

BBC Learning English

Media English 媒体英语

People arrested for nuclear sabotage 涉嫌核破坏者遭逮捕



請注意：中文文字内容只提供簡體版

伊朗媒体说至少四个人因涉嫌破坏核设施而被逮捕。目前尚不清楚这些人的国籍背景或他们试图破坏的究竟是哪些核设施。以下是 BBC 记者 Sebastian Usher 发回的报道：

This is the latest twist in the **saga** of Iran's showdown with the West over its nuclear programme, which has received new **impetus** after signs that Tehran might be softening its **stance**.

The country's atomic energy chief told a security conference that the alleged **saboteurs** had been under surveillance for some time. He said they were **caught red-handed** and are now in the process of being interrogated. He gave no further details.

There've long been rumours that Israel, which sees Iran's potential development of a nuclear weapon as an **existential threat**, has sent spies into Iran to disrupt its programme, with some even accusing its agents of killing Iranian nuclear scientists. Israel has warned the US and the West not to be fooled by the recent **charm offensive** by the new, more moderate Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, who had a historic, **icebreaking** phone call with President Obama a few days ago.

The Israelis announced their own arrest of an alleged Iranian-born spy in the midst of the new optimism that a genuine resolution of a nuclear standoff could now be **on the cards**. This latest announcement from Iran shows that underneath the newly hopeful surface, the complex three-dimensional chess game over Iran's nuclear ambitions continues **undiminished**.

Questions

1. True or false? *Officials in Iran had been watching the people who tried to break into the nuclear site for some time.*
2. According to rumours, what has Israel allegedly sent into Iran?
3. Who did Iranian President Hassan Rouhani have a phone conversation with last week?
4. True or false? *Iran no longer has any nuclear ambitions.*

Vocabulary and definitions

saga	一连串事件
impetus	动力, 推动力
stance	立场, 态度
saboteurs	搞破坏的人
caught red-handed	当场抓住, 人赃俱获
existential threat	存在的威胁
charm offensive	魅力攻势
icebreaking	打破僵局的
on the cards	可能发生的
undiminished	(重要性) 未减弱的

Answers to the questions:

1. True or false? *Officials in Iran had been watching the people who tried to break into the nuclear site for some time.*

Answer: True. The country's atomic energy chief told a security conference that the alleged saboteurs had been under surveillance for some time.

2. According to rumours, what has Israel allegedly sent into Iran?

Answer: There've long been rumours that Israel has sent spies into Iran.

3. Who did Iranian President Hassan Rouhani have a phone conversation with last week?

Answer: Iranian President Hassan Rouhani had a historic icebreaking phone call with President Obama.

4. True or false? *Iran no longer has any nuclear ambitions.*

Answer: False. Iran's nuclear ambitions continue undiminished.