

MANIPULATION PROCESS IN MKO DESTRUCTIVE CULT

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Cults, wonderful on the outside, manipulating on the inside

The threat made by cults must be taken as serious because this methodology requires a large-scale complicated recruitment and manipulation process to which no one is immune. Ann Singleton the British woman who was once a member of Rajavi's cult(MKO/PMOI) believes that "the irony was that I was in a state of modern slavery. I was mentally chained to the Mujahedin... Psychological manipulation can happen to anyone, any time. If you're lucky, you end up with a timeshare"

Since all the cults function the same way, the website Howcultswork.com gives a very helpful definition of cults and their tricks to recruit and keep members:

Cults, wonderful on the outside but on the inside are very manipulating. Cult leaders are desperate to trick you into joining. They are after your obedience, your time and your money.

*Cults use sophisticated mind control and recruitment techniques that have been refined over time. **Beware of thinking that you are immune from cult involvement, the cults have millions of members around the world who once thought they were immune, and still don't know they are in a cult!** To spot a cult you need to know how they work and you need to understand the techniques they use. Teaching you these things is what this article is all about.*

This article exposes the secret techniques cults will use to try and trick and control you. Cult leaders will not want you to read this, but read it anyway. Once you understand How Cults Work you will be better able to spot and avoid cult recruiters, and protect your family and friends.

The term cult seems strange to most people. They think that it is something far from their normal life, so they often have some misconceptions about the cults. In the second part of the article on howcultswork.com, the author clarifies some misunderstandings that are common among public about the cults:

Let's eliminate some misconceptions about cults:

Cults are easy to spot, they wear strange clothes and live in communes.
Well some do. But most are everyday people like you and me. They live in houses. They wear the same clothes. They eat the same food. Cult leaders don't want you to know that you are being recruited into a cult and so they order their recruiters to dress, talk and act in a way that will put you at ease. One cult has even invented a phrase to describe this, they call it "being relatable".

Since our focus here is the destructive cult of Rajavi, it should be said that "yes" some of MKO members are now living in castles like camp Ashraf or Camp Maryam but another large number who are mainly the recruiters and lobbying activists have apparently normal people

who appear to be so good looking and friendly so it is very hard to spot them in the society due to their pleasant appearance.

Cults are full of the weak, weird and emotionally unstable.

Not true. Many cult members are very intelligent, attractive and skilled. The reality is that all sorts of people are involved in cults. One of the few common denominators is that they were often recruited at a low point in their life — more about that later.

Most of the members and ex-members of MKO are well educated people. Also the experts believe that the individuals with complicated minds who are eventually intelligent, talented people are more likely to be recruited by a cult because of their curiosity and interest in unknown adventures. The members and former members of MKO cult mostly master two or three languages. They have different skills such as computer work, arts, IT, political and technical science.

Cults are just a bunch of religious nut cases.

*This is a common mistake people make thinking that cults are purely religious groups. The modern definition of a **mind control cult** refers to all groups that use mind control and the devious recruiting techniques that this article exposes. The belief system of a religion is often warped to become a container for these techniques, but it is the techniques themselves that make it a cult. In a free society people can believe what they want, but most people would agree that it is wrong for anyone to try to trick and control people.*

About MKO, religion is only a mean to justify some of their activities. Relying on religion depends on their situation, for example to recruit a religious Iranian they claim to be a religious opposition but to deceive a Western politician they pretend to advocate a secular regime.

Mujahedin-e-Khalq as a religious political cult

The modern definition of a mind control cult is any group which employs mind control and deceptive recruiting techniques. In other words how cults trick people into joining and coerce them into staying. This is the definition that most people would agree with. Except the cults themselves of course!

According to howcultswork, cults use coercive manipulation techniques to keep their members in. All former members of MKO affirm the indoctrination practices in the cult of Rajavi.

