

Large Iranian navy ship sinks after catching fire



The vessel sank close to the port of Jask in the south of the country, near the Strait of Hormuz, a strategic waterway [Handout via EPA]

Tehran, June 2 (RHC)-- One of Iran's largest navy ships has sunk after catching fire near the Strait of Hormuz under unclear circumstances. The Kharg, named after an island nearby that serves as a key oil terminal, caught fire in the early hours of Wednesday local time and more than 20 hours of rescue operations failed to save it, the army said.

Iran's army also identified the Kharg as a "training ship" and confirmed there were almost 400 crew and trainees on board, before adding all of them were safely evacuated. A local army official told the semi-official Tasnim news agency that 20 people suffered minor burns.

No reason was provided for the cause of the fire but an army official told Iran's IRNA the fire started in the engine room and parts of the ship's body melted and fell into the sea. The vessel sank close to the port of Jask in the south of the country, near the Strait of Hormuz, a strategic waterway.

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