Iran is looking for a scapegoat in the explosion of a Rajai port

Iran's Interior Minister attributes the explosion to negligence and breach of safety measures.

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Accident revealed the absence of safety procedures in vital facilities

Tehran - Iranian Interior Minister Iskandar Momini's announcement on Monday that negligence and breach of security measures is the cause of the explosion that took place on Saturday in the country's largest commercial port and killed 46 people, reflects the Iranian authorities' efforts to provide scansome scams in the incident, at a time when firefighters continue to work to extinguish the raging fire in the port of martyr Rajai.

Frequent accidents in Iran, whether explosions or building collapses to the fall of aircraft, highlight the lack of safety protocols.

The rise in industrial accidents and mine accidents is evidenced of the disregard for workers' safety. Deaths are often attributed to a lack of effective safety training, old equipment and hazardous working environments, and inadequate enforcement of safety regulations.

Activists and trade unionists have repeatedly criticized for prioritizing production at the expense of workers' safety, while reports have indicated that hundreds of currencies die every year in industrial accidents in Iran.

The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported, quoting Mehrad Hassanzadeh, Director of the Crisis Department in Hormozkan Governorate, that "the death toll of the fire of the Martyr Raja'i port fire reached 46 dead ... Only 138 injured remain in hospital.

The explosion occurred on Saturday in the port near the strategic Strait of Hormuz, through which one-fifth of the world's oil production passes. Officials said the number of injured exceeded 1,000, but most were discharged from hospital after receiving treatment.

Momeni told state television on Monday that "only 120 injured are still in hospitals," adding that "some of the guilty have been identified and arrested... There was negligence, especially non-compliance with security measures and negligence at the level of civil defense."

The Supreme Leader of the Iranian Revolution, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, ordered an investigation into the incident. Iranian television showed pictures of overwhelmed firefighters extinguishing the fire and said the damage would be assessed after the fire was completely controlled, while dense columns of smoke appeared to rise over the containers stacked at the site.

The cause of the explosion was not immediately clear, but the port's customs office said it was likely the result of a fire that broke out in a warehouse for storing dangerous and chemical materials.

Surveillance camera images spread on social media showed that the accident began with a small fire and orange smoke rose to brown, before a ball exploded from the fire.

The fire can be seen erupting in containers stacked off a warehouse as a small crane passes near the smoke and shows men walking near it.

About a minute and eight seconds after the small fire appeared and the smoke rose, the fireball broke out as vehicles passed near it and men were seen runn trying to get away from danger.

On Sunday, President Masoud Bezhkyan inspected hospitals that received the wounded in the nearby southern city of Bandar Abbas.

Since the explosion, authorities have ordered the closure of all schools and businesses in the area, urging residents to avoid going out "until further notice" and putting on protective masks.

The New York Times quoted a source linked to the Iranian Revolutionary Guards, who asked not to be identified, as saying that what exploded was sodium perchlorite, a key component of solid rocket fuel.

But Defense Ministry spokesman Reza Talai Nick later told television that "there were no imported or exported shipments of fuel or military use at the site."

Russia has sent experts to help extinguish the fires. Iranian authorities declared Monday a national mourning day, while three days of mourning began on Sunday in Hormozgan province, where the port is located.

The explosion occurred at a time when Iranian and American delegations in Muscat participated in a third round of indirect talks on Tehran's nuclear program that the two sides said contributed to progress.

While Iranian authorities appear to be treating the explosion as an accident, it also comes against the backdrop of a stealth war that has been going on for years with its enemy Israel.