



Inspection of nuclear facilities

Iran withdraws accreditation from IAEA inspectors

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Tehran has revoked the accreditation of several IAEA inspectors to inspect Iranian nuclear facilities. The UN nuclear watchdog sharply criticized the decision - as did Israel.

The authorities in Iran are withdrawing the accreditation of further inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for inspections of nuclear facilities in the country. This significantly limits the IAEA's ability to monitor the enrichment of uranium in Iran, said IAEA chief Rafael Grossi.

An inspector's accreditation had already been revoked. The team has now shrunk by a third. Grossi did not provide the total number of inspectors. According to a diplomat, Iran has excluded all French and German members of the inspection team. There were no longer any members from the USA or Great Britain.

IAEA boss calls for revision of the decision

"I strongly condemn this disproportionate and unprecedented unilateral measure," said Grossi. "This highly regrettable decision by Iran is another step in the wrong direction." The agency will no longer be able to credibly assure that nuclear materials and activities in Iran only serve peaceful purposes. He called on the country's leadership to reconsider and revise these steps.

Iran questions IAEA neutrality

Iran justified its actions in response to a warning from the United States, Germany, France and Britain at the IAEA Board of Governors meeting in Vienna this week. They had threatened Iran with a new resolution in view of its "deliberate refusal" to cooperate with the IAEA. In doing so, the four Western states had misused the Board of Governors meeting "for purely political purposes," said Iranian Foreign Office spokesman Nasser Kanani. He referred to "the need for neutrality" of the IAEA.

Israel threatens consequences

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Iran's actions showed it was violating "all of its obligations" to the international community. The country intends to arm itself with nuclear weapons. Israel will do everything necessary to protect itself from this threat.

In a nuclear agreement in 2015, Tehran committed itself to drastically restricting the enrichment of uranium and allowing strict IAEA controls. This was intended to prevent the construction of nuclear weapons. In return, many sanctions against Iran were lifted.

Since the US under then-President Donald Trump withdrew from the pact in 2018, Tehran has gradually broken its commitments and, among other things, started producing highly enriched uranium. Negotiations to revive the agreement remained inconclusive.

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