

## Iran foils plot to blow up Russian consulate

Tehran, May 14 (RIA Novosti) Iran's intelligence officials have foiled a terror plot to blow up the Russian consulate in Iran, the intelligence and security minister said Wednesday.

The officials intercepted plans to blow up the building in the town of Rasht near the Caspian Sea and arrested a group of suspected terrorists in this connection, Minister of Intelligence Qolam Hosein Mohseni-Ejei was quoted as saying by Fars news agency.

'The terrorist network, with links to the US, planned an explosion at the Russian consulate in Rasht, aiming to create a rift between Iran and its neighbours,' Mohseni-Ejei said but did not provide any details of the operation.

Moscow and Tehran enjoy warm relations amid the pressure from the West on the Islamic country over its controversial nuclear programme. The UN Security Council, which has imposed three sanctions thrice against the country for its defiance to halt nuclear programme, could not make it harsh following Russia and China's refusal to accept harsh reprisals against Iran.

Russia is also a key economic partner of Iran, and is building the country's first nuclear power plant in Bushehr.

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