Ibrahim Khodabande, a former member of the cult, writes: "the cult like activities and creation of gods, and the creation of a relationship of total submission and the use of mind control tactics which eventually results in insane and unbelievable actions like self immolations"

Cults include various types such as religious, commercial, political

Religious

Cults that use a belief system as their base are very common. Their belief system could be standard Christianity, Hinduism, Islam or any other of the world religions, or they may have invented their own belief system. What makes them a cult is the fact that they use mind control, not what they believe.

Commercial

Cults that use commercial gain as their base are called "cults of greed". They will promise you that if you join them and follow their special programme for success then you will become very rich. Often they will hold up their leader as an example and explain that if you do what he or she says then you will be successful too. Commercial cults use mind control to get you working for them for free, and to make you pay for an endless stream of motivational tapes, videos, books and seminars all of which are supposedly designed to help you succeed, but in reality are designed to enhance the cult's mind control environment and keep you believing in their almost impossible dream of success. Of course they never mention that the primary way the leaders make money are by selling these motivation materials to their group! For more information see below under the section, "Pressure Selling".

Self Help & Counseling

Cults that use "self help" or counseling or self improvement as their base often target business people and corporations. By doing their courses and seminars they claim you and your staff will become more successful. Business people locked away in hotel rooms are subjected to quasi-religious indoctrination as they play strange games, join in group activities, and share their innermost thoughts with the group. Once you have completed one course you are told you need to do the more advanced course, which naturally costs more than the last. These cults will sometimes request that you do volunteer work and that you help recruit your friends, family and work mates. These groups specialize in creating powerful emotional experiences which are then used to validate your involvement in the cult. The religious overtones are couched in terms which don't sound religious. They usually come to the surface as you near the end of a seminar. Many people have been bankrupted by involvement with these cults.

Political

Cults that use political ideals as their base are well known throughout history. Hitler's Nazi Germany and Stalin's Communist USSR were classic examples of mind control on a very large scale. On smaller scales white and black supremacists, terrorists, and rebel groups commonly use forms of mind control to recruit and dominate their members.

Mujahedin-e-Khalq is considered as a religious political cult for they advocate their own version of Shiite Islam mixed with Marxism ideology. Therefore they have invented their own belief system.

Besides, they have their deceptive ways to earn money including charity foundations of which some have been outlawed in Europe, so they can be called commercial too since all the members are exploited to work for free. The terrorist cult of MKO has long been dominating its members (victims) with an illusion of a political achievement in Iran. And this is only a mirage that they have convinced the members to see for years.

The Mind Control Gun

As the two previous parts of these articles read, the definition of a modern cult lays in the techniques the cults use to control the members psychologically and sometimes physically. The terrorist cult of MKO has been so successful to function the process of manipulative mind control on its members that the members are purely devoted to the cult leaders and prepared to commit any crime (Ex. Self- immolations) along with the leaders' objectives.

Mind Control is a suite of psychological techniques that cult leaders attempt to control their members with.

Cultwatch does not consider Mind Control to be some magical device which can take away peoples' free will. In other words it does not turn people into some sort of remote control robot. Rather we see Mind Control as a dishonest influence placed covertly on cult members by the cult. So instead of Mind Control being some sort of irresistible force like the aliens in the movies that take over peoples minds, rather it is more like a gun. The cult leader points the Mind Control "gun" at a member and says, "if you leave us then you will lose all of your friends and family", "if you don't conform then you will go to Hell", "if you don't give us money then you will fail in business".

According to the testimonies of former members of MKO cult, the " Mind Control Gun" that is commonly used by MKO leaders is the fear of " being executed by Iranian regime", " being disliked by the leaders", " being labeled as a problematic member who has sexual or mental problems"

As Ann Singleton mentions in her interviews the "Peer Pressure" is a useful gun MKO uses against the members who are willing to leave the cult. They are insulted by their colleagues in case of any disobey.

We have broken Mind Control up into a series of techniques that the cults use. Together these techniques make up Mind Control.

Deception

A cult needs to recruit and operate using deception. Why?

Because if people knew their true practices and beliefs beforehand then they would not join. A cult needs to hide the truth from you until they think you are ready to accept it.

