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Intelligence Report (INTREP) Template

Intelligence Report: Is Iran Supplying Drones to Ethiopia?

INTREP No: 001/23
Latest date of information: 24 Jan 2023
Published: 24 Jan 2023
Distribution: See distribution

Executive Summary

1. (Unclassified / OSINT) Open-source information suggests Ethiopia may be in possession of Iranian Mohajer-6 Unmanned Arial Vehicles (UAV). If so, this represents a significant addition to the list of beneficiaries from Teheran's drone programme and suggests Ethiopia may have recently increased their military ties with Iran.

Information Obtained

2. (Unclassified / OSINT) Multiple sources have reported the use of military drones by the Ethiopian National Defence Force (ENDF). With Government opponents claiming the Ethiopian Military are operating armed drones from an airbase in neighbouring Eritrea.

3. (Unclassified / OSINT) On 02 January 2023, photos of the **Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed** circulated on social media accompanied by Ethiopian military officers (Figure 1). Prime Minister Ahmed was photographed with **Temesgen Tiruneh**, head of the Ethiopian National Intelligence and Security Service at Semara Airport, Ethiopia (Figure 2).

4.

Figure 1. Facebook Images of Ethiopian Prime Minister - 03 Jan 2023. (U)

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Figure 2. Semara Airport, 03 Jan 2023. Planet SkySat. (U)

Context

5.   (Unclassified / OSINT) The background of one image showed a UAV Ground Control Station (GCS) seen behind the Prime Minister. A second public image displayed a screenshot of the drone display from within the GCS.

6.   (Unclassified / OSINT) Footage from a previous Iranian Drone broadcast made public in 2019 shows the Various measurements, such as the latitude-longitude meter arranged in the exact same way on as the feed displayed within the Ethiopian GCS during the Prime Ministers' tour of the facility (figure 3). **COMMENT.** These commonalities suggest both drones use similar Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance (ISTAR) software. **END COMMENT.**

Figure 3. Ethiopian Drone Feed from 03 January 2023, overlayed with Iranian GCS display from 2019. (U)

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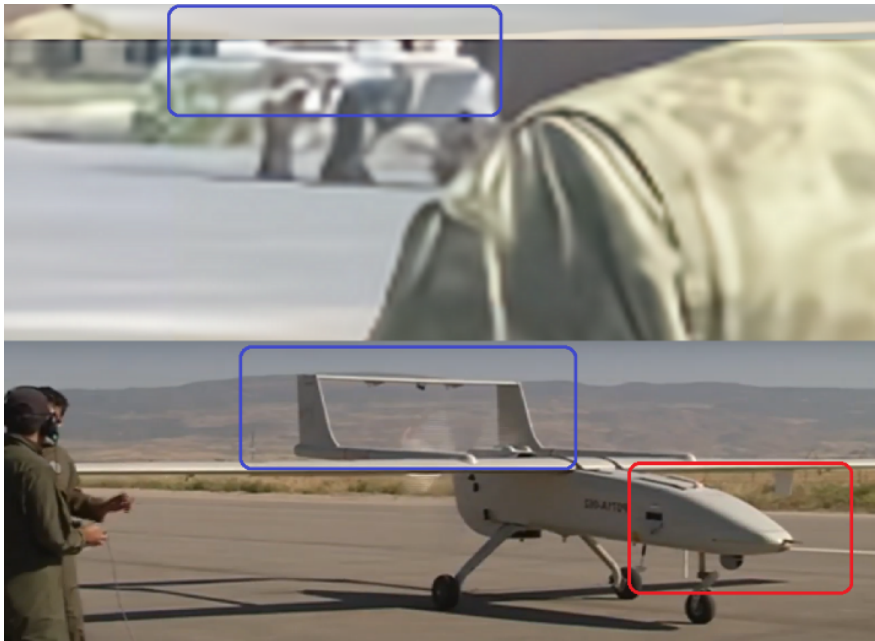   **Template**

Figure 4. Photos of Ethiopian drone Posted on Social Media 03 Jan 2023. (U)

Assessment

7.   (Unclassified / OSINT) On the basis of satellite imagery and available social media photos, we are confident there were two drones based at the Semara Airport on the date of the Prime Ministers' visit. Analysis of the shape and measurements of these drones, provides a strong indication these are drones are consistent with the Iranian Mohajer-6, seemingly armed with air-to-ground missiles. However, higher quality imagery or additional collection would be needed to state this finding conclusively.

8.   (Unclassified / OSINT) If confirmed however, Ethiopia's possession of these UAVs would represent a significant addition to the list of beneficiaries from Teheran's drone programme and suggests Ethiopia may have recently increased their military ties, and reliance with Iran.

This Intelligence Report has been prepared by Intelligence101. Comments and queries may be addressed to the Intelligence101 Field Office, or author, Ben Stark – Ben@intelligence101.com.

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