

Public Points for Qom Disclosure

Key Points

- We and several international partners have substantial and specific information that Iran has been building now for several years a small, covert uranium enrichment site at Qom, in violation of international rules.
- This follows a familiar pattern of concealment and deception by Iran and casts serious doubts on its claims of peaceful intent.
- Iran needs to come clean, take concrete and tangible steps to create confidence and transparency, and demonstrate that Iran is committed to establishing its peaceful intentions through meaningful dialogue and concrete action.
- We are committed to serious, meaningful diplomacy. These revelations underscore the importance of stating our concerns directly to Iran on October 1. We will look for Iran to take steps to create confidence for the international community.

Narrative

- We and several international partners have substantial and specific information that Iran has been building now for several years a small, covert uranium enrichment site at Qom, in violation of international rules.
- The facility is located near the city of Qom, Iran which has been under construction for several years. The facility is located in an underground tunnel complex on the grounds of an Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Base.
- Earlier this year, we developed information that gave us increased confidence that the facility was a uranium enrichment site.
- The site is under the management of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, but unknown to all but the most senior AEOI officials.
- The site is intended to hold approximately 3000 centrifuges, but we do not know what type of centrifuge Iran intends to employ there. We assess an enrichment plant containing 3000 centrifuges is not adequate to produce regular fuel reloads for civilian nuclear power plants, which require a much larger number of centrifuges.

- Based on our understanding of the status of the facility, we assess that Iran will not be able to begin enriching uranium there before at least 2010. Iran is continuing construction of support buildings at the facility. Intelligence indicates that earlier this year Iran was installing the infrastructure required for centrifuges.
- Iran may claim that this facility is for civilian nuclear fuel production. The Iranian government continues to claim that it is not pursuing a nuclear weapon. Yet this facility is too small to be viable for production of fuel for a nuclear power reactor, but may be well-suited for a military purpose.
- This is not the first example of Iran pursuing a nuclear capability well-suited for a military purpose, while claiming a peaceful intention. This is also the case with the heavy water reactor at Arak - a reactor well-suited to produce plutonium.
- It is also not the first example of Iran concealing nuclear work. In fact, Iran admitted to enrichment-related activity at Natanz only after it was disclosed by another source.
- The construction of the Qom site is yet another direct violation of the UN Security Council's demand, dating back to 2006, that Iran suspend all uranium enrichment-related activity.
- There are also clear concerns that Iran has not adhered to its IAEA safeguards obligations and has failed to provide full and comprehensive cooperation with the IAEA, despite all of its claims.
- Although Iran was obligated to inform the IAEA when it decided to build such a facility, it failed to do so.
- We learned earlier this week that Iran has sent the IAEA a letter indicating that it is constructing an enrichment facility but providing no detailed information that would enable the IAEA to monitor the site.
- We have reason to believe that Iran's letter refers to this site, and the timing of the letter may have been prompted by Iranian fears that the existence of the secret site may soon become known.

- We, together with partner countries that also possessed information on the site, briefed the IAEA on Wednesday with detailed information regarding the construction and history of the facility.
- We have urged the IAEA to investigate this site immediately and urgently, given Iran's track record of deception and clandestine sites. This includes immediate access to the facility.
- What is clear is that Iran once again has engaged in a deception of the international community.
- Revelation of this facility again underscores that Iran does not want to play by the rules like everyone else, yet still insists that Iran has the NPT rights that are afforded to everyone.
- The President made clear that we are serious about using diplomacy to find a negotiated solution to the Iranian nuclear program, but in order to do so Iran needs to be transparent and truthful.
- That means coming clean and complying with its UN Security Council and IAEA obligations.
- When we and our P5+1 partners meet Iran on October 1st, we will look for Iran to be prepared to cooperate fully and comprehensively with the IAEA; to take concrete steps to create confidence and transparency in its nuclear program; and to demonstrate that Iran is committed to establishing its peaceful intentions through meaningful dialogue and concrete action.