

Iran arrests eight people linked to CIA during recent riots



Tehran, November 28 (RHC)-- Iranian security forces have arrested eight people linked to the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) during the recent riots over gasoline price hikes.

The men were seeking to collect information on the riots and transfer it to foreign countries were identified and arrested before they could carry out their mission, the official news agency IRNA quoted the director general of the anti-espionage department of the Iranian Intelligence Ministry.

"These men received CIA-funded training in various countries to gather information under the guise of citizen-journalists had been monitored for quite a long time," the official said, adding that they had received orders to watch the riots and to prepare exact reports, especially videos.

"Six of them were arrested while attending the riots and carrying out orders of [US's] intelligence services and two others were identified and apprehended while trying to ... send information abroad before they could leave the country," the official added.

According to the official, the ministry was monitoring other members of the network across the country and would deal seriously with them if they think of carrying out any act against the national security of the country.

Several Iranian cities recently witnessed protests prompted by a government decision to increase gasoline prices. The protests were peaceful but became violent after riotous elements, taking advantage of the circumstances, entered the scene, destroying public property, setting banks, gas stations and other facilities ablaze and opening fire on people and security forces.

Commander of Tehran's police Mohsen Khancherli said on Tuesday that security forces had identified and arrested six men behind the riots during separate operations in Robat-Karim County, west of Tehran Province. He said that the suspects had confessed to their acts of sabotage.

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