> REZA
> Babak, if the birds are against us
> then we're on the wrong side!

Reza chuckles to himself and joins the rest of the group.
Babak stares back up at the bird, scared.

The big black bird hovers until Babak starts to run away and
then it relentlessly continues after him.

Start

CUT TO:

INT. IRAN. MILITARY LAB – SAME TIME

The blackbird's P.O.V of Babak becomes pixelated as we pull
away from a screen to reveal that we are watching footage
inside an Iranian military facility.

A team of COMPUTER PROGRAMMERS and a MILITARY COMMANDER are
watching LIVE footage streaming from the military drone
shaped like a blackbird which is following Babak.

The lead scientist FARAD is making a presentation to the head
of the secret police, COMMANDER ALAM.

> FARAD
> These terrorists have been directly
> linked to the group N.E.D.A Our
> hope is that they are going to take
> us to their leader.

They continue to watch as the drone disguised as a black bird
follows the students.

> FARAD (CONT'D)
> Unlike manned drones, the blackbird
> is autonomous. We give its A.I the
> target and it follows it without
> the need for a human pilot. This is
> a crucial step towards achieving
> the supreme leader's goal. I know
> that we are behind schedule but I'm
> confident that we can now begin the
> process of miniaturizing this
> technology.

EXT. IRAN. TEHRAN. BUSY STREET – NIGHT

Cont'd

Babak looks up into the sky as his group cross a busy main
road full of PEOPLE shopping and making their way home from
work. He spots the blackbird following them...

...SUDDENLY a group of MIDDLE AGED WOMEN in chadour wearing
WHITE SURGICAL MASKS – to protect them from the air pollution
– push past him and the rest of his group.

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The black bird is suddenly confused by the women's masks and starts to FOLLOW THE WOMEN instead of the students

Babak is relieved and confused as the blackbird flies away.

INT. IRAN. MILITARY LAB - SAME TIME

Commander Alam turns away from the screen and demands ...

                    COMMANDER ALAM
          What good is A.I that can't tell
          the difference between a fat granny
          and teenage terrorist?

The group of scientists nervously avoid eye contact.

                    COMMANDER ALAM (CONT'D)
          The Grand Ayatollah has commanded
          that you develop a truly
          intelligent autonomous drone.
          Something small, like a fly, that
          can sit on the chandelier of the
          oval office and record every detail
          of the great Satan's destructive
          plans. This was your objective.
                    (Beat)
          And after two years of funding what
          have you achieved?

He walks over to one of the prototype BLACK BIRD DRONES charging on a workstation.

                    COMMANDER ALAM (CONT'D)
          A pale imitation of technology that
          the West have been using against us
          for years. How you are going to
          achieve your objective? I want
          answers or every one of you will be
          investigated for treason.

Fear and panic spreads through the assembled team of computer programers and roboticists. It seems hopeless until
          FARAD steps forward.

                    FARAD
          Our work is substandard because
          it's only been possible by reverse
          engineering tech that we've
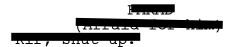   salvaged from captured enemy
          drones.
                    (MORE)

FARAD

              FARAD(CONT'D)
We can't create our own more
advanced technology because Iran's
best minds are forbidden from
studying abroad, which is where all
of the latest breakthroughs are
currently being made in A.I.

                 ~~FARAD~~
            ~~(Afraid for him)~~
~~Kir, shut up.~~

Undeterred, FARAD continues.

              But even if we could learn from the
              best in our fields we wouldn't be
              able to build on that knowledge in
              Iran because our leaders have under-
              invested in A.I for so long that
              we'll never be able to catch up.

The room goes silent, everything FARAD said is true, but
everyone expects him to die for saying it.

              COMMANDER ALAM
I've heard about you, Kir. It's
been said you'd complain if you
were hung with new rope. Something
I may put to the test.

              FARAD
We can make a smarter drone, but
you have to do better, not us. If
you want cleverer, smaller drones,
you need to steal better tech for
us to work with.

              COMMANDER ALAM
Like what?

              FARAD
When the city of Qom burnt to the
ground we discovered that an
autonomous A.I Virus called 'Sly
Bear' was behind it. The coding of
this virus was remarkable. Once it
infiltrated our nuclear weapons
program it devised its own strategy
on how to cause the most damage. We
all saw how effective that strategy
was. I've finally managed to trace
the programmer that created Sly
Bear. Get me the source code for
her A.I Virus and I will deliver
what our great leader wants.

              END OF TEASER

End

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