

## Iran under US propaganda attack

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The US and Iran are in the middle of the worst scandal ever. On Tuesday Washington accused two Iranians, including one naturalized American, of plotting to assassinate Saudi Arabia's envoy to Washington Adel al-Jubeir. The conspiracy was revealed by the FBI and the Drug Enforcement Administration which found two suspects, Manssor Arbabsiar, and Gholam Shakuri, who are claimed to have asked Mexican drug cartels for help in arranging the murder. The arrested testify that they were masterminded by Iranian high-ranking officials and planned to explode Saudi and Israeli Embassies in Washington.

House Intelligence Chair Mike Rogers said that Iran's government, the Republican Guard, and its special operations unit, the Quds Force, obviously knew about the plot.

The Saudi government reacted briefly stating that the plot is a despicable violation of international norms, standards and conventions. The Wall Street Journal cites a source in the Saudi government who noted that the plot targets King Abdullah as Ambassador in the US is his confidant. Iran in its turn has denied all accusations calling them "big lies that will go nowhere".

"These sorts of cliché behaviors are based on the old hostile policies of America and the Zionists, said Foreign Ministry spokesman Ramin Mehmaparast, and are just foolish games".

Iran's UN envoy Mohammad Khazaee forwarded a letter of complaint to Ban Ki-moon saying that Iran strongly condemns these shameful claims of being linked to the crime.

And now let's look at what we have: no murder attempt was carried out. Evidence of the plot and its mastermind are indirect: only the ethnic origin of the arrested and their alleged claims. This case seems to lack the presumption of innocence as the suspects pled guilty even before the trial.

Some experts find the scandal well-timed. Iran has been the main Mideast irritator for the US for too long, hampering its total control of the Great Middle East from Morocco to Pakistan. At the same time US main allies in the region are Saudi Arabia and Israel.

Religion also has its say in the situation – Sunni Arabia and Jewish Israel can't be close friends with Shiite Iran.

High tension in the region is proved by the recent events – the Arab Spring, the spy scandal in which Iran arrested several alleged US spies, and the murders of Iranian nuclear physicists for which Iran blamed Israel.

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