

Iran's 'reciprocal' sanctions include Kook Jin (Justin) Moon's Kahr Arms

Nasser Karimi, Associated Press
March 27, 2017

Pike County, New York gun maker Kahr Arms and firearms developers Magnum Research were among 15 American companies sanctioned by Iran, blaming the companies for alleged support of terrorism, repression and Israel's occupation of land Palestinians want for a future state.

The sanctions are likely in retaliation for sanctions earlier announced by the U.S., an Associated Press story said.

The list of 15 companies appeared more symbolic than anything else as the firms weren't immediately known to be doing business anywhere in the Islamic Republic.

Kahr Arms and Magnum Research have the same parent company and advertise .44-caliber Magnum and .50-caliber "Desert Eagle" pistols — a product line that previously has been made in Israel.



Kahr Arms Founder Justin Moon

Kahr does not do any business with Iran.

"We don't know how that came about, but we are very honored by Iran," Kahr founder Justin Moon said. "The Iranians are a bunch of terrorists. We are patriotic Americans. I don't know why they put us with all these big companies."

Kahr Arms opened a 40,000 square foot Blooming Grove facility in 2015, in a move to expand and relocate its entire New York State operation. The company is located in a business park on Well Road in Pike County.

A Foreign Ministry statement carried by the state-run IRNA news agency said the sanctions barred companies from any agreements with Iranian firms and that former and current directors would not be eligible for visas. It also said any of the company's assets in Iran could be seized.

"The sanctioned companies have, directly and/or indirectly, been involved in the brutal atrocities committed by the Zionist regime in the occupied Palestinian territories, or they have supported the regime's terrorist activities and Israel's development of Zionist settlements on the Palestinian soil," the IRNA report said.

The IRNA report referred to the sanctions as a "reciprocal act," without elaborating. Iran's new sanctions come after the Trump administration in February sanctioned more than two dozen people and companies in retaliation for a recent ballistic missile test.

Other companies sanctioned include ITT Corp., missile-maker Raytheon Co., United Technologies Corp., Denver's Re/Max Holdings Inc., a real estate company, Israeli defense contractor Elbit and Wisconsin-based truck maker Oshkosh. The Israeli Defense Ministry is reportedly seeking to buy some 200 tactical trucks from Oshkosh.

Meanwhile, a senior Iranian lawmaker said Iran would consider a bill branding the U.S. military and the CIA as terrorist groups if the U.S. Congress passes a bill designating Iran's Revolutionary Guard a terrorist organization. An Iranian official said the move to further sanction the Revolutionary Guard goes against the 2015 nuclear deal Iran reached with the United States and other world powers.

The nuclear deal saw Iran agree to limit its enrichment of uranium in exchange for the lifting of some economic sanctions. In the time since, Chicago-based Boeing Co. has struck a \$16.6 billion deal with Iran for passenger planes.

Tehran and Washington have had no diplomatic relations since 1979, when militant students stormed the U.S. Embassy and took 52 Americans hostages for 444 days.