IRGC Unveils Underground 'Missile City', Claims Production Now Beyond Reach of Attacks

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Sophie Rieckmann



Hoveyzeh Cruise Missile

Tehran's claim of bombardment-proof production are likely exaggerated

On 10 November, the IRGC Aerospace Force unveiled an underground "missile city" at an undisclosed location, releasing footage of Armed Forces Chief of Staff Major General Ali Abdollahi and Aerospace Force commander Brigadier General Majid Mousavi touring tunnels lined with ballistic and cruise missiles and launchers. The event, staged during IRGC Aerospace Force Week, followed a 7 November announcement by spokesman Brigadier General Hossein Mohebbi that missile and drone production lines had moved underground into "missile production cities", allowing manufacturing to continue under bombardment. Mohebbi also declared

missile-range restrictions lifted; Mousavi threatened enemy assets “across the region and beyond.”

Iran has showcased missile cities for years, but in the claim to have moved production underground is new. However, the evidence is thin, as the footage does not show the planetary mixers, casting pits and curing facilities that produce solid-propellant missiles and that US-Israeli strikes targeted at Parchin, Khojir and Shahroud. October satellite analysis by FPRI found evidence of fresh tunnelling at Shahroud and activity at Parchin’s Shahid Boroujerdi complex, but aboveground propellant plants are still in ruins. Underground final assembly is plausible and matches Western intelligence reporting; underground propellant manufacturing at scale remains unproven.

The unveiling is best read as coercive signalling while Qatari mediators push for a US-Iran deal. It aims to convince Washington and Jerusalem that renewed strikes cannot disarm Iran, raising the cost of the military option and hardening Tehran’s refusal to negotiate on the Strait of Hormuz and its nuclear portfolio. Coupled with the lifted range restrictions on missile strikes, it is also a lightly veiled threat against European bases used by the US to strike Iran. Yet the concept is vulnerable: concentrating production underground may risk handing Washington and Jerusalem one target to strike again.

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