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Press TV

Iran identifies Mossad operative in Azerbaijan

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Iranian intelligence officials have identified the operative of Mossad, Israel's spy agency, in republic of Azerbaijan, who has been involved in assassinating Iran's nuclear scientists, Press TV reports.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has called for the extradition of Mossad's Iranian spy, identified as Ja'far Khoshzaban, alias Javidan, who has been working under the auspices of Azeri security forces.

Deputy Head of the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee Esmail Kowsari said on February 22 that they have obtained documents, which state Azeri officials have aided and abetted Mossad and CIA agents in their targeted killings of Iranian nuclear scientists, namely Mostafa Ahmadi Roshan.

Ahmadi Roshan was targeted on January 11, when an unknown motorcyclist attached a magnetic bomb to his car near a college building of Allameh Tabatabaei University in northern Tehran.

The legislator highlighted that Baku's alliance with Israeli and US spy networks against Tehran will harm Azerbaijan's interests, calling on the Azeri government to keep foreign spies away from Iranian border.

Iran's Foreign Ministry on February 12 summoned the Azeri ambassador to Tehran, Javanshir Akhundov, to object to Baku granting asylum to the Mossad-trained assassins of Iranian nuclear scientists.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry also criticized the anti-Iran campaign on state-controlled Azeri news outlets and the degrading behavior of Azeri customs officials towards Iranian truck drivers.

The Azerbaijani ambassador expressed regret over the events and said Tehran's message would be conveyed to Baku as soon as possible and that a response would be relayed to the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

Last year, Majid Jamali Fashi, a Mossad agent who assassinated Iranian nuclear scientist Massoud Ali-Mohammadi, confessed to having received forged documents in Azerbaijan's Heydar Aliyev Airport to travel to Tel Aviv.

Professor Ali-Mohammadi, a lecturer at Tehran University, was killed when an explosive-laden motorbike was detonated with a remote-controlled device near his home in northern Tehran in January 2010.

Azerbaijan has reportedly granted asylum to the Mujahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) as well as the Party for Free Life of Kurdistan (PJAK) terrorists.

The London Times reported on February 11 that Israel is using Azerbaijan, a small Eurasian country which shares a border with Iran, as a base to spy on the Tehran government.

The newspaper cited the testimony of an anonymous Mossad agent referred to only as Shimon.

"This is ground zero for intelligence work," Shimon told *The Times*. "Our presence here is quiet, but substantial. We have increased our presence in the past year, and it gets us very close to Iran. This is a wonderfully porous country."

According to Shimon the Azerbaijan-Iran border, just a few hours south of the capital Baku, is prime territory for the Israeli intelligence service to gather information on Tehran's activities.

"There is a great deal of information there from people who regularly and freely travel across the borders. It is unregulated - almost," said Shimon.

Azerbaijan is a major energy producer, and exports oil to Israel and imports weapons and military hardware in return.