

PMOI's ATROCITIES

Against IRAQI KURDS

Compiled by Nejat Society

Morvarid Operation (Killing generations of Kurds)

Morvarid (pearl) is the name of a chain of mountains in a frontier region in Kermanshah province of Iran and Kurdistan of Iraq, where suppressing operation and massacre of Kurds took place. "Morvarid Operation" is a given name by Rajavi's cult.

An American journal wrote: "the only and main invasion of NLA during the last six years happened in 1991 right in the aftermath of Gulf War while Saddam Hussein ordered Rajavi to help him with suppressing Kurds' uprising in the north of Iraq."

To cover their crimes against Kurds, Mujahedin claimed that they repelled the attack of Iranian forces to their bases and called the alleged anti – attack, "Pearl Operation".

The MKO's leader, chief and members of the council, commandant and the army general staff disappointed of a new war between Iraq and Iran, who observed the return of Iraqi government from Kuwait in the fall of 1990, after a chain of staff meetings, held a public meeting to determine their strategy in which they investigated rotation of the affairs in the region. Since the cult can't consider any reality except the atmosphere ruling its own situation, it was obvious that they choose the war and then they loose it.

To compensate this loss, Rajavi used his entire mercenary forces to keep and maintain their main sponsor – Saddam Regime – and they set out to rescue the dictator from falling in that period of time. Thus they started their dreadful crimes of which you will see the description as follows:

The procedure of conveying the strategy

Masud and Maryam attended the meeting of Iraq Revolution and Leadership Council in person and were informed of all the details of that important situation. According to Rajavi's justifications, the Baath regime knew the US would invade them, so they would be obliged to take all their forces to Kuwait boundary , there was an internal danger from the opponents: Kurds in the north and Shiites in the South.

The only force to oppose these oppositions was MKO since it saw its presence in the absence of the others and Saddam charged it with this duty (the Suppression of Kurds)

Conveyance and settlement

In the fall of 1990, Masud and Maryam, brought about division and distribution of the forces as the followings:

1. In the first part they organized and settled about 40 armour plated divisions and mechanized infantry in a region called "Kefri". The district of Kefri, reaches Solaimanieh Province from north and Kirkuk Province from North West and Hamrin Mountains up to qaneqein and Agh Dagh Mountains up to Qasr Shirin, Iran, from East. As a matter of fact, this way of the settlement of the forces had made a separating line between Kurdish areas and central Iraq.
2. The second part included three infantry battalions of the most devoted members of MKO in Saddam's guards' disguises who were dispatched to Karbala and Najaf provinces. They were under the order of Saddam's guards to suppress the Shiites.
3. The third part of the forces included 200 to 300 patrolling teams armed with automatic machine – guns that were under the order of a woman named Sara. She was the commandant of the seventh axis in Nader Afshar base, in 1991. The so – called forces were charged to control and suppress the Shiites around Bagdad. According to one of the commandant, named "Hamid Hadi Beigi, they machine-gunned any gathering day and night.
4. Rajavi used the "ideology" trick to stimulate his forces. In order to justify his deceit he held a meeting with "cross" code where he stated the theory of "killing people". He said:" if a person is negligent to do so, and our system can not keep the Land Lord (Saddam), necessarily the opponents are winners and if so, they will crucify all of us and I am the first one. Now if anyone wants me to be crucified, can hesitate". He penetrated the organizational manufactured feeling of members and put them against the Iraqi people, although they were not willing to do so, at heart.

Allocation of forces

Rajavi owned almost a thousand foreign forces (workers) from Arabic countries especially Sudan. They organized all of them to bring supplies and munitions, and act as the supporting forces. The Iraqi army gave a group of bombardiers to each unit of Rajavi's cult. And even the army issued a circular for Rajavi according to which they authorized Rajavi to command the entire dispersed forces of Baath army and to try them in case of disobedience.

Therefore, MKO – Saddam's Private Army- which claimed the liberating fight to free its own people, opposed the meek people of Iraq. And prevented their victory and caused the frustration of their entire struggle.

The Spark of War:

With the first shooting from the US forces, in that morning, I remember the Mujahedin who started to fight from the first moments. All Rajavi forces were already designed and settled through a line from Khosravi frontier to Syria frontier which was the separating axis between Kurds and the center of Iraq, but in the South and Center of Iraq Rajavi's forces were under the order of Saddam's guards and brought about the suppression of the opponents directly. In this stage, several divisions were sent to Qader Karam in the South of Suleimanieh in order to reach Kirkuk and prevent the fall of the city. In the last justifications of Rajavi about the so-called units, Izad Ibrahi praised the intrepidity (cruelty) of Mujahedin in a meeting in April, 1991.

The first confrontation with Iraqi people took place in Kirkuk tee, under the direct order of Maryam. The direct commandant of the fight was the commandant of 26th division of Rajavi's forces – Ali Naqi Hadadi (Kamal) who was taken on a one way ride because he hesitate to kill the people hard-heartedly. Thus he was discharged in the same location and a woman named Behjat was appointed instead of him.

In this location many of Kurdish Pishmargs and civilians were killed and prevented from advancