

Iran defies UN resolution, tests ballistic missile

31/01/2017 21:39 by admin

Tehran: Iran conducted another ballistic missile test that apparently violated a UN resolution. The missile was launched at a test site outside Semnan, about 140 miles east of the capital of Tehran, on Sunday.

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According to reports, the Khorramshahr medium-range missile flew about 600 miles before exploding in what was called a failed test of a re-entry vehicle.

Iranian Defense Minister Brig. Gen. Hossein Dehqan had revealed in September that Iran would start production of the missile.

UN resolution 2231 "enacted days after the international Iranian nuclear deal was signed" instructs the Islamic Republic not to conduct such tests. The resolution bans Iran from conducting ballistic missile tests for eight years starting July 20, 2015. But it's the country's second such test since July and first after the Trump Administration assumed the charge.

Iran was called upon not to undertake any activity related to ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons, including launches using such ballistic missile technology, according to the text of the resolution.

The landmark nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, however, does not include provisions preventing Iran from conducting ballistic missile tests, and Iran said that the tests are legal because the missiles are not designed to carry a nuclear warhead.

The US intelligence community spotted Sunday's launch with the aid of its satellite network, which can detect missile launches and explosions from around the world.

Meanwhile, the White House said that it was aware that Iran had carried out a missile test, but refrained from offering details or criticism.

"We are aware that Iran fired that missile. We are looking into the exact nature of it," said White House spokesman Sean Spicer.

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