Deception is a phenomenon, dominating the whole activities of Rajavi's destructive cult: they deceive people to recruit them, they deceive the recruited members to keep them in the cult, they deceive the politicians to have their political support, and they deceive the society to have their financial support.

" For example, imagine if the leader of Heavens Gate cult was open and honest about the group and had said to new recruits, "Join us, wear strange clothes, get castrated and then

drink poison!" he would not have had many takers. A cult will have a slick well-rehearsed Public Relations front which hides what the group is really like. You will hear how they help the poor, or support research, or peace, or the environment. They will tell you how happy you will be in their group (and everyone in the cult will always seem very happy and enthusiastic, mainly because they have been told to act happy and will get in trouble if they don't). But you will not be told what life is really like in the group, nor what they really believe. These things will be introduced to you slowly, one at a time, so you will not notice the gradual change, until eventually you are practicing and believing things which at the start would have caused you to run a mile. "

There are many evidences for any of the ways the cults deceive people to run their goals. The seven MKO members who were arrested by FBI at LA airport" were soliciting the public at the airport to give money for the so-called orphans they showed in their pictures. Thousands of dollars were collected by the MKO members and laundered to reach a bank in UAE." In their TV shows of Camp Ashraf they always show scenic pictures of the camp, showing members chanting ,singing, playing music, marching, but this is the outside view, the reality is something completely different, members who are living in absolute isolation, without a free access to mass media, working long hours a day, are mentally and physically captured. They have to obey all the deceitful orders of the cult leaders.

Exclusivism in the mind control system of the cults

The leaders of MKO cult, as well as ,all other cult leaders try to convince the members that their organization's belief is the best of the world and eventually they are superior to the other people because they are saved by their leaders and they can since then be the saviors of the world. Ann Singleton, the former member of the cult of Rajavi affirms this fact: " I though I was superior to the world .. I wanted to save the world." Howcultswork calls such phenomenon as the exclusivism in the mind control system of the cults. According to Howcultswork , the cults prevent the members from joining any other belief or ideology system. The membership in the cult matters. cult leaders will tell you can only be "saved" (or can only be successful) in their organization alone. No other organization has the truth, all others miss the mark. So it is not the belief system that decides your future, but it the belief system AND your membership with that particular group.

KEY POINT:

ANY GROUP WHICH SAYS YOU MUST BELONG TO THEIR ORGANIZATION TO BE SAVED IS ALMOST CERTAINLY A CULT

The cult leaders need to make you believe that there is no where else you can go and still be saved, and if you ever leave the "one true church" then you are going to hell. This is a fear based control mechanism designed to keep you in the cult. It also gives the cult leaders tremendous power over you. If you really believe that leaving the group equals leaving God (or means you are leaving your only chance to succeed in life), then you will obey the cult leaders even when you disagree with them instead of risking being kicked out of the group. Exclusivism is used as a threat; it controls your behavior through fear.

Note

Be very suspicious of any group that claims to be better than all the others. A religious

group may say that other groups following the same religion are OK, but they are the ones who have a better grasp of the truth and they are superior to the rest. This is often just a subtle version of exclusivism.

Note

This is one of the practices that cults are often very deceptive about. For example, first off they may give you the impression that they think you are a true Christian, Buddhist or Muslim and it's not until later that their true position is revealed.

PMOI's Intimidating leadership

Cult leadership is feared. To disagree with leadership is the same as disagreeing with God. The cult leaders will claim to have direct authority from God to control almost all aspects of your life. If the cult is not a religious group then questioning the leaders or program will still be seen as a sign of rebellion and stupidity.

As Ann Singleton (former member of MEK) writes in her book "Saddam's Private Army", Masud Rajavi "implied in his speeches that if such a leader has done his job well enough, then he starts a relationship with Imam Zaman (the last and still awaited Imam in Shiite Islam) and therefore has direct contact with God."

A brochure on MKO in Geostratos website explains that in 1990 Masud Rajavi declared himself "as a person who receives his power directly from God" so the members were told to surrender their free will to the God's representative and in case of disobedience they are called guilty or stupid. By this claim Masud Rajavi immunize himself against any criticism or opposition because the members feel guilty to oppose the order of God and also they are intimidated by their high officials in the peer pressure meetings where their character is assassinated.

