



Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Confirms Use of Armed Drones in Syria

OE Watch Commentary: Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) launched seven unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) into Syria after it fired six ballistic missiles into the Middle Euphrates River Valley. According to the accompanying excerpted article by *Tasnim News Agency*, an official Iranian state media source, the IRGC used UAVs over Syria's Deir ez Zour province to target Islamic State militants in what they called Operation Muharram Strike. The UAVs reportedly flew 300 kilometers to reach the province. According to *Tasnim*, the UAV is Iran's Saeqeh class, which is a long-range drone that can carry "smart, precision guided bombs." A video posted by *Tasnim* in the article is believed to be a recording of the attack and it shows one UAV releasing what appeared to be unguided bombs.

The UAV attack followed an earlier missile attack, according to the excerpted article by *Fars News Agency*, another Iranian news outlet. The article details the IRGC's launch of six surface-to-surface ballistic missiles from Iran's Kermanshah province into Abu Kamal in Syria's Deir ez Zour province. Two types of missiles were used, according to the article: Zolfagar and Qiam, which can travel 750 kilometers and 800 kilometers, respectively. According to the article, the missiles flew over Iraq to reach their targets in Syria. Operation Muharram Strike targeted Islamic State militants in response to the 22 September attacks on Iran's military parade in the Iranian city of Ahvaz. **End OE Watch Commentary (Keshavarz and Bunker)**

Source: "Gozaresh ekhtesasi: 'Zerbet Muharram:' Avaleen amaleeyat beeroon marzee pahpadhaye sepah ba 'bombafkan saeghe' (Breaking News: 'Operation Muharram:' The IRGC's first international drone operation with Saeqeh)," *Tasnim News Agency*, 1 October 2018. <https://goo.gl/F2Y3Z8>

...Today, the IRGC launched a series of drones under Operation Muharram Strike to target terrorists in Syria...

Source: "Entegham mooshakee va pahpadee sepah dar pasokh beh hadese ahvah/mooshakha az no-eh zolfaqar va qiam bood-and (IRGC launch drones in response to Ahvaz attack/missiles were Zolfaqar and Qiam)," *Fars News Agency*, 1 October 2018. <https://goo.gl/FjNM9k>

...Today at 2:00 in the morning, the IRGC launched a series of drones to target terrorists who were responsible for the Ahvaz attack. In Operation Muharram Strike, six ground-to-ground ballistic missiles were launched followed by drone attacks from Kermanshah. The area targeted was Abu Kamal...

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Iranian Saegheh UAV (undated).
Source: *Tasnim News*, <https://goo.gl/F2Y3Z8>, CC 4.0.