



Iran Eager to Enter the Global Market as a Military Equipment Exporter

OE Watch Commentary: Under UN Security Council Resolution 2231, which also encompasses the Iran nuclear deal, the ban on arms transfers to and from Iran is scheduled to expire 18 October 2020; though some UN members have called for an extension to this ban, while others have resisted the idea of an extension. Despite this ongoing effort, Iran continues to visualize the import and export opportunities they could pursue, as evidenced in the accompanying passage.

The excerpted article from the *Mehr News Agency*, an outlet owned by the Islamic Ideology Dissemination Organization located in Tehran, describes the end of Iran's arms embargo as "one of the most important issues in the world." The article writes that "the Zionist regime [Israel] and the US have now started wide spread efforts for extending these sanctions and restrictions again" referring to a draft resolution to the UN Security Council, for an indefinite extension for Iran's arms embargo, which the article claims is meant "to prevent Iran's entry into the conventional weapons trade market."



Iranian drones and helicopters at 2014 defense presentation.

Source: Fars News Agency via Wikimedia, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Iranian_drones_and_helicopters_at_2014_defense_presentation.jpg, CC BY 4.0

Iran considers global trade on military equipment as one of the most prosperous and profitable markets in the world economy. As the article points out, Iran is eager to enter the market with "very advanced and up-to-date military equipment."

The article identifies some of Iran's most significant defense weapons, ranging from missiles, naval vessels, drones, air defense, and ground defense systems. Further, it highlights Iran's advantages of their military equipment on the foundations of affordability, capabilities, and specifications to gather interested buyers. Iran considers itself "one of the largest producing powers of ballistic, point-to-point, and cruise missiles in the world" and claims the world has witnessed its missile capabilities in multiple operations against Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS)-associated terrorist groups and others. While Iran recognizes they are not among the top countries for exporting naval equipment, Iran still deems their submarines, speedboats, and destroyers to be comparable to foreign models and attractive to international customers.

From a drone perspective, Iran exhibits many applications for their unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) in a variety of industries apart from military applications. According to General Amir Ali Hajizadeh, Commander of the Air Force of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), Iran holds dominance in the region and is considered one of the top four countries in the world and as a result, Iran should secure a place in the drone export market. Iran also claims to have made significant advancements to their aircraft fleet. Noting their capabilities in evading radar detection, Iran recounts the success of their air defense system, Third of Khordad, which was used to take down "a very advanced American UAV" (see "Iran's IRGC Navy Unveils 3rd Khordad Defense System" in this issue of *OE Watch*). Finally, Iran has made significant strides in the manufacturing of light weapons, cars, and tanks. Iranian-manufactured Karrar tanks were purportedly used in the fight against ISIS affiliate groups in Iraq, and is comparable to Russia's T-90 tank.

Sanctions continue to block Iran from providing a variety of manufactured products to the world market; however, if favorable conditions are met after the end of the sanctions in October 2020, Iranian officials in the military equipment sales industry will see it as a profitable business opportunity and could take advantage of it. **End OE Watch Commentary (Plude)**

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Continued: Iran Eager to Enter the Global Market as a Military Equipment Exporter

Source: “Amadegi e Iran Baraye Saderat e Nezami/Sabad e Neroo haye Mosalah Baraye Tejarahat e Jahani (Iran’s Readiness for Military Exports/Armed Forces Portfolio for World Trade),” Mehrnews.com, 4 July 2020. <https://www.mehrnews.com/news/4957031/اناری-یگدام-یناچ-تراجت-یارب-حلسم-یافوری-دبس-یماظن-تار داص-یارب>

Mehr News Agency, Political group; With the approach of 27 Mehr (18 October 2020) and the deadline under the UN Security Council Resolution 2231, which the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) falls under, Iran’s arms embargo must end no later than 5 years after the acceptance of the JCPOA. This matter in recent days has become one of the most important political issues in the world, and it should be noted the Zionist regime (Israel) and the U.S. have now started wide spread efforts for extending these sanctions and restrictions again. The latest move (by the U.S. and Israel) was to submit a draft resolution to the UN security Council, demanding the indefinite extension for Iran’s arms embargo in order to prevent Iran’s entry into the conventional weapons trade market.

The end of Iran’s arms embargo for some may mean that after years of sanctions and restrictions, Iran will be able to enter the market with very advanced and modern military equipment and weapons, or like other countries in the West Asia region, they will decide to spend a great deal of money and enter a never-ending competition to buy up military equipment and become a destination for the world’s largest arm factories. However, an important and significant matter that should not be overlooked is that the children of Iran have come to believe that no one help Iran achieve this dream, due to the needs of the nation and its defense under the shadow of all the limitations and sanctions that exist, even during the imposed eight-year war (Iran-Iraq War). With trust and self-confidence and using the available capacities, they have made noteworthy strides by not only provided for the needs of Iran in the last four years and bringing active deterrence and exemplary security in the most crisis-stricken regions of the world, but also, they can compete in the world market with the most advanced foreign counterparts.

Currently, world trade on military equipment is one of the most prosperous and profitable markets in the world economy, and according to recent statistics and information from the Stockholm International Peace Institute, it has been growing. A significant portion of exports in this industry are appropriated by countries like U.S., Russia, France, Germany, and China.

Iranian officials have always peacefully emphasized on Iran’s defense capabilities, and in practice, it has been proven. These capabilities have significantly helped security and peace in the chaotic regions of West Asia. Through global trade, in order to strengthen friendly and allied countries, it’s possible to export efficient defense products. In addition to strengthening the defense of allies, Iran can also benefit from the profits of this industry.

Therefore, we are taking a look towards some of the most significant defense products in our country that could be included in Iran’s military equipment export portfolio. Given their affordable features specifications, capabilities, and cost, Iran can attract the attention of their buyers and benefit from this lucrative global market.

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