Guilt, Character Assassination and Breaking Sessions. Guilt will be used to control you. Maybe the reason you're not making money is because you're not "with the programme". Maybe the reason you're not able to convert new recruits is because "your heart is prideful and full of sin". It could never be that the programme isn't working, or those new recruits have valid reasons for not joining. It's always your fault, you are always wrong, and so you must try harder! You will also be made to feel very guilty for disobeying any of the cult's written or unwritten rules.

Character Assassination is used to help create the guilt in you. Character Assassination is a type of false reasoning used by people and groups who have no real arguments. The technical name for Character Assassination is "The Ad hominem Fallacy". This is how it works. Imagine if you will a conversation between two men, Ford and Arthur...

"One plus one equals three", says Ford.

"No I don't think so. You see when I have one thing, and I have another thing, then I have two things not three", replies Arthur.

"I see your point, but what you must realize is that one plus one when calculated in relation to this complex number domain, which I just invented, and then squared by the sum of the ninth tangent in the sequence of the Fibonacci series results in three!", stated Ford triumphantly.

Ok, Ford is wrong, but that is not the point. The point is that Ford tried to answer Arthur's reasoning with more reasoning of his own. This is the healthy way people and groups debate subjects. Now lets see what would have happened if Ford had used Character Assassination...

"Arthur I have been a mathematician longer than you. How dare you disagree with me! You are obviously a very smug and prideful person. I think you are disagreeing with me because you are jealous of me, and to be honest with you Arthur your rebellion has really hurt me and a lot of other people too", stated Ford his face intimidating close to Arthur's.

You see Ford didn't answer Arthur's argument, instead he attacked his character. If you are not aware of how Character Assassination works then it is a powerful way to exert control over you.

CHARACTER ASSASSINATION IS A SIGN OF A CULT

Breaking sessions are when one, two or more cult members and leaders attack the character of another person, sometimes for hours on end. Some cults will not stop these sessions until their victim is crying uncontrollably.

CULT MEMEBRS ARE USUALLY VERY FEARFUL OF DISOBEYING OR DISAGREEING IN ANYWAY WITH THEIR LEADERSHIP.HEALTHY ORGANIZATIONS HOWEVER ARE NOT THREATENED BY OPENLY DEBATING ISSUES.

Batoul Soltani is one of the eye-witnesses of character assassination sessions of the Rajavi's cult who has been the victim of such sessions too. In her memoirs, she describes such meetings in detailed:

" ... while the member is confessing his sins (facts) in the meeting, the others in the group are insulting him with an abusive language using terms like lumpish, idiot ...just because he has thought of his ex-fiancé."

Therefore, after the deceptive methods were used to recruit the members the fearful and intimating atmosphere made by the God-like leader will keep the members in the cult.

Love Bombing & Relationship Control

"They flatter you in a way that you don't even realize they are doing so" says Ann Singleton who has once been an MKO member. She explains the ways the Organization treated her when it needed to recruit her;" they really put themselves on a pedestal so that when you want to join them you feel special."

Cults know that if they can control your relationships then they can control you. Whether we like it or not we are all profoundly affected by those around us. When you first go to a cult they will practice "love bombing", where they arrange instant friends for you. It will seem wonderful, how could such a loving group be wrong! But you soon learn that if you ever

disagree with them, or ever leave the cult then you will lose all your new "friends". This unspoken threat influences your actions in the cult. Things that normally would have made you complain will pass by silently because you don't want to be ostracized. Like in an unhealthy relationship love is turned on and off to control.

The same as all cults, MKO bombards the individuals with love and emotion while recruiting them. Mrs. Singleton was so bombed by MKO's love that she believes :

"They replaced my family, relationship and I rejected all my old values."

Cults also try to cut you off from your friends and family because they hate others being able to influence you. A mind control cult will seek to maneuver your life so as to maximize your contact with cult members and minimize your contact with people outside the group, especially those who oppose your involvement.

