

Fake News? Trump Tweeted About Iran Missile Launch that Never Happened

By [Mike Murphy](#)

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Theme: [Media Disinformation](#)

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The Iranian ballistic missile launch that President Donald Trump tweeted about Saturday apparently never happened.

That's what U.S. officials told [Fox News](#) and [CNN](#) on Monday after U.S. intelligence assets in the region, including radar and satellites, found no indication of a launch.

On Friday, Iran's state-run TV showed video boasting of a new missile launch, but that footage turned out to be seven months old, U.S. officials said, taken from an unsuccessful launch in March.

Video: [#Iran](#) successfully test-fires new ballistic missile

Details: <https://t.co/eKHi0jXnED> pic.twitter.com/30XkB8ddbP

— Press TV (@PressTV) [September 23, 2017](#)

On Saturday, Trump tweeted: "Iran just test-fired a Ballistic Missile capable of reaching Israel.They are also working with North Korea.Not much of an agreement we have!"

Iran just test-fired a Ballistic Missile capable of reaching Israel.They are also working with North Korea.Not much of an agreement we have!

— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) [September 23, 2017](#)

Trump has been criticized a number of times for [jumping to conclusions](#) and commenting on Twitter before breaking news reports have been confirmed.

As of Monday night, he had not deleted the erroneous tweet.

Separately, Twitter Inc. [TWTR, +0.29%](#) on Monday explained that it would not block Trump's more incendiary tweets because they are newsworthy. Some had complained to Twitter that his threats toward North Korean leader Kim Jong Un — which North Korea said Monday it took as [a "declaration of war"](#) — violated the company's terms of service.

In a series of tweets Monday, [Twitter's Public Policy account](#) said "newsworthiness" and "whether a tweet is of public interest" are two of the factors it uses when considering rule

violations.

“This has long been internal policy and we’ll soon update our public-facing rules to reflect it. We need to do better on this, and will,” the company said.

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