

Iran's highest-ever uranium enrichment level is 'no mistake,' warns Israeli researcher

The IAEA found uranium at 84% purity, a short step from nuclear weapons, Bloomberg reported.

By [Yaakov Lappin](#)

(February 21, 2023 / JNS) Observers in Israel are closely watching developments regarding Iran's nuclear program following Sunday's report that U.N. monitors discovered uranium enriched to just below weapons grade.

According to the Bloomberg report, the IAEA is seeking to determine how Iran obtained uranium enriched to 84% purity—the highest level discovered by inspectors in the country to date. The concentration is only 6 percentage points below military-grade uranium, a prerequisite for building nuclear bombs.

Maj. Gen. (res.) **Tamir Hayman**, former head of IDF Military Intelligence and director of the **Institute for National Security Studies** in Tel Aviv, tweeted on Monday that the unusual enrichment level is “a wakeup call,” adding that there are two possible explanations.

The first could be “a mistake that stems from the games the Iranians have recently been playing in connecting the cascades. The whole attempt to deal with valves and gas could lead to an error,” said Hayman.

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