BEWARE OF "INSTANT FRIENDS", REMEMBER TRUE FRIENDS DEVELOP OVER TIME.
BEWARE OF A GROUP THAT TELLS YOU WHO YOU CAN AND CAN NOT SEE.

Now that the members are cut off from their whole relationships and individuality, the cult of Rajavi practices mind control techniques on them. Ann Singleton says: " I loved the camp and it felt liberating to obey the orders, because you lose all your responsibility over yourself ... If the leader has said kill yourself, I would have killed myself."

Information Control within MKO Cult

To control cult members, cult leadership has to control the atmosphere surrounding the members. The primary step to control their environment is to monitor and control the information they get because if the members' mind could get any new information, the world the cult leaders have created for them should be damaged. According to cult leaders the truth is only what the cult leaders say.

CultWatch website gives a very clear picture of the way the cults control the information.

Those who control the information control the person. In a mind control cult any information from outside the cult is considered evil, especially if it is opposing the cult. Members are told not to read it or believe it. Only information supplied by the cult is true. One cult labels any information against it as "persecution" or "spiritual pornography", another cult calls it "apostate literature" and will expel you from the group if you are caught with it. Cults train their members to instantly destroy any critical information given to them, and to not even entertain the thought that the information could be true.

If you are instructed by a group not to read information critical of the group, then that is a sign of a cult.

As a mind control cult, Mujahedin Khalq has a long history of information control over its members, according to the testimonies of most former members of MKO Cult.

Ms. Batoul Soltani, former member of MKO leadership Council describes the information system in her memoirs:

"After you entered the organization you couldn't even have a pocket radio because it links you to the outside world. You cannot use any mass media except that of MKO. They never let the news of the other Media broadcast in the hall. Sometimes they even record, edit and

censure the news and then show them, just to claim that they broadcast the news of CNN or Al Jazeera. They are very careful about the relationships between the members and people of the outside world such as Iraqis who come to the Camp."

The way MKO leadership filters and censures the information demonizing the Iranian Regime, makes the MKO members think along with the objectives of the cult. So the information that supports the cult's line is used to keep the members in.

Common sense tells us that a person who does not consider all information may make an unbalanced decision. Filtering the information available or trying to discredit it not on the basis of how true it is, but rather on the basis of how it supports the party line, is a common control method used throughout history.

Legitimate groups have nothing to fear from their members reading critical information about them.

In the cult of Rajavi, criticizing the organization's ideology, its decisions and approaches will end the members with mental and physical torture, solitary confinement, and imprisonment, most former members like, Masud Khodabande, Mohamamd Hussein Sobhani tolerated years of imprisonment just because they criticized the organization's policies.

For the Rajavis any critical information equals with the loss of many members. Therefore, the principal method to control the members' mind is to control the information they learn.

The walls have ears

In Camp Ashraf and camp Maryam all the walls have ears. As a member of MKO cult one can never talk to a colleague. Every working group includes a superior member and a minor one because the latter should be supervised by the former. "They even force the most high-ranking members to move jointly. They say that there shouldn't be any exclusions." according to Ms. Batoul Soltani former member of MKO leadership Council. She escaped from the cult after she found out a report of false allegations about herself on the computer. The report was written by her colleagues and was supposed to be sent to Maryam Rajavi.

In the destructive cult of Rajavi like any other mind control cult, the members should watch each other. They should report everything they learn about their colleagues to increase their own credit near the leaders. The mind Control system makes them think that a perfect cult member is the one who shows more loyalty for the leaders.

In a mind control cult like in Nazi Germany or Communist Russia you must be careful of what you say and do; "The walls have ears". Everyone is encouraged to watch out for "struggling" brothers and sisters and report what they see to leadership. Often information given in deepest confidence is automatically reported to leadership. Cult leaders will then use this information to convince their members that they have a supernatural link, the trusting member does not suspect the very natural mechanism behind the supernatural revelations they are given.

