



*Mission Permanente  
de la République Islamique d'Iran  
auprès des Nations Unies  
et des autres Organisations Internationales à Genève*

*In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

Ref. 2050/827138

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and pursuant to its previous communications (letter No. 2050/622128 dated 30 November 2020 and Note Verbale No. 2050/722166 dated 11 March 2021), and in reference to the latter's communication No. AI IRN 31/2021 dated 12 January 2021, concerning the savage assassination of Mr. Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, the prominent Iranian researcher, has the honor to transmit, herewith, the comment of the Islamic Republic of Iran in that regard.

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 28 June 2021



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**In the Name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful**

**Comment**

**By**

**The Islamic Republic of Iran**

**Regarding the Act of State Terrorism of**

**Assassination of Dr. Mohsen Fakhrizadeh**

- 1. Please provide information about steps taken into the investigation of the killing of Mr. Fakhrizadeh, and the results of the investigation, including any investigation into the accounts regarding the explosion of a truck and attack by several gun men.**

Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, an Iranian scientist, was assassinated with one of the most sophisticated terrorist tactics in a road ambush in the city of Absard on 27 November 2020. The assassination, which was carried out following years-long threats made by the Israeli regime, utilised a U.S.-manufactured autonomous and robotic 7/62 mm caliber M240C machine gun. The assassination operation was executed through satellite communication; it was remotely controlled from another location within the satellite radius. A Nissan pickup carrying the lethal autonomous weapon system detonated so as to complete the operation and destroy the machine gun. The use of lethal autonomous weapon systems, accounts provided by witnesses and corroborating evidence presented by experts all indicate that terrorists were NOT present at the assassination scene. The assassination is subject to *sub judice* in competent judicial authorities including but not limited to the Tehran Prosecutor's Office for International Affairs.

- 2. Please provide information about the evidence that has led to the most recent conclusion by your Excellency's Government that the killing was carried out by a machine gun operated through a remote satellite device.**

The remains of the lethal autonomous weapon and electronic components thereof show the manufacturer, equipment and existing connections to the Israeli regime.

- 3. Please provide information about the evidence that has led to the conclusion by high level State officials that the assassination was “an act of State terror”.**

Evidence outlined hereunder indicates that the assassination amounts to an act of state terrorism. With respect to the *modus operandi* through which the assassination was carried out, it is no mystery that the assault falls beyond the capacity of a terrorist group; rather it was carried out by a state fully in control of spying and terrorism equipment. Corroborating evidence and exhibits, as enumerated hereunder, point to the Israeli regime's direct involvement in the terrorist operation.

“Remember that name!” stressed the Israeli prime minister when he directly referred to the late Fakhrizadeh whilst pointing at his picture in a 2018 address on alleged stolen nuclear documents belonging to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Media outlets, including those of the Israeli regime, have explicitly divulged the regime's direct involvement in the assassination.

The Yedioth Ahronoth daily quotes Ronen Bergman, a prominent security analyst and investigative journalist, as saying that: “Israel had been compiling a dossier on Fakhrizadeh for nearly three decades!” “A considerable number of Iranian nuclear scientists were either assassinated in their cars or while they were getting out of their homes. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is confident that Mossad had been behind such terrorist attempts. I have also asked former CIA chief, Michael Hayden, about

the most effective measures undertaken by the U.S. and Israel to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons. He looked at my eyes and stressed that the best and most practical method would be the assassination of Iranian nuclear scientist after they step out of their homes!” said Bergman during an exclusive interview with Iran International TV Network on 4 January 2021 to discuss whether Israel had been behind such acts of terrorism. The Israeli regime’s Channel 12 has also revealed Mossad’s culpability for the assassination.

On 10 February 2021, an exclusive report penned by Jake Wallis Simons – which is believed to be the most complete and accurate account of the assassination – was published by the Jewish Chronicle, commonly known as the JC. The report reads:

The JC gives the fullest account yet of the assassination that made headlines around the world and significantly degraded Tehran’s nuclear capabilities. Now the JC can confirm that Israel’s feared spy agency was behind the hit, which was carried out by mounting the killing device in a Nissan pickup. And in the most complete account of the operation yet published, we can reveal for the first time the answers to the questions that have eluded the world. Operationally, however, the archive meant something else. As soon as Israeli analysts opened those black ringbinders back in 2018, they knew that Mohsen Fakhrizadeh was destined — to use Mossad slang — to “depart”. “It contained original documents ordering the concealment of the nuclear programme, many of them in Fakhrizadeh’s handwriting,” a source said. Fakhrizadeh was the father of everything we found in the archive. All was under his command, from the science and the secret sites to the personnel and know-how. He had led an operation to hide it from the world. From that point, it was just a matter of time.

The assassination plot went live in March 2020, as the world was preoccupied with the Coronavirus threat. A team of Israeli spies was dispatched to Iran, where it liaised with local agents. This comes as Iran’s nuclear activities are intensively monitored by the International Atomic Energy Agency. The IAEA inspectors have even taken environmental samples. The agency has in reports galore verified the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran’s nuclear activities. Therefore, justifications provided by the nuclear-armed-to-the-teeth

Israeli regime – which is under NO scrutiny whatsoever – are merely a pretext to rationalise its acts of terrorism.

The evidence on the ground also indicates that the Zionist regime - with the operational command of Mossad officers as the harbingers of the operation - has played the pivotal role in commandeering the terrorist operation. Documents, exhibits and corroborating evidence accumulated during operations to identify the perpetrators and their hideouts, as well as the remnants of equipment used at the assassination scene prove the Israeli regime's culpability. On the strength of points enumerated herein, the assassination squad's direct link with Mossad is an absolute certainty.

- Spying tools and equipment discovered in hideouts used by the backup agents prove the depth of their connection with Mossad;
- During investigations at the assassination scene, a label in Hebrew language was discovered in the third layer of the machine gun's electro-optics installed on the Nissan pickup; and
- A considerable number of other documents and compelling evidence have been found; however, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran cannot present them as investigations are still underway.

Explanations provided hereinabove, the brutal assassination of the country's senior defense and scientific figure who was a State official acting as a deputy to the Minister of Defense, timing of the operation as well as statements made by the Israeli authorities before and after the act of terrorism, clearly amount to state-sponsored terrorism. Furthermore, remnants of the lethal autonomous weapon prove the involvement of spy agencies for planning and committing state-sponsored acts of terrorism. Committing crimes of such nature through constituting impediments to development of the country's defensive deterrence serves the principal purpose of bringing changes to Iran's behaviour – but to no avail.

- 4. Please provide information about whether the investigation has identified any perpetrators behind the killing. In this conclusion, please confirm whether it is correct that several individuals have been arrested.**

Investigations have led to the arrest of some suspects involved in the assassination; however, it is currently unfeasible to provide further information as inquiries are in progress.

- 5. Please provide information about the results of the investigation into the assassination attempt against Mr. Fakhrizadeh in 2008, including information about whether any perpetrators were identified.**

Statements made by the Israeli regime authorities about hindering advancements made by the Islamic Republic of Iran to further its exclusively peaceful nuclear programme is directly linked to incessant assassination plots hatched against prominent Iranian nuclear scientists including but not limited to Masoud Alimohammadi, Majid Shahriari, Mostafa Ahmadi Roshan and Dariush Rezaei-Nejad since 2009. A failed terrorist attempt to assassinate Martyr Fakhrizadeh in 2008 and the recent commission of state terrorism thereagainst point to the aforementioned reasoning pertaining to the regime's assassinations.

- 6. Please indicate whether your Excellency's Government has taken any steps to bring the killing to the attention of an international forum.**

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations in New York communicated its strongest objections to the assassination through Letter No. S/2020/1148 on 30 November 2020. The Letter touched upon invaluable services provided by the slain scientist to develop coronavirus vaccines. It held the Israeli regime responsible for the cowardly assassination of Martyr Fakhrizadeh, and warned against any adventurist measures by the United States in the region, particularly during the remaining period of the former Administration of the United States in office. The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United

Nations in New York called upon the United Nations Secretary-General and the Security Council to strongly condemn this inhumane terrorist act.

In a letter (Communication NO. 2050/621424 dated 27 November 2020) to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Office and other International Organisations in Geneva touched upon his outstanding service to the Iranian nation in science and technology, and stressed that the assassination of Martyr Fakhrizadeh brazenly violated the international law, and international human rights law.

The letter further underlined the necessity to condemn crimes of such nature through human rights mechanisms. To that end, several letters were addressed to the Director-General of the United Nations Office in Geneva (Communication No. 2050/622121 dated 30 November 2020), the Coordination Committee of the Special Procedures and the former President of the United Nations Human Rights Council (Permanent Representative of Austria) ( Communication No. 2050/6221128 dated 30 November 2020) and the President of the Non-aligned Movement (Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan) and other permanent missions in Geneva ( Communication No. 2050/621441 dated 27 November 2020), Madam Agnes Callamard, Ex-Special Rapporteur on the Extrajudicial, Summary and Arbitrary Execution, ( Communication No. 2050/622096 dated 30 November 2020) and the Director General of the World Health Organization ( Communication No. 2050/622074 dated 30 November 2020). Furthermore, considering the fact that Martyr Fakhrizadeh was a scientist, the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the UNESCO delivered a statement during an Executive Council session.

In separate letters, the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Office and International Organisations in Vienna, ( including Communication dated 30 November 2020) addressed the Director-Generals of the United Nations Office in Vienna, especially the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency as well as Director-General of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and called upon

Member States to take appropriate measures and condemn such inhumane act in the strongest possible terms.