

# ISIS Imagery Brief: IAEA Inspectors and Iran Clash Over Frequency of Inspections of Underground Facilities

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Iran over the weekend denied International Atomic Energy Agency inspectors access to underground facilities at the Natanz site in Iran. This latest incident stems from a clash between IAEA inspectors and Iranian officials over the frequency of inspections of the underground halls in which Iran intends to house centrifuge cascades but which currently remain empty of centrifuges. The IAEA wants monthly visits to the underground facilities which Iran refuses to permit. The design verification visits which Iran now refuses to permit are intended to ensure that what Iran is building at the underground site matches the designs that Iran has already provided to the IAEA. It is unclear whether Iran will allow the IAEA to visit the underground facilities next month.

Iran is also denying access to an inspector with centrifuge expertise who has visited Natanz and other centrifuge sites many times in the past. The current inspectors are only being granted single entry visas and denied multiple entry visas. Allowing inspectors multiple entry visas had been the accepted practice when Iran was observing the Additional Protocol. One senior diplomat in Vienna said that Iran was “nickel and diming” the IAEA.



New imagery from GeoEye shows the Natanz site in Iran. The two shaded squares cover the approximate location of two underground cascade halls. IAEA inspectors and Iran are battling over the frequency of visits to these underground facilities.