People in a mind control cult will also hide their true thoughts and feelings, and instead wear a mask which presents them as a perfect cult member. This mask is a defense against being reported to leadership and being punished for not measuring up (cult members never feel like they measure up to the cult's ideals, and yet often believe the other members around them do, when in reality the others feel the same as them). Hence cult members are trained not only to deceive outsiders, but also to deceive their fellow cult members. Rarely can close friendships form in cults, and if they do the cult's leaders may see them as a threat and move those people away from each other. Nothing is allowed that can be more powerful than the cult members' allegiance to the group and its leaders.

Is Information you expected to be kept confidential reported to leadership? If so then it's a cult

There are various cult jargons in MKO destructive cult. They serve the main objective of the cult. Some of them are called "Current Operation", "cleansing meetings" and "nil-nil" meetings. These jargons include different forms of reporting system. As you read in memoirs of Batoul Soltani, Masud Rajavi calls the current operation as "spiritual Jihad" and even "higher than Martyrdom.", so he convinces the members to confess their own thoughts or to report their comrades' affaires. The reporting system makes the members more dependent on the group's leader.

Time Control within Rajavi's Cult

Mind Control cults keep their members so busy with meetings and activities that they become too tired to think about their involvement.

"They have systematically arranged hard busy work schedule for members. So that they have no opportunity to think about anything else." Writes Mohamad Hussein Sobhani in his memoirs ; Dark Days of Baghdad, "even our eating time was planned, for example we had a snack time at 10 pm, it was called "The 10 O'clock break". It was time to have a cup of tea and cookies according to a long-term tradition in the history of the organization"

Defining a time table in MKO cult helped the leaders of the cult to control every moment of members' lives. They assigned them when to get up, when to work, when to relax, when to watch TV ...

According to HowCultsWork", Time control also helps the cult keep their members immersed in the manufactured cult environment.

A look at MKO you tubes on the internet shows this aspect of cult-like practices in the destructive cult of Rajavi very clearly. For instance you can see a female member cleaning a tank so many times or you see them gardening or planting in Ashraf Camp. They are always made busy doing something even something of no use.

Besides, a time control helps keep cult members away from friends and family. They are never free to think of their family. As Batoul Soltani describes in her memoirs the only place

she could look at her daughter's photo (which she had hidden in her pocket) was in the bathroom.

CultWatch gives a key point to recognize a cult:

Never-ending compulsory meetings and tasks is a sign of a cult

Rajavis' Cult on the net

For those MKO members who are captured by MKO in Camp Ashraf Iraq or Camp Maryam France, surfing the Internet includes a difficult process due to the severe information control dominating the cult. The members would work on the Internet only in groups of at least two people including a superior and a minor member. The limited number of websites filtered for them, are just those of the organization that advocate the cults' cause.

A free access to the Internet can be the first step for a person who is involved in a cult such as MKO destructive cult. The leaders of Rajavi's cult hate the net because it allows their members access to Information they deem subversive or evil.

Many ex-members of MKO are now running their own websites posting their sometimes untold stories of their involvement in the cult of Rajavi.

"Be especially eager to surf the net if your leaders have told you not to "according to Cult Watch website. A quick search on common search engines by the keywords related to MKO (MEK, Rajavi's Cult, Mujahedin Khalq, etc.) thousands of pages are found and most of them contain the same patterns which are familiar to all those characteristics mentioned in previous parts of these articles.

According to Cult Watch "Old publications by the group are key tools to recognize a cult: often older cults have predicted the end of the world or changed their beliefs significantly, hence their old publications become a danger to them." A look at Mujahed Journals issued in the 1980's or 1990's or before the Islamic Revolution shows numerous instances of changes in MKO beliefs which often contradict one another. The very significant example is the change in their approach toward Israel and America's so-called Imperialism. During the early years of NKO foundation, militants of the group were assassinated American military personnel and civilians or they received military trainings by PLO in Palestinian military camps of Yaser Arafat. Now the big change: they are flattering their Western godfathers to receive a safe haven after the fall of their ex-landlord Saddam Hussein. Among former members of MKO Cult, some have written books, articles, memoirs on the rise and fall of these changes.

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