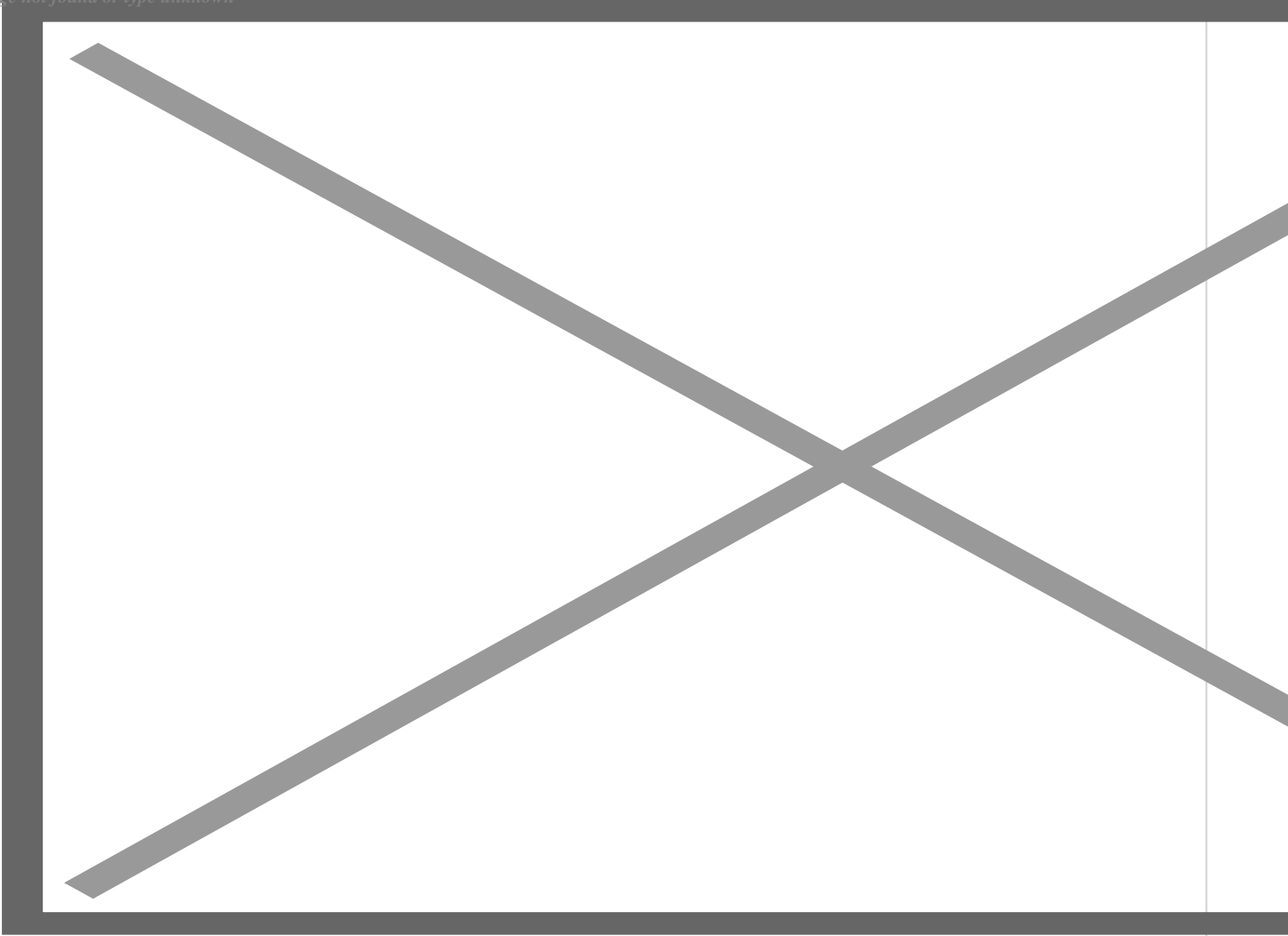


New leads found in assassination of Iran nuclear scientist

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Tehran, December 1 (RHC)-- Iran's Intelligence Minister Mahmoud Alavi says the country's security forces have found a lot of new leads on the recent assassination of senior Iranian nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh.

Fakhrizadeh, the head of the Iranian Defense Ministry's Organization of Defensive Innovation and Research, was targeted in a multi-pronged terrorist attack by a number of assailants in Absard city of Tehran Province's Damavand County on Friday.

Iranian government officials and military commanders have hinted that the Israeli regime could have been behind the terror attack, vowing harsh revenge against all the criminals involved.

Meanwhile, the New York Times reported that Israel was behind the assassination, citing three U.S. officials. "One American official — along with two other intelligence officials — said that Israel was behind the attack on the scientist," the paper said.

Speaking during the funeral procession of Fakhrizadeh in northern Tehran on Monday, Alavi said Iranian security forces started their all-out efforts since the physicist's assassination and succeeded in finding many clues by fully investigating all aspects of the terror attack.

The intelligence minister added that it was early to announce the details as the investigation was still ongoing, emphasizing, however, that the Iranian nation will be informed of the definitive conclusions in due time.

Iran's Intelligence Ministry on Sunday released a short statement, announcing that its agents have come across clues with regard to the assassination of the Iranian nuclear scientist.

"While expressing condolences on the martyrdom of Dr. Mohsen Fakhrizadeh ... hereby it is announced that ... certain clues on the protagonists of this terrorist attack have been found through intelligence work ... whose details will be made public later," the ministry said.

An informed source told Press TV on Monday that the remains of the weapon used in the Friday assassination show that it was made in Israel, adding that the weapon collected from the site of the terrorist act bears the logo and specifications of the Israeli military industry.

Head of Iran's Strategic Council on Foreign Relations Kamal Kharrazi said on Sunday that the Islamic Republic will give a calculated response to Fakhrizadeh's assassination. "There is no doubt that the Islamic Republic of Iran will give a calculated and categorical response to those criminals who took Fakhrizadeh from the Iranian nation," Kharrazi said in a message.

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