
Current Intelligence Report Circular

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Report Topic: Popular Unrest in Iran

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Oil Workers Join Iranian Protests

Iranian Oil workers have joined in protests across the country. Around 1,000 workers at the Bushehr and Damavand petrochemical plants joined protestors on Monday, 10 OCT, and called for Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khomeini's downfall. The oil workers blocked access to roads, set fire to some facilities at petrochemical plants, and chanted revolutionary slogans. Striking workers have been reported in several cities across the country in recent days. The Council of Oil Contract Workers alleged that as many as 4,000 oil workers participated in strikes on 10 OCT, but that number is unconfirmed. Iran has not commented on oil workers joining the protests, but the semi-official Tasnim news agency described the incident as a salary dispute. END

CMCD Note

We assess with high confidence that the strike by the oil workers is highly likely to put further pressure on the Iranian regime. The strike of oil workers during the 1979 Islamic Revolution and the resulting economic turmoil was a major destabilizing factor that helped the revolution to succeed. This strike comes at a time when Iran's economy has been severely weakened by ongoing U.S. sanctions and coupled with the new sanctions leveled against Iran. This is a major concern for the Iranian regime.

Sources

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