

Treasury Designates Large-Scale IRGC-QF Counterfeiting Ring

11/20/2017

Iranian Network Prints Counterfeit Yemeni Bank Notes for IRGC-Qods Force

WASHINGTON – Today, the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) designated a network of individuals and entities involved in a large-scale scheme to help Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-Qods Force (IRGC-QF) counterfeit currency to support its destabilizing activities. This network employed deceptive measures to circumvent European export control restrictions and procured advanced equipment and materials to print counterfeit Yemeni bank notes potentially worth hundreds of millions of dollars for the IRGC-QF. The IRGC-QF was designated pursuant to the global terrorism Executive Order (E.O.) 13224.

"This scheme exposes the deep levels of deception the IRGC-Qods Force is willing to employ against companies in Europe, governments in the Gulf, and the rest of the world to support its destabilizing activities. Counterfeiting strikes at the heart of the international financial system, and the fact that elements of the government of Iran are involved in this behavior is completely unacceptable," said Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin. "This counterfeiting scheme exposes the serious risks faced by anyone doing business with Iran, as the IRGC continues to obscure its involvement in Iran's economy and hide behind the façade of legitimate businesses to perpetrate its nefarious objectives."

Reza Heidari and Pardazesh Tasvir Ravan Co.

Reza Heidari (Heidari) is being designated today for having acted for or on behalf of the IRGC-QF and having assisted in, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or financial or other services to or in support of, the IRGC-QF.

Pardavesh Tasvir Ravan Co. (Rayan Printing) is being designated today for being controlled by Heidari; for having acted for or on behalf of the IRGC-QF; having assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or financial or other services to or in support of, the IRGC-QF; and being owned by Tejarat Almas Mobin Holding, another Iranian company also being designated today.

Heidari played a key role in procuring secure printing equipment and materials for the IRGC-QF in support of the group's currency counterfeiting scheme. Heidari served as the managing director of Iran-based Rayan Printing, a company involved in printing counterfeit Yemeni rial bank notes potentially worth hundreds of millions of dollars for the IRGC-QF, as of late 2016. Heidari used front companies to obfuscate the actual end user and facilitate deceptive transactions when dealing with European suppliers of secure printing equipment and materials.

ForEnt Technik and Printing Trade Center

ForEnt Technik GmbH is being designated today for being owned or controlled by Heidari, while Printing Trade Center GmbH (PTC) is being designated for having acted for or on behalf of, and assisted in, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or financial or other services to or in support of, Heidari.

Heidari used German-based ForEnt Technik GmbH and PTC as front companies to deceive European suppliers, circumvent export restrictions, and acquire advanced printing machinery, security printing machinery, and raw materials in support of the IRGC-QF's counterfeit currency capabilities. These raw materials included watermarked paper and specialty inks from European suppliers. Heidari is the Managing Director and sole shareholder of ForEnt Technik GmbH.

Mahmoud Seif and Tejarat Almas Mobin

Mahmoud Seif is being designated today for having assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or other services to or in support of, the IRGC-QF. Tejarat Almas Mobin Holding is being designated today for being controlled by Seif.

Seif is the managing director of Tejarat Almas Mobin, the parent company of Rayan Printing. Heidari and Seif coordinated on the procurement of raw supplies and equipment that enabled the IRGC-QF counterfeiting capabilities. Seif was involved with the logistics of importing materials for the counterfeiting project into Iran. Additionally, Seif has previously been involved in the procurement of weapons for the IRGC-QF.

The following individuals have been added to OFAC's SDN List:

HEIDARI, Reza; DOB 10 Jan 1977; Additional Sanctions Information - Subject to Secondary Sanctions; Gender Male; Passport A37899489 (Iran) expires 26 Jul 2021; alt. Passport R24530943 (Iran) expires 23 Jun 2017 (individual) [SDGT] [IRGC] [IFSR].

SEIF, Mahmoud (a.k.a. AL-SAYF, Mahmud; a.k.a. SAJADDINIA, Mohsen; a.k.a. SAJADINIA, Mohsen; a.k.a. SAJJADI NIA, Mohsen; a.k.a. SAJJADINIA, Mohsen); DOB 05 Jun 1964; alt. DOB 05 Jun 1967; alt. DOB 05 Jun 1969; Additional Sanctions Information - Subject to Secondary Sanctions; Gender Male (individual) [SDGT] [IRGC] [IFSR].

The following entities have been added to OFAC's SDN List:

FORENT TECHNIK GMBH, Konrad-Duden-Weg 1, Frankfurt am Main, Hessen 60437, Germany; Additional Sanctions Information - Subject to Secondary Sanctions; Registration ID 60313B102980 (Germany); alt. Registration ID HRB102980 (Germany) [SDGT] [IRGC] [IFSR].

PARDAZESH TASVIR RAYAN CO. (a.k.a. RAYAN IMAGE PROCESSING CORPORATION; a.k.a. RAYAN PRINTING), No. 9, 22nd St., 9th Km. of Karaj Special Rd., 1389843613, Tehran, Iran; Africa St., West Nahid St., Akhtaran Ave., p. 57, 1967773314, Tehran, Iran; Additional Sanctions Information - Subject to Secondary Sanctions; National ID No. 10102041648 (Iran); Registration ID 161530 (Iran) [SDGT] [IRGC] [IFSR].

PRINTING TRADE CENTER GMBH (a.k.a. PTC GMBH), Konrad Duden Weg 3, 60437, Frankfurt am Main, Germany; Schubertstr. 1 a, 65760, Eschborn, Hessen, Germany; Website www.ptccenter.de; Additional Sanctions Information - Subject to Secondary Sanctions; Registration ID HRB58893 (Germany) [SDGT] [IRGC] [IFSR].

TEJARAT ALMAS MOBIN HOLDING (a.k.a. ALMAS MOBIN TRADING), 57 Akhtaran Lane, West Nahid Street, Africa Blvd, Tehran, Iran; Additional Sanctions Information - Subject to Secondary Sanctions [SDGT] [IRGC] [IFSR].