles and is committed against Iran which itself has so far been at the forefront of the fight against terrorism in order to establish peace and stability in the region and the world.” Iranian establishment said in a release. “Over the past recent years, several top Iranian scientists & national heroes have been targeted and assassinated in different terrorist attacks and our firm evidence clearly indicates that certain foreign centers have been behind such assassinations. The recent assassination of the senior Iranian nuclear scientist also bears the clear hallmark of the cowardly acts committed by the terrorist regime of Israeli, which has already assassinated a large number of scientific elites in Iran and all over the region” release quoted.

It is very difficult for Israel to spy in Iran. In 2018, Israeli intelligence spied documents related to Iran's previous nuclear work and encircled Mohsen Fakhrizadeh for his scientific contributions. Apart from two major attacks in the year 2020, Iran's troubles have increased due to the strict restrictions imposed by the outgoing President Donald Trump on Iran.

Donald Trump was keen to attack Natanz, but his advisers explained that it would be a mistake to think of Iran as Iraq or Syria. Despite a lot of hate, Trump could not attack Iran. Israel could never dare to even think of hitting Iran directly.

### Facing terrorism of MKO

So far 17 thousand people have died in domestic terrorism in Iran. The government of Iran alleges that the terrorist organization 'People's Mujahideen of Iran' aka 'MKO' or 'MeK' aka 'Mujahideen e Khalq' has been responsible for several terrorist attacks in the country. The organization was declared a terrorist organization

by the US, Canada and Japan, apart from Iran, but the US and Canada withdrew the declaration in 2012 and Japan in 2013. Iran says American faces are seen in MKO meetings in Europe. The MKO had great support for Saddam Hussein and needless to say that when Imam Khomeini led Iran to overthrow the government of Shah

Pahlavi and to gain power, Saddam Hussein started decade-long armed struggle with Iran by US dictations. It is because of taking refuge in Iraq and supporting Saddam that the MKO has lost its trust among the people of Iran. After Khomeini came to power, MKO was held responsible for many terrorist attacks in Iran. After toppling of Saddam Hussain's government in Iraq, MKO also had to leave Iraq and take refuge in Albania. In 2013, its last office also closed at Camp Ashraf, Iraq. MKO is headquartered in the city of Manez, Albania. MKO also has the support of Israel.

MKO has a long history of terrorism in Iran. On 28 June 1981, bombs set by the MeK killed 70 high-ranking officials of the Islamic Republic Party, including Chief Justice Mohammad Beheshti who was the second highest official after Ayatollah Khomeini at the time. Two years after the Islamic Revolution of Iran, the MeK detonated bombs at the headquarters of the now-dissolved Islamic Republic Party. Two months later, the MeK detonated another bomb in the office of the president, killing President Rajai and Premier Mohammad Javad Bahonar. Their attacks did not succeed in overthrowing the Islamic Republic of Iran government.

Brigadier-General Ali Sayad Shirazi, deputy chief of staff of the regular army of the Islamic Republic and a military adviser to the Supreme Leader of Iran, was assassinated outside his house as he left for work in 1999. MKO took responsibility for the attack.

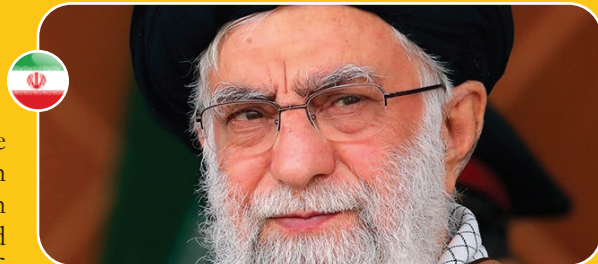
Iranian people expect that the international community condemn state terrorism and build a consensus to counter tension and adventurism in the region. Iran calls on the international community, particularly the European Union, to abandon its double standards and condemn this act of state terror, many times.

“This terrorist and desperate act emanates from the weakness and inability of the enemies of the Iranian people and their successive defeats and setbacks in the region and in other political arenas. The blind-hearted enemies of the Iranian nation, especially those who designed, perpetrated and supported this criminal act, should know that such malevolent acts will not undermine the Iranians’ will and determination to continue their glorious and powerful path and that the murder of notable Iranian scientists and characters such as Martyr Fakhruzadeh will not weaken the progress of the nation in various domains including science and innovation.” A release from Iranian establishment stated.

## Reactions

### From Iran

One of our country’s eminent scientists in the nuclear & defense fields - Dr. Mohsen Fakhruzadeh -has been martyred by brutal mercenaries. With his great, enduring scientific efforts, he sacrificed his life on the path of God & the lofty status of martyrdom is his divine reward. All relevant administrators must seriously place two crucial matters on their agendas: 1st to investigate this crime and firmly prosecute its perpetrators and its commanders, 2nd to continue the martyr’s scientific and technological efforts in all the sectors where he was active. I offer my condolences for this loss



and my congratulations on his martyrdom to his respected family, the scientific community of the country as well as his colleagues and students in various sectors, and I ask God to elevate his rank.

**-Imam Sayyid Ali Khamenei, Iran's Supreme Leader**

Once again, the evil hands of global arrogance were stained with the blood of the mercenary usurper Zionist regime.

-Hassan Rouhani, President, Islamic Republic of Iran



Terrorists murdered an eminent Iranian scientist today. This cowardice—with serious indications of Israeli role—shows desperate warmongering of perpetrators. Iran calls on int'l community—and especially EU—to end their shameful double standards & condemn this act of state terror.

-Javad Zarif, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Islamic Republic of Iran



#### From Israel

I have no clue who did it. It's not that my lips are sealed because I'm being responsible, I really have no clue.

-Tzachi Hanegbi, Cabinet minister for Settlement Affairs of Israel, a confidant of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, told N12's Meet the Press



**From UN**

We urge restraint and the need to avoid any actions that could lead to an escalation of tensions in the region, We condemn any assassination or extrajudicial killing.

- A UN spokesman

**From EU**

Fakhrizadeh's killing "a criminal act" that "runs counter to the principle of respect for human rights the EU stands for" It also urged all parties to show "calm and maximum restraint". "In these uncertain times, it is more important than ever for all parties to remain calm and exercise maximum restraint in order to avoid escalation which cannot be in anyone's interest,"

-A statement from European Union

**From Qatar**

"Such steps will only contribute to pouring more fuel on the fire at a time when the region and the international community are searching for ways to reduce tension and return to the table of dialogue and diplomacy"

- Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Foreign Minister of Qatar, during a phone call to Foreign Minister of Islamic Republic of Iran Javad Zarif according to QNA, Qatar's state news agency.



### From Syria

Israel and “those who supported it” of being behind Fakhrizadeh’s assassination, an act he said would only fuel more tensions in the region.

-Faisal Mekdad, Minister of Foreign Affairs,  
Syrian Arab Republic



### From Germany

“We call on all parties to avoid taking any action which could lead to a new escalation of the situation” which “we absolutely do not need at this moment,”

-Spokesperson of Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
of Germany



### From Venezuela

Venezuela condemns the murder of the eminent Iranian scientist, Dr. Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, President of the Defense Research and Innovation Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who lost his life in a terrorist attack in the vicinity of Tehran.

-Jorge Arreaza, Minister of Foreign Affairs of  
Venezuela



**From Turkey**

Assassination of an Iranian scientist is an act of terrorism. Whether it is committed by an illegal or a “legal” organization or a State makes no difference. Terrorism is always terrorism, anyone who commits an act of terrorism is a terrorist. We oppose illegality in intl. arena.

-Dr Mustafa Sentop, Speaker of The Grand National Assembly of Turkey

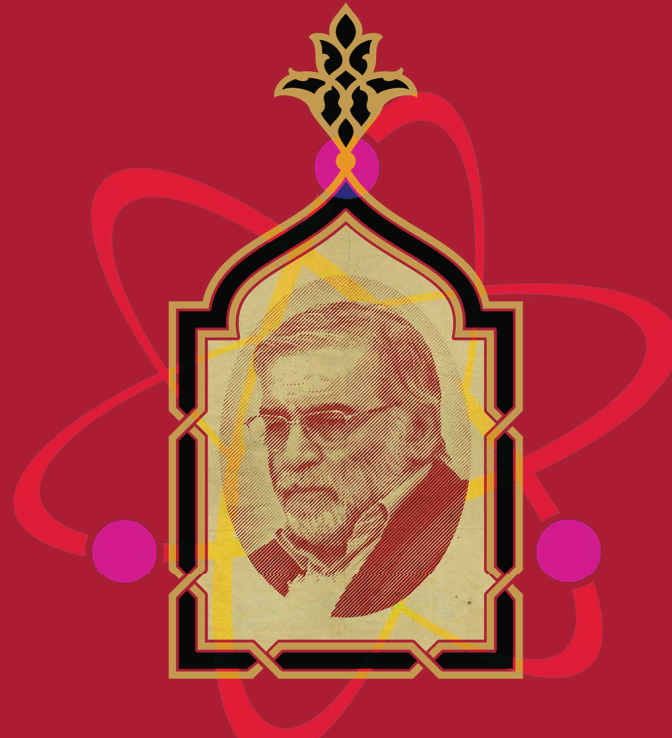
**From UAE**

The United Arab Emirates condemned the assassination and called on all parties to exercise self-restraint to avoid sliding the region into new levels of instability, according to the state news agency.

**From Iraq**

Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein expressed condolences in a phone call with his Iranian counterpart over the attack. Hussein condemned actions that do not contribute to supporting stability, foreign ministry spokesman Ahmed Al-Sahhaf said in a statement. ■





**Mohsen  
Fakhrizadeh**



**ZAIGHAM MURTAZA**

EDITOR: VIEWSWALL.COM

# ◇ ASSASSINATION OF MOHSEN FAKHRIZADEH AND THE QUESTIONS ON PEACE



How should we define the assassination of Iranian Nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh Mahabadi who was also a brigadier general in the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps? Should we call it a covert operation, a preventive measure or an act of terror? We are living in the world where military might, the armed conflicts and imposition of will is defining the fate of the people. Such incidents only threaten peace and forces us to think over our own capabilities to defend.

## Who was Mohsen Fakhrizadeh Mahabadi?

**A**ssassination of Mohsen Fakhrizadeh Mahabadi is another big loss for the Iranian nation after Major General Qassem Soleimani, who lost his life in a drone strike in Baghdad earlier this year. Fakhrizadeh headed the Organization of Defensive Innovation and Research. This body under the Ministry of Défense was responsible for the nuclear research. Mohsen Fakhrizadeh was also the professor of nuclear engineering at the Imam Hossein University, Tehran. Fakhrizadeh was assassinated at approximately 2:00 pm local time in the city of Absard, 70 km outside of Tehran on November 27, 2020.

Very little was known about him, till Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu started naming him as a person behind Iranian bomb, that never existed. Mohsen Fakhrizadeh Mahabadi, and he was born in 1958 in

the religious city of Qom. Fakhrizadeh got his bachelor's degree in nuclear physics from the Shahid Beheshti University in 1987. He studied for a master's degree at the Isfahan University of Technology and later received a PhD in nuclear radiation and cosmic rays. He is believed to be the active participant of the revolution in 1979.

His profile suggests that Fakhrizadeh was an important figure for Iran. The 2006 sanctions by UNSC brought him to limelight. He was subjected to a United Nations Security Council asset freeze and travel notification requirements as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) wanted to interview him and Iran refused to make him available. The Israel and USA blamed that Fakhrizadeh as the chairman of the Field for the Expansion of Deployment of Advanced Technology was responsible for the development of a nuclear bomb, a charge Iran denied.

## Killing of Iranian Scientists

**M**ohsen Fakhrizadeh Mahabadi is not the first Iranian scientist to be assassinated, may not be the last. Between 2010 and 2012, four Iranian nuclear scientists were assassinated. While Masoud Alimohammadi, Majid Shahriari, Darioush Rezaeinejad and Mostafa Ahmadi Roshan lost their lives, Fereydoon Abbasi was wounded in an attempted murder. Also, there have been attempts of espionage and cyber-attacks on Iranian nuclear sites. Who is behind these attacks isn't a hidden secret? Every single soul knows, it is the Zionist regime in Israel and the USA, whose president despite President Donald Trump's openly calls for "maximum pressure" policy.

## Why Mohsen Fakhrizadeh Mahabadi has been killed?

**T**he important question is, why Fakhrizadeh has been killed now? It is believed that the programme headed by Mohsen Fakhrizadeh was shelved or slowed down in 2003. He was currently engaged in low profile teaching job. Iran has strongly denied that it is pursuing the bomb. This makes him a least important target but not for the geopolitics.

Actually, Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has several problems at home. He is facing the corruption charges. The person who kept him shielding, US President

Donald Trump has himself lost the elections. The way he opposed Obama and the democrats for years, will surely will pile up his problems. Joe Biden will be another person to deal in White House. Though American policies vis a vis Israel may not change, but surely, Biden will not like to deal with Netanyahu in Tel Aviv.

Also, there are likelihood that USA may return to nuclear deal brokered in 2015 after the new regime starts its business in January 2021. Killing of Fakhrizadeh will only create hurdles between USA and the Iran.

## Covert operations or the act of terror?

When a country is not at war and its programme is open to world community for inspection, how can be these killings justified? Every country, including India and Iran has the right to use its resources and develop the energy plans for the well being of its people. Also, the countries have the right to use their resources to an extent that they may not become a threat to other nations. So, what gives Israel and USA a right to kill the people of other's soil? Israel calls Iran an existential threat for itself but so is the claim of Iran.

The most Important concern regarding the death of Fakhrizadeh is the use of technology. Iran has claimed that the handlers used the remote technology and the satellite communication to assassinate its nuclear scientist. If such technology is being used then the countries like India will have to redraw their security plans against the terrorists. After unmanned drones, unmanned guns and unmanned self-detonating trucks pose serious threat to world peace.

During the last 40 years, Israel has struck the Iranian interests al over the world. Iranian citizens have been constantly targeted and their defense establishments have been subjected to air and missile strikes. Can similar

thing be said about Iran? Except few instances of retaliation, Iranians have mostly practiced restraint. Even with missile capabilities to hit Tel Aviv and the American bases, the allies with capabilities to encroach borders, retaliation has remained minimal despite constant provocations.

A comparison itself is absurd. There is a country, that has always ignored the United Nations, that has always ignored the UN resolutions, never honoured any agreement, denying the right to live to millions of the populations on their own land, responsible for some of the biggest refugee crises on the earth, having nuclear capabilities, one of the biggest seller of arms is preaching peace to others.

Israel has become the monument of failure for the International community. The World has failed in dealing with Israel. Despite all the attempts, annexation of Palestinian lands couldn't be stopped, illegal occupation on Palestinian, Lebanese, Egyptians and Syrian lands couldn't be brought to an end, strikes on unarmed civilians in Gaza, West Bank, Lebanon and Syria couldn't be blocked. Instead of labelling it a terror state, world nations, specially the so-called world powers have kept mum over the arrogance and the terror activities of the rogue state.

## Is Iranian nuclear programme a threat to world peace?

**T**hough Iran has constantly said that the nation is not pursuing a bomb and its nuclear programme is for civilian purposes. Let us assume Iran is making a bomb. Does this fact give the right to any nation to kill its academics and scientists? If making a bomb is something a crime, then USA is the biggest criminal and all those nations are partner in crime who have nuclear heads. Mere assumption that a nation may build a bomb and will be a threat to world security is not a proper logic. Similar code of ethics implies on countries like Israel, China and Pakistan. Why Israel and Pakistan, the two nations known for the illegal interventions and conducting terror activities, should be spared at the very first instance then?

As an Indian I have my own concerns. Why I should consider the Pakistani, Chinese or the Israeli nuclear programme safe? What difference will it make to us if we have one more nuclear capable country on this planet when we have declared nuclear states like Russia, Pakistan, North Korea and China in our neighbourhood? If there is a danger of falling the nuclear materials in the hands of non-state actors and terrorists, then how are the nukes in North Korea, Pakistan and the nuclear material in countries like Ukraine, Kazakhstan, UAE and Turkey is safe? Surely, all these are notions and the ways to keep the monopoly on energy markets and technology.

## Impact of espionage and terror strikes

**I**f a nation has a technology, material and the will to go ahead, then sanctions and strikes can only delay the programme but cannot bring it to an end. Killing of scientists like Mohsen Fakhri-zadeh can have a minimum impact as it is the system not the person that is responsible for the programme. Killing of senior defence officials like Mohsen Fakhri-zadeh only expose security vulnerabilities and the failures of counter-intelligence agencies, but the country's nuclear work will keep on rolling. Such attempts cannot derail

the country's nuclear program, which has been steadily advancing.

Experts believe, Iran now has the capabilities to assemble a bomb in three to four months, should it decide to go for it. Iran now has approximate 12 times the amount of enriched uranium that it did in 2018. Its "breakout" time to build the bomb has dropped from 12 months to three to four months, according to U.N. inspectors.

## Will Iran go for a bomb?

**I**ran has always denied that it is pursuing for a nuclear bomb. Iranian supreme leader, Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Hosseini Khamenei, has issued a religious decree against the acquisition, development and use of nuclear weapons, which dates back to the mid-1990s. Supreme leader himself has announced several times and called the world community to end nuclear arms forever. Iran is a non-nuclear weapon state party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), Iran signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in 1968 and ratified it in 1970, making Iran's nuclear program subject to IAEA verification. It banned countries other than United States, Russia, China, Britain, and France from acquiring nuclear weapons. In return, the non-nuclear signatories were permitted to develop peaceful nuclear programs for power generation.

NPT allows Iran to pursue its civilian nuclear programme. The Iran nuclear deal framework, an agreement reached in 2015 between the Islamic Republic of Iran and a group of world powers: the P5+1 (the United States, the United Kingdom, Russia, France, and China—plus Germany) further consolidated its stand on use of nuclear power for peaceful purposes.

Despite all these facts, I believe Iran should also have a minimum deterrent capability. In the world full of arrogant nuclear powers, those who don't have are subjected to persecution. Just Imagine, If India wasn't a nuclear state, what would have been the results of military arrogance by Pakistan and China? Deterrence capabilities are essential for peace and equality. Don't assemble a nuclear bomb, at least have the system in place to assemble one in days, should there be a necessity. ■



# MOHSIN FAKHRIZADEH

## WHO WAS HE

Iran's most renowned nuclear scientist and a senior officer of the elite Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps

Believed to have led **Project Amad** — a covert Iranian nuclear weapons programme



## POSSIBLE MOTIVES



Of late Iran had moved ahead rapidly to build stockpiles of low-enriched uranium; Israel alleges that Mohsen Fakhrizadeh was behind Iran's nuclear programmes

Fakhrizadeh's death could be an attempt to put the brakes on Iran's forward momentum



US president-elect, Joe Biden, has made clear that he may want Iran's nuclear deal back

The assassination could be aimed at derailing any future US-Iran talks

## MOHSIN FAKHRIZADEH ASSASSINATION



### IRAN SUSPECTS



#### **Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu**

had specifically mentioned Fakhri Zadeh's name during his presentation about Iran's nuclear programme in April 2018



**Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif,** blamed Israel for the attack saying it had "serious indications of Israeli role"

# WORLD MUST TAKE A CLEAR STANCE ON ASSASSINATION OF IRANIAN SCIENTIST

THE LEADERS INTERNATIONAL

Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, a top Iranian nuclear scientist, was assassinated near Tehran in an ambush on Friday, November 27, the 6th terror attack on the country's nuclear scientists the last 10 years.

Fakhrizadeh's car was targeted by an explosion and machinegun fire in Damavand's Absard some 40 kilometers to the east of the Iranian capital.

In a message on Saturday, Iran's Leader Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei urged all relevant authorities "to probe the crime and ensure the definite punishment of those who perpetrated and ordered it," and to pursue and continue Fakhrizadeh's scientific and technical efforts in all the sectors.

It is important to note that back in 2018, the Israeli sources had acknowledged that





Mossad had tried to assassinate an Iranian nuclear scientist, but the operation failed. Several Iranian MPs have protested that Mossad had gained access to Fakhrizadeh's name via a UN list which referred to him as a senior scientist of Iran's Defense Ministry's Physics Research Center. It is also important to note that Benjamin Netanyahu mentioned Fakhrizadeh's name while addressing the UN General Assembly in 2018 and said they should remember his name.

While Tel Aviv has not officially acknowledged its role, Israeli officials have hinted that they were behind the killings of previous scientists in Iran. US officials have also preferred not to comment on the killing which came after reports earlier this month that said President Trump had reviewed options to strike an Iranian nuclear site.

At any rate, this doesn't change the fact that the scientist's family is suffering and they along with the entire nation want justice and they want justice to be served. This will happen one way or another, but the United Nations and the international civil society are duty-bound to help Tehran bring the perpetrators to account. That's the best possible way for the world community to prove that the covert war against Iran by the United States, Israel and Saudi Arabia has no international support and that it must come to an end.

Notwithstanding the Western policy, and as maintained by Ayatollah Khamenei, "Iran will never relinquish its peaceful nuclear program, as with its many ingenious applications the technology is a promising path to future security and prosperity."

What this means is that amid assassinations and sanctions Tehran will continue the development in nuclear technology and its numerous applications, especially in industry, hydrology, mining, agriculture, food, medicine,

science, environment, and space exploration. The technology answers most of the present and future needs, and it is an absolute need that no nation can escape from.

After 41 years, Iran is indeed a living example why the development in nuclear technology guarantees a much more stabilized and independent presence and position in international realm than counting on promises of technological 'aid' by the US and western governments that never came under the 2015 nuclear deal, also known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

Obviously, the terror network of foreign intelligence agencies that in a covert war continues to target Iranian nuclear scientists, technicians, nuclear and military plants, and computer systems, will never stop its criminal campaign, either.

These intelligence agencies and murderous governments are the key suspects in the assassination of Fakhrizadeh. The incident has removed any doubts whatsoever about their terror network, designed to ratchet up pressure on Iran, blunt its nuclear program, slow down its technological progress, and distract its attention from reaching self-sufficiency in all scientific spheres through its own abilities and worth.

No wonder Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Major General Hossein Salami also underlined that assassination of Fakhrizadeh may not undermine Iranians' resolve, and that revenge for the terror attack is already on the country's agenda.

In his words, "The enemies of the Iranian nation, especially the masterminds, perpetrators and supporters of this crime, should know that such crimes will not undermine the resolve of

the Iranians to continue this glorious and power-generating path, and harsh revenge and punishment is on agenda for them."

It's a sign that those responsible for the attack might be more than just one foreign intelligence agency or militant group opposed to the government in Tehran. While Israel has maintained its policy of ambiguity, Mossad is very likely involved in this joint venture with foreign intelligence agencies. It was meant to strike fear among nuclear scientists and workers that they risk their lives by working in the civilian program.

Sadly, the international community remains soundless to this outrageous action, even though the covert campaign to murder the Iranian nuclear scientist goes against international law.

The silence of governments in the West is questionable. It shows their calls on defending democracy and human rights, or global fight against state terrorism are unwarranted. This application of double standards does more harm than good against the threat of global terrorism.

Under international law and the Charter of United Nations, however, there should be no double standards in fighting terrorism. The international community is expected to take a clear stance and work with Iran to fight terrorism in all shapes and forms. It is high time for the UN member states, particularly the western countries, to condemn the Friday terrorism attack in Iran. It's the only way to prove that they also want to eliminate the roots of international terrorism and promote inter-civilization dialogue. ■



# IRAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAMME

## IRAN HAS ALWAYS INSISTED THAT ITS NUCLEAR PROGRAMME IS PEACEFUL

Suspicious that it was being used as a cover to develop a nuclear bomb prompted the UN Security Council, US and EU **to impose crippling sanctions** on the country in 2010



## IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL A TIMELINE

● **2015**

Iran reaches a deal with six powers - **the US, UK, France, China, Russia and Germany** - that saw it limit its nuclear activities in return for sanctions relief

● **2018**



**US President Donald Trump** abandons the deal and reinstates US sanctions

Iran's currency plummets, inflation rates soar as the sanctions take effect

**Iran begins flouting the terms of the deal it earlier agreed to**

● **2020**



**In Jan**, US assassinates Gen Qasem Soleimani, commander of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards' Quds force



**Iran responds** with missile strikes Iraqi bases housing US troops

**Iranian forces** inadvertently shot down one of their own passenger airplanes



**The nuclear** deal moves to total collapse as Iran declares suspension of its final commitment on uranium enrichment



**In Nov**, IAEA says Iran had more than **12 times the amount of enriched uranium than permitted under the deal**

# INTL. REACTIONS TO ASSASSINATION OF IRANIAN TOP SCIENTIST

ZAHRA MIRZAFARJOUYAN

The assassination of Iranian scientist Fakhrizadeh provoked many reactions in the region and the world but in the meantime, the silence of many human rights defenders in not condemning this assassination is debatable.

On Friday, Iran's Defense Ministry confirmed that top scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh head of Organization of Defensive Innovation and Research (SPND), was targeted on Friday in a multi-pronged attack involving at least one explosion and small fire by a number of assailants in Absard city of Damavand County, Tehran province.

In a clash between the scientist's bodyguard team and the assassins, Fakhrizadeh was seriously wounded and transferred to the hospital immediately after the attack but was martyred due to the wounds he had sustained in the terrorist assault.



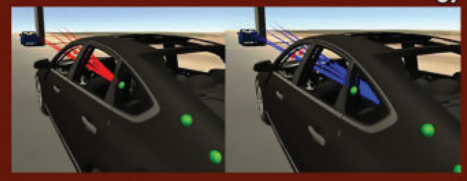
Recreating the scene

First step is that of recreating the scene in a 3D engine, in this case Unity3D (free for personal use) is chosen due to its versatility, ease of use and general "power". Ground images and place-marks can be easily exported from Google Earth and imported into Unity allowing for an easy scene reconstruction.



Mapping the bullet holes

Once imported into the 3D engine a detailed 3D model of the same car depicted in the numerous pictures of the attack, a technique called projection mapping allows to "project" a picture over a 3D model so to obtain precise spatial informations from the images. Will then isolate what are the most evident bullet marks and differentiate them between entry and exit holes/marks.



Extrapolating the bullets trajectories

At this point we have the 3D position of 5 clear bullet entry points and at least 4 clear bullet exit holes / marks. With a simple script we can iterate through all exit holes and for each of them draw the trajectories between it and all entry holes. This way we have all possible trajectories for the bullet which reached every point marked as "exit hole". Each exit hole will have trajectories of a unique color so to help processing the results.

## The Methodology

## The Results

## Mohsen Fakhrizadeh assassination - bullet trajectory analysis



### A partial analysis

With the relevant parts of the 3D scene recreated and all the approximate, possible, trajectories of the bullets (that where clearly visible in the available images at least), we now have a better understanding of how, some of the events, might have unfolded. Assuming neither the car nor the pickup where moved much from the position in which they where pictured, the bullets trajectories appear to suggest the back right side of the pickup truck as the most plausible shooting position. As images show, among all the possible trajectories, the pickup rear is where most of the paths appear to pass, at least one path for each color (each color corresponds to one of the holes in the rear of the car) and in various cases more than one. No other location in the scene has the same consistency in the trajectories.

Two of the trajectories (green and yellow) appear pretty high altho, but this might be explained by the fact that the bullets could have dropped some height between the entry and exit points, this possibly due to hitting bodies, car interiors etc, skewing the final trajectory computation.

Trajectories could also suggest that fire position was that of a tall man standing just in front of the car.

It also appears that all shots where aimed at the driver.

Fakhrizadeh was reportedly the only Iranian scientist that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had cited in a program. The Zionist regime's media say several assassination attempts to kill him had failed in the past years.

Following his assassination, US President Donald Trump retweeted prominent Zionist journalist Yossi Melman, who wrote, "Mohsen Fakhrizadeh assassinated in Damavand, east of Tehran according to reports in Iran. He was head of Iran's secret military program and wanted for many years by Mossad. His death is a major psychological and professional blow for Iran."

By retweeting, the US President implicitly confirmed the Zionist regime's involvement in the assassination of Iran's nuclear scientist.

New York Times quoted intelligence officials as saying that Israel regime was behind the assassination of Iranian scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh.

"One American official — along with two other intelligence officials — said that Israel was behind the attack on the scientist," New York Times reported.

"It was unclear how much the United States may have known about the operation in advance, but the two nations are the closest of allies and have long shared intelligence regarding Iran," it added.



Netanyahu's speech marked the first time a photo of Fakhrizadeh surfaced

The cowardly assassination of Iranian nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh also provoked many reactions in the region and the world. In this regard, Resistance groups strongly slammed Fakhrizadeh's assassination.

Hezbollah Deputy Leader Sheikh Naim Qassem said on Friday that the retaliation for the assassination of Iranian scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh was in Iran's hands, warning that Hezbollah was fully prepared for any Israeli aggression.

"We condemn this heinous attack and see that the response to this crime is in the hands of those concerned in Iran," Sheikh Naim Qassem said.

Strongly condemning the terrorist act against the Iranian scientist, Ansarullah stressed Iran's right to respond to perpetrators of this crime.

The assassination of the top Iranian scientist by enemies is seeking to target scientific achievements of the Islamic Ummah, reads the statement.



The UN Secretary-General has reacted to the assassination of a prominent Iranian nuclear scientist.

Without expressing condemnation against the assassination of Fakhrizadeh, Farhan Haq the deputy spokesman for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said, "We have noted the reports that an Iranian nuclear scientist has been assassinated near Tehran today. We urge restraint and the need to avoid any actions that could lead to an escalation of tensions in the region."

Like the UN, Germany just urged all sides on Saturday to show restraint after the killing of an Iranian nuclear scientist and avoid escalating tensions that could derail any talks on Iran's nuclear programme.



In reaction to the assassination of an Iranian scientist, UN Special Rapporteur said that an extraterritorial targeted killing, outside an armed conflict, is a violation of international human rights law.

In a tweet on Friday, Agnes Callamard wrote, "Murder of #MohsenFakhrizadeh, #Iran's top nuclear scientist: many questions still as to the circumstances of his killing. No State or non-State actors have yet claimed responsibility."

"An extraterritorial targeted killing, outside an armed conflict, is a violation of international human rights law prohibiting the arbitrary deprivation of life and a violation of the UN Charter prohibiting the use of force extraterritorially in times of peace," she added.



Dmitry Polyanskiy, First Deputy Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations said the assassination of an Iranian scientist was carried out with the green light of the United States for foreign political assassinations.

"What the New York Times analysis says is a reflection of the United States' readiness to give the green light to foreign political assassinations," he wrote on Twitter.

Addressing the US green light, Russia's deputy ambassador to the United Nations emphasized, "Not a thing to boast for a democratic country."

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza also strongly condemned the assassination of Iranian nuclear scientist Fakhrizadeh.

South African and Foreign Minister of Yemeni National Salvation Government condemned Fakhrizadeh's assassination.



US Senator Chris Murphy in a tweet reacted to the assassination of Fakhrizade, saying, "If the primary purpose of the killing of Mr. Fakhrizadeh was to make it harder to restart the Iran nuclear agreement, then this assassination does not make America, Israel or the world safer."

"Important to recall that from a security standpoint, the Soleimani killing backfired. Iran supercharged their nuclear research, increased attacks on our troops, and maintained support for proxies (Hezbollah briefly took over the Lebanese gov in 2020)."



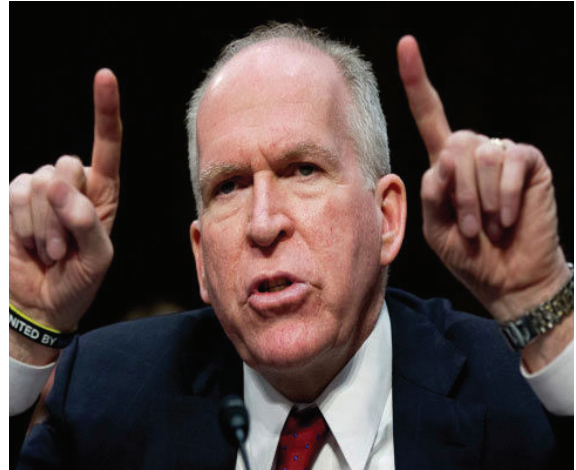
The former head of the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), John Brennan, said the killing of the scientist was a "criminal" and "highly reckless" act that risks inflaming conflict in the region.

In a series of tweets, he said Fakhrizadeh's death "risks lethal retaliation and a new round of regional conflict."

Brennan added that he did not know "whether a foreign government authorised or carried out the murder of Fakhrizadeh."

Ben Rhodes, National Security Adviser to the former US President described the assassination of an Iranian nuclear scientist as "outrageous" aimed at undermining diplomacy.

"This is an outrageous action aimed at undermining diplomacy between an incoming US administration and Iran. It's time for this ceaseless escalation to stop."



Amid the news of the assassination of Iranian scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, Mark Dubowitz CEO of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies in a provocative tweet wrote, "Still almost two months before Joe Biden takes office. Plenty of time for US and Israel to inflict severe damage on the regime in Iran — and build leverage for the Biden administration."

In a statement issued on Saturday, the Spokesperson for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of the European Union said, "This is a criminal act and runs counter to the principle of respect for human rights the EU stands for."

"The High Representative expresses his condolences to the family members of the individuals who were killed while wishing a prompt recovery to any other

individuals who may have been injured. In these uncertain times, it is more important than ever for all parties to remain calm and exercise maximum restraint in order to avoid escalation which cannot be in anyone's interest." ■





# Since 2010, Iran lost 5 of its nuclear scientists to assassinations

The Nov. 27 slaying near the capital Tehran of Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, one of the key scientists behind Iran's nuclear program, spurred fears that a string of assassinations of Iranian scientists which ended in 2012 could be restarting.

Citing Western intelligence officials, **Time magazine** wrote that **Israel is behind the assassinations** targeting Iranian nuclear scientists.

**Iran accuses the US and Israel** of killing its scientists in order to halt its nuclear program

THE STRING OF TARGETED KILLINGS OF NUCLEAR RESEARCHERS STARTED WITH **MASOUD ALIMOHAMMADI**, SLAIN IN 2010 BY TERRORISTS ON A MOTORCYCLE IN FRONT OF HIS HOUSE.



## MAJID SHAHRIARI

(NOV. 29, 2010)

Shahriari, a quantum physics researcher at the Iranian Atomic Energy Organization, lost his life to a bomb attached to his car while driving.



## MASOUD ALIMOHAMMADI

(JAN. 12, 2010)

Alimohammadi, a professor at the University of Tehran known for his work on quantum physics and elementary particles, lost his life when a booby-trapped motorbike blew up in front of his house.

Majid Jamali Fashi, who was arrested for the attack, told police that he was trained by Israeli intelligence agency Mossad and carried out the attack on behalf of Israel.



## DARIOUSH REZAEINEJAD

(JULY 23, 2011)

Darioush Rezaeinejad was killed by motorcycle-riding gunmen while with his wife after they picked up their daughter from kindergarten. His wife and child survived.

## MOSTAFA AHMADI ROSHAN

(JAN. 11, 2012)

Lost his life when a bomb planted under his car exploded near Allameh Tabataba'i University in eastern Tehran.

A nuclear physicist, Roshan worked at a uranium enrichment facility in Natanz, and was also one of the masterminds behind the country's missile program.

## MOHSEN FAKHRIZADEH

(NOV. 27, 2020)

Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, a key figure in Iran's nuclear program, lost his life in an armed attack on his car in the capital Tehran.

# VERY CLEAR ISRAEL ORDERED THE ASSASSINATION OF FAKHRIZADEH

ZAHRA MIRZAFARJOUYAN



Former acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Non-Proliferation for US Foreign Service believes that Mike Pompeo almost certainly discussed the assassination of Fakhrizad when he met with Netanyahu in Tel Aviv on 19 November.

**O**n Friday, Iran's Defense Ministry confirmed that top scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh head of Organization of Defensive Innovation and Research (SPND), was targeted on Friday in a multi-pronged attack involving at least one explosion and small fire by a number of assailants in Absard city of Damavand County, Tehran province.

In a clash between the scientist's bodyguard team and the assassins, Fakhrizadeh was seriously wounded and transferred to the hospital immediately after the attack but was martyred due to the wounds he had sustained in the terrorist assault.

Fakhrizadeh was reportedly the only Iranian scientist that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had cited in a program. The Zionist regime's media say several assassination attempts to kill him had failed in the past years.

Following his assassination, US President Donald Trump retweeted prominent Zionist journalist Yossi Melman, who wrote, "Mohsen Fakhrizadeh assassinated in Damavand, east of Tehran according to reports in Iran. He was head of Iran's secret military program and wanted for many years by Mossad. His death is a major psychological and professional blow for Iran."

By retweeting, the US President implicitly confirmed the Zionist regime's involvement in the assassination of Iran's nuclear scientist.

To shed light on the issue, we reached

out to Mark Fitzpatrick, Associate Fellow and former Executive Director of the Americas office of the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS). He also served as acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Non-Proliferation for US Foreign Service.



In a speech, Netanyahu stands in front of a picture of Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, April 30, 2018

### Here is the full text of the interview:

**Many say the Israeli regime was behind the assassination of Iranian scientist Fakhrizadeh. What do you think of this?**

**Killing Fakhrizadeh was a political decision, heavily affected by the US election and the time left in Trump's term.**

It seems very clear that Israel ordered the assassination. As I wrote in a commentary for the International Institute for Strategic Studies, Israel had no doubt been tracking Fakhrizadeh for years; in April 2018, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu identified the scientist as the head

of the programme that conducted weapons work at the beginning of the century. Fakhrizadeh's assassination would have taken months to plan, starting well before Biden's election. Yet many plans are hatched without being implemented. Pulling the trigger on this one was not just a matter of actionable intelligence, with the hit team finally having a bead on the man. Killing him was a political decision, heavily affected by the US election and the time left in Trump's term.



In a meeting, Trump sought options for attacking Iran

### Can such an act be committed by Israel regime without any coordination with Donald Trump?

Whether or not Trump gave Israel a green light, he certainly was not unhappy about the assassination.

An unnamed senior US official has said that the United States had nothing to do with it. Just two weeks earlier, however, Trump had made clear his desire to attack Iran and, when talked out of airstrikes, he

asked for other options. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo almost certainly discussed such options when he met with Netanyahu in Israel on 19 November. The day after the attack, Trump retweeted a tweet by a well-placed Israeli journalist that the killing was a 'blow for Iran'. Whether or not Trump gave Israel a green light, he certainly was not unhappy about the assassination.



**What can be the real goals behind this act at this critical time? And what can be the consequences?**

The assassination of Iranian nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh was not meant to stop Iran's nuclear program. The real target was Joe Biden's foreign policy and his aspiration to restore the Iran nuclear deal.

[The real target was Joe Biden's foreign policy and his aspiration to restore the Iran nuclear deal.](#)

Fakhrizadeh was not removed in order to head off an imminent Iranian nuclear program. The assassination was not an act of pre-emption, even in the loosest construct of that concept. Nor was it an effective act of strategic prevention. However important his leadership role, Fakhrizadeh was not irreplaceable; over the past two decades, he has mentored dozens of scientists who share his knowledge and mission. No doubt it would take Iran longer to produce weapons without him, but produce them it could.

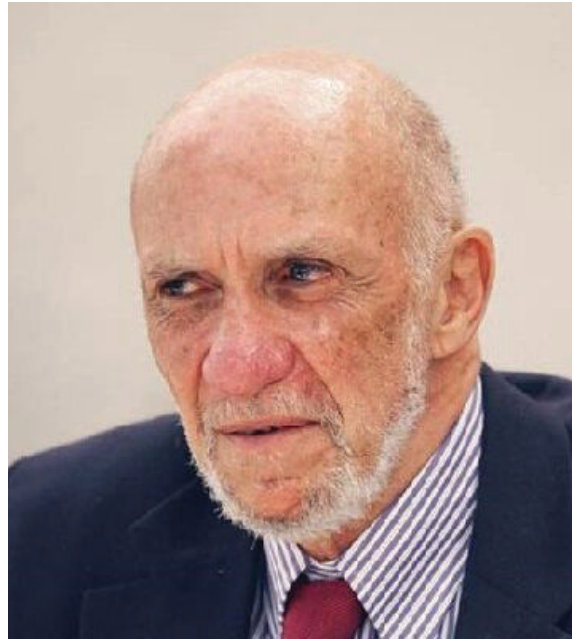
Killing Fakhrizadeh will make it more difficult for both the US and Iran to restore the nuclear accord

and the hope for comity that it fostered. Although Biden pledged in September to return to the JCPOA if Iran did so. He faced demands even from within his own party to impose additional conditions. Influential Delaware Senator Chris Coons said he could not support returning to the deal unless there was also a path to limiting Iran's missile programme and support for regional proxies. Even among many experts who deplored Trump's new sanctions on Iran, there is a view that the leverage supposedly derived from them should be used to extract a better deal from Iran or at least to extend the deadlines.

Iran's next moves will be crucial to the survivability of the deal. Any retaliation that results in Israeli or American deaths will usher in an escalation, which would be relished by American uber hawks.■

# ◆ FAKHRIZADEH ASSASSINATION NOT JUSTIFIABLE BY ANY THEORIES

ZAHRA MIRZAFARJOUYAN



Richard Falk says the assassination of Mohsen Fakhrizadeh cannot be legally, morally, or politically justified by any acceptable theory, and has very negative implications as an international precedent.

**T**op Iranian nuclear and defence scientist 'Dr. Mohsen Fakhrizadeh', who headed the Iranian Defense Ministry's Organization of Defensive Innovation and Research (known by its acronym SPND), was targeted on Friday in a multi-pronged attack involving at least one explosion and small fire by a number of assailants in Absard city of Damavand County, Tehran Province.

New York Times quoted intelligence officials as saying that Israel regime was behind the assassination of Iranian scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh.

"One American official — along with two other intelligence officials — said that Israel was behind the attack on the scientist," New York Times reported, adding, "It was unclear how much the United States may have known about the operation in advance, but the two nations are the closest of allies and have long shared intelligence regarding Iran."

The assassination of Iranian scientist Fakhrizadeh provoked many reactions in the region and the world but in the meantime, the silence of many human rights defenders in not condemning this assassination is debatable.

In this regard, the Iranian Foreign Minister had condemned the assassination of Mohsen Fakhrizadeh and called on the international community not to remain silent in the face of this terrorist act and to abandon double standards and condemn the act of state-sponsored assassination.

To know more about the issue, we reached out to Richard Anderson Falk, American professor emeritus of international law at Princeton University.



The scene where Moshen Fakhrizadeh assassinated on Nov. 27, 2020

### Here is the full text of the interview:

**Isn't the assassination of the Iranian scientist against international law and norms?**

Fakhrizadeh's assassination cannot be legally & politically justified by any acceptable theory and has very negative implications as an international precedent.

Yes, it is a targeted use of international force that cannot be justified by a valid claim of self-defence, which by the UN Charter, requires a prior armed attack. Such an assassination amounts to an unlawful 'extra-judicial execution,' which the UN Human Rights Council has condemned.

In the case of Afghanistan, the US justified drone assassinations in various parts of the world either by an anti-terrorist rationale or by the contention that a hot battlefield has been extended to foreign countries if linked to the combat. Israel has resorted to extra-territorial assassinations since its inception despite frequent condemnations.

The assassination of Mohsen Fakhrizadeh cannot be legally, morally, or politically justified by any acceptable theory, and has very negative implications as an international precedent.

**Many believe the terrorist act has been committed by the Israeli regime.  
What do you think of this?**

I find all forms of state terrorism indefensible, especially aggravated to be unlawful, amounting to when directed at civilians. international crimes, and morally



US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and his wife step off a plane in Tel Aviv, Nov. 18, 2020

**Can such an act by the Israeli regime be done without coordination  
with Trump?**

As such coordination is rarely acknowledged, we can only surmise that it occurs. Given the timing of Pompeo's visit to Israel prior to the assassination constitutes circumstantial evidence of knowledge before the event, if not active coordination.



### Why have the terrors been focused on Iranian nuclear and defensive elites?

Israel, US, and likely Saudi Arabia have been carrying on an unlawful destabilization campaign against Iran for many years, which has intensified during the Trump presidency.

Such a focus corresponds with Israel's security narrative, which seems to have been unconditionally accepted during the Trump presidency. It alleges that Israel's longer-range security is threatened by Iran's nuclear program, which it further alleges

seeks to gain the capability to produce nuclear weapons, and its immediate security is jeopardized by Iran's large arsenal of precision-guided missiles. Israel, the US, and likely Saudi Arabia have been carrying on an unlawful destabilization campaign against Iran for many years, which has intensified during the Trump presidency and the Netanyahu leadership in Israel. Israel may feel emboldened by both the Trump support and the normalization agreements with the UAE and Bahrain.

### What can be the consequences of such a criminal irresponsible act?

The Iranian choice of diplomacy versus some form of military retaliation will likely shape the future with respect to 'consequences'.

This depends on how Iran chooses to respond, essentially whether it awaits Biden's inauguration as the US President on January 20th, hoping for a renewal of US participation in the Joint Comprehensive Program of Action (JCPOA) (2015 Agreement on Iran's Nuclear Program), including the lifting of all sanctions. The Iranian choice of diplomacy versus some form of military retaliation will likely shape the future with respect to 'consequences.'

There are other uncertainties. (1) will Trump/Netanyahu seek to provoke Iran by further aggressive actions in the interim? (2) will Biden follow the Obama path toward diplomacy or be more guided by a policy that strikes a compromise between Obama's and Trump's approach? Such a compromise would extend the 2015 arrangement to cover non-nuclear regional security issues affecting Yemen, Gaza, and Lebanon, and possibly Syria. (3) do the normalization agreements between Israel and several Arab governments create a new regional situation that is different than what existed pre-Trump?

### What are the goals behind the act considering the timing?

As the act itself has not been officially acknowledged, commentary on its goals is necessarily speculative. The most reasonable interpretation of goals is to provoke Iran so as to give Israel a pretext for retaliation and

possibly draw the US into a combat role, and if this fails, to make a diplomatic accommodation with the Biden presidency more problematic for both sides.

### Why haven't European countries condemned the act strongly and somehow they have kept silent?

Europe is hoping mainly for a renewal of its special relationship with the US as soon as Biden takes over.

diplomacy that appears not to take sides in this central confrontation between Iran and the Arab/Israel security partnership.

Europe has disengaged from active involvement in the region except possibly for France in relation to Lebanon and the East Mediterranean natural gas disputes. Europe is hoping mainly for a renewal of its special relationship with the US as soon as Biden takes over. It does not want to have any distractions from this goal, and it may feel that its future leverage is greater if it pursues equidistance

Richard Anderson Falk is the author or coauthor of 20 books and the editor or co-editor of another 20 volumes. In 2008, the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) appointed Falk to a six-year term as a United Nations Special Rapporteur on "the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967."



# 'FAKHRIZADEH ASSASSINATION MEANT TO DESTABILIZE REGION'

THE LEADERS INTERNATIONAL



The Head of the Russian Federation Council committee on intl. affairs believes the assassination of Iran's Fakhrizadeh was aimed at destabilizing the situation in the region and that Iranian leadership is not to blame for this.

In a post on his Facebook, Kosachev referred to Iranian President Hassan Rouhani's stance blaming the Israeli regime for the incident, saying, the fact that Tehran, first of all, pointed out the guilt of the United States and the Israeli regime in the murder is not surprising.

"Whoever was behind this murder, it can certainly be characterized as a terrorist attack aimed at destabilizing the situation in the region, as well as provoking a tough reaction from Iran," the Russian senator said.

In his opinion, a "trigger" is needed to start a war, which may well be the death of an Iranian physicist. "Dangerous games, the consequences of which are not predictable, but definitely negative. And the Iranian leadership is not to blame for this," Kosachev said.

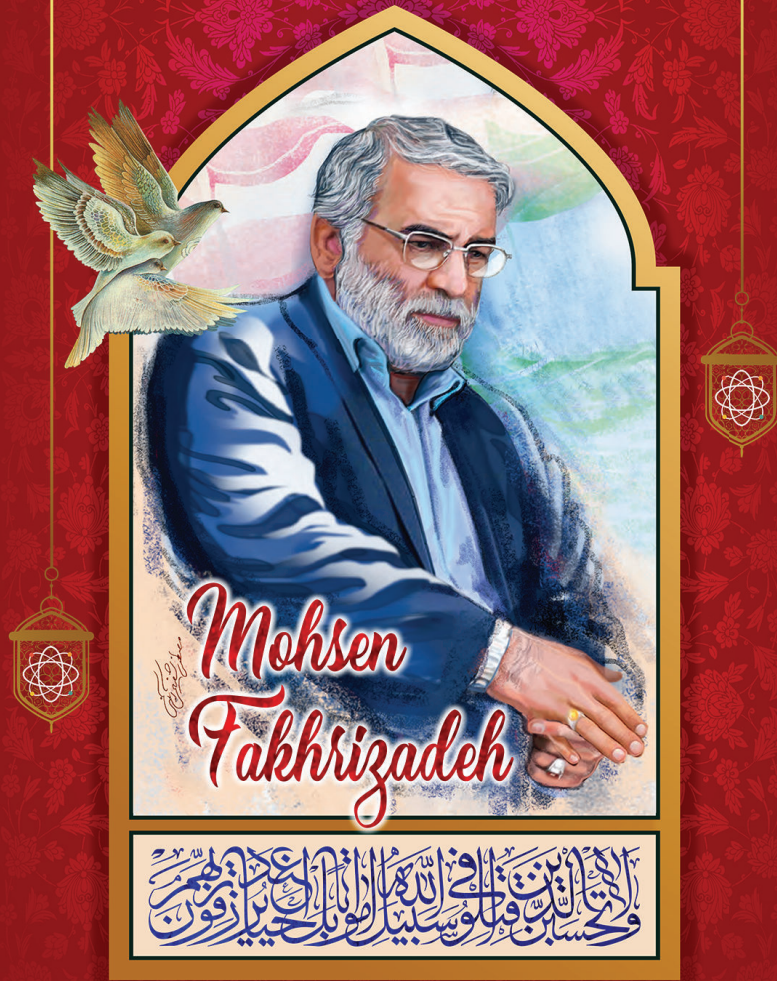
On Saturday, the American special services were reported to accuse the Israeli regime of the murder

of Fakhrizadeh. At the same time, it is not known whether the United States could have been aware of the operation in advance. The White House and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) declined to comment on the matter to reporters.

Iranian Foreign Minister has called on the international community, especially the European Union, to abandon double standards and condemn the act of state-sponsored assassination.

In a tweet in German language, Mohammad Javad Zarif wrote, "Terrorists assassinate a prominent Iranian scientist. This cowardice, in which there are serious signs of Israel's role, shows the belligerence of the perpetrators out of desperation."

"Iran calls on the international community, especially the European Union, to abandon double standards and condemn this act of state assassination," he added. ■



# A MESSAGE FROM THE LEADER ON THE MARTYRDOM OF MOHSEN FAKHRIZADEH

### **In the Name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful**

The country's outstanding nuclear and defense scientist, the esteemed Mr. Mohsen Fakhrizadeh has attained martyrdom at the hands of villains and criminal sell-outs.

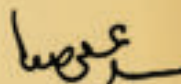
This greatly esteemed and incredibly valuable and unique scientific building block devoted his life to the path of Allah and because of his great and ever-lasting scientific efforts his divine reward is the great status of Shahadat (martyrdom).

There are two important matter that must be taken seriously by all those who are involved in the arena:

- The first is the investigation of this crime and the decisive punishment of its perpetrators and those who ordered it.
- And the second is the continuation of the scientific and technological efforts made by Shaheed [Fakhrizadeh] in all of the fields in which he was active in.

I humbly congratulate – the honorable family of the Shaheed, the country's scientific community, and all of his co-workers and students in the multiple fields in which he was active in – upon his martyrdom and send our condolences upon his loss, and we request Allah to elevate his status.

Sayyid Ali Khamenei  
November 28, 2020



# IRANIAN EMBASSY CALLS KILLING OF NUCLEAR SCIENTIST FAKHRIZADEH AN "ACT OF TERROR"

THE LEADERS INTERNATIONAL



DR. ALI CHEGENI,  
IRAN'S EMBASSADOR TO INDIA

## Press Statement on Dastardly Assassination of Martyr Fakhrizadeh

On recent cowardly assassination of Martyr Prof. Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, who headed the Research and Innovation Division of I. R. Iran's Ministry of Defence, while calling on the international community & independent media to strongly condemn this criminal & terrorist act and take necessary measures against its perpetrators & supporters, the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in New Delhi would like to draw the kind attention of the government and people of India to the following points:

- Martyr Prof. Mohsen Fakhrizadeh had an outstanding role in different peaceful scientific projects in Iran, the most recent example of which is development of the first indigenous COVID-19 test kit and vaccine, which is a great contribution to our national efforts in curbing the COVID-19 pandemic and production of its vaccine at a time when Iran is under the inhumane, unjust and unilaterally imposed sanctions of the United States' regime, strictly preventing Iranians' access to humanitarian goods including medicines and medical equipment.

- Over the past recent years, several top Iranian scientists & national heroes have been targeted and assassinated in different terrorist attacks and our firm evidence clearly indicates that certain foreign centers have been behind such assassinations. The recent assassination of the senior Iranian nuclear scientist also bears the clear hallmark of the cowardly acts committed by the terrorist regime of Israeli, which has already assassinated a large number of scientific elites in Iran and all over the region.

- This conspiracy has been devised to incite chaos in the region by the Zionist Regime of Israel which is itself the sole possessor of nuclear weapons in the Middle East and which tried unceasingly to persuade Washington to leave the nuclear accord between Tehran and 5+1 in 2018 and to restore the most severe & illegal sanctions against the peaceful people of Iran.

- Such a dastardly act of terror is a flagrant violation of international rules and moral and humanitarian principles and is committed against Iran which itself has so far been at the forefront of the fight against terrorism in order to establish peace and stability in the region and the world.

- With the 17,000 martyrs, Iran is the biggest victim of acts of terrorism. The majority of the victims of terror attacks in Iran were targeted by the MKO organization. In 2012, the US administration removed the MKO from its lists of terrorist organizations and some US officials also participated in the annual MKO assemblies in Europe. The move not only infuriated Iranian rights activists, but called into question the US's dual take on terrorism.

- Iranian people expect that the international community condemn state terrorism and build a consensus to counter tension and adventurism in the region. Iran calls on the international community, particularly the European Union, to abandon its double standards and condemn this act of state terror.

- This terrorist and desperate act emanates from the weakness and inability of the enemies of the Iranian people and their successive defeats and setbacks in the region and in other political arenas. The blind-hearted enemies of the Iranian nation, especially those who designed, perpetrated and supported this criminal act, should know that such malevolent acts will not undermine the Iranians' will and determination to continue their glorious and powerful path and that the murder of notable Iranian scientists and characters such as Martyr Fakhrizadeh will not weaken the progress of the nation in various domains including science and innovation.

- In a misleading way, a news stream is emerging by western media to cover up this terrorist act and to highlight Iran's nuclear program. This is while IAEA has confirmed in several consecutive reports that Iran has fully complied with the JCPOA and Iran's remedial measures in response to the US unilateral withdrawal from the JCPOA have had no impact on the IAEA's monitoring and verification of Iran's peaceful nuclear program. Indeed, Iran's peaceful nuclear program remains subject to the "most robust" inspection regime in the history.

- At the end, while warning against any adventurist measures by the outgoing United States administration, Israeli regime and their regional allies, Iran stresses on its lawful rights to take all necessary measures to defend its people and secure its interests and it is noted that Iran would respond to this assassination at the proper time.■

# WHAT TRAITS IN MARTYR FAKHRIZADEH INTIMIDATED THE ENEMY?

THE LEADER INTERNATIONAL



In a message, the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution both expressed his congratulations and condolences on the martyrdom of Martyr Mohsen Fakhrizadeh who was a scientist fighting in the nuclear and defensive area. In the message, His Eminence mentioned: “That unique scientific personality laid down his dear and precious life in the way of God and because of his great and eternal scientific endeavors. Therefore, the reward bestowed on him by God was the lofty position of martyrdom. KHAMENEI.IR has conducted an interview with Hujjat-ul Islam Wal Muslimeen Abdul-Hussein Khosropanah, a seminarian professor and the director of the research center “Iranian Wisdom and Philosophy” in order to highlight the late Fakhrizadeh’s characteristics.

**Interviewer:** Considering your acquaintance with Martyr Fakhrizadeh, please tell us about his personal traits.

**Hujjat-ul Islam Wal Muslimeen Khosropanah:** Hajj Mohsen Fakhrizadeh’s personality was so important that the Zionists and the MEK devised so many schemes and plans to assassinate him and they finally succeeded. He was very important to the enemy as they had hatched many plots to assassinate him but they had failed. However, this time, they launched an attack with the help of a terrorist group and they managed to martyr him. The enemy was after assassinating him for many years. Without a doubt, they had been planning it for 10 years. The recent assassination was the



result of a careful study as they managed to watch his coming and going in such an exact and thorough manner and with the help of infiltrating agents.

But what were Martyr Fakhrizadeh's characteristics and what was the enemies' viewpoint about the martyr that made them dedicate such resources to martyring him? My response is that Dr. Fakhrizadeh was a comprehensive personality who in particular enjoyed three main characteristics. First, he was a nuclear scientist. His field of study was nuclear physics and he had mastered it. Notice that some people are knowledgeable and they are specialists in nuclear physics, but they do not have a deep understanding of it. However, due to his knowledge and viewpoints on the philosophy of science and thanks to the relation that he had established between quantum mechanics physics and Islamic philosophy and because of his passion for divine philosophy, he had a deep understanding about nuclear physics.

His second quality was his morality, mystic spirit and ethical beliefs. Martyr Fakhrizadeh's outlook on the universe and on humanity was really based on a monotheistic outlook: he was a spiritual personality who was passionate for piety, dhikr and mystic principles. Normally, one of the characteristics of those who have the blessing to be martyred is that they are interested in spiritual and divine matters.

Hajj Mohsen's third characteristic was his top managerial skills: he could bring together different scientific teams to achieve a particular result. He was one of the main managers of various nuclear



teams. Well, there are various teams for nuclear activities. In the area of our missiles and also in the area of producing Corona test kits and vaccine – throughout the past year – it was his management capability that brought together various teams and that helped produce results. In my opinion, the combination of these three qualities made him a unique personality who deserves due attention.

As for my meetings with him, I should tell you that when I was the director of the Iranian Wisdom and Philosophy Association, Martyr Fakhrizadeh, known with his alias “Mohseni”, came to me and said: “We hold philosophy and physics sessions and we wish you to participate in them. I said to him that one of my areas of interest in the association “The Iranian Wisdom and Philosophy” was merging philosophy with physics, biology and human sciences – such as management, economics, political studies and art. In other words, I was interested in three areas: philosophy and natural sciences, philosophy and humanities, and philosophy and art. Therefore, we held many sessions in that research center. On the issue of the philosophy of physics, he was a source of inspiration and he always attended the sessions in a punctual and serious way. He would study the subject at hand and he would prepare PowerPoints.

It is interesting to know that we used to invite a number of experts on philosophy of science who did not at all believe in Islamic and religious humanities and who did not accept the connection between Islamic philosophy and other sciences and they would participate in our sessions. In front of all these experts, Martyr Fakhrizadeh would present his

PowerPoints, show the translated English texts, read the sentences, explain other philosophers’ viewpoints, draw on Islamic philosophy teachings and express his own opinions. He would answer the questions raised by others with complete patience. He was really a man of patience and manners and he would come to the Iranian Wisdom and Philosophy Association to participate in our sessions. This happened from the year 1392 to the year 1395. He was really more diligent than other participants as he would study the subject in a careful manner and he would actively take part in the debates.■



The necessity and way for youth to become involved in the country's movement

# TRANSFORMATION BY THE YOUTH

Imam Khamenei, the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution, held a meeting with university students on May 22, 2019. In this meeting, he stated that the youth are the main axis of Iran's movement toward new prospects. He enumerated the dimensions of the youth's influence in various areas, and these have been reviewed in this infographic.




## NECESSARY ELEMENTS FOR THE YOUTH'S MOVEMENT






## SCIENTIFIC SOLUTIONS

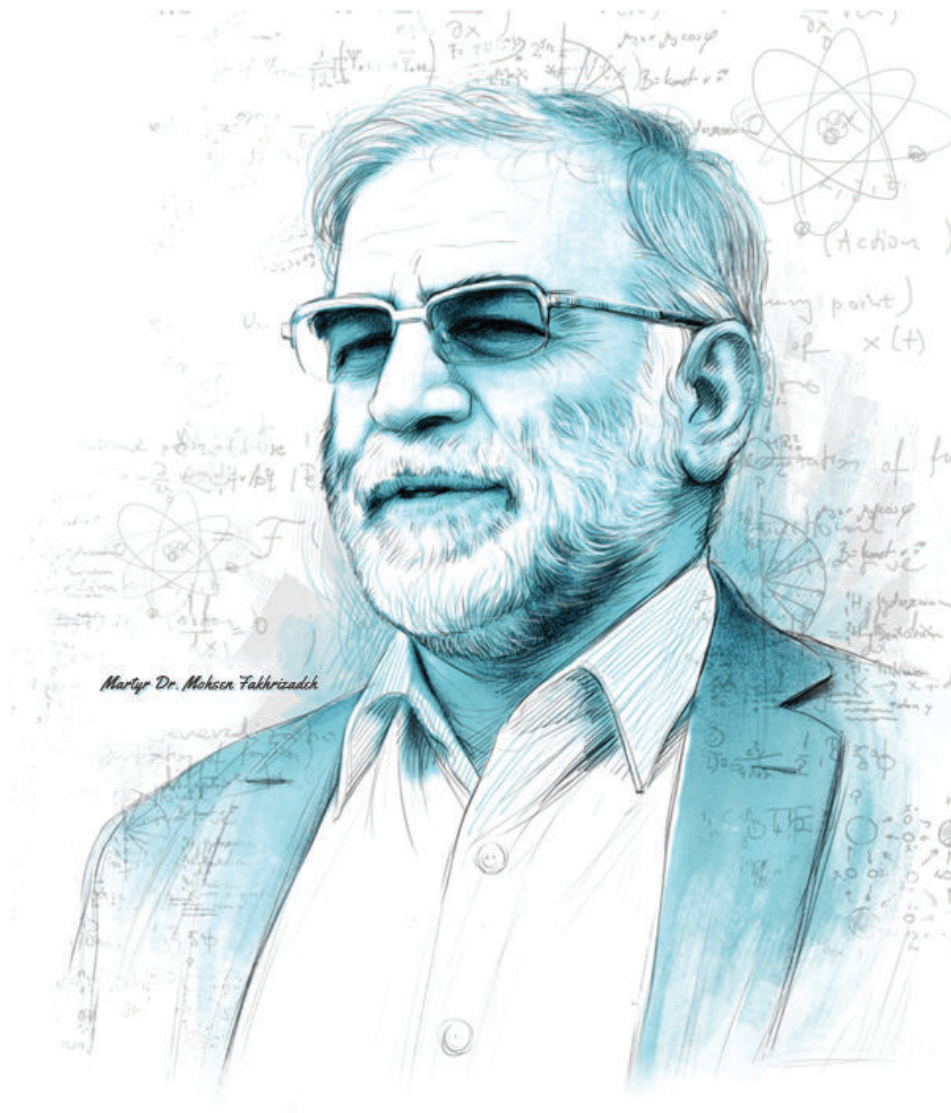
-   
 Forming active cultural and political groups
-   
 Creating groups for causes pertaining to international issues
-   
 Creating scientific groups and cooperation with scientific centers
-   
 Cooperating with knowledge-based companies for economic activities
-   
 Social and earnest volunteer activities
-   
 Holding "discussions for free thought" in universities
-   
 Reporting corruption to officials

## REQUIREMENTS

-  Preventing socio-political activities from harming their scientific efforts
-  Planning and directing affairs by the populace
-  Concentrating, following up and taking continual action to get things done

## RESULTS

- Continuation and acceleration of the country's movement 
- Neutralization of soft-power conspiracies to corrupt and disappoint the youth 
- The entrance of committed young people to the field of governing the country 



*Martyr Dr. Mohsen Fakhri-zadeh*

### **THE LOFTY STATUS OF MARTYRDOM IS HIS DIVINE REWARD**

One of our country's eminent scientists in the nuclear and defense fields - Dr. Mohsen Fakhri-zadeh - has been martyred by brutal mercenaries. With his great, enduring scientific efforts, he sacrificed his life on the path of God and the lofty status of martyrdom is his divine reward.

Imam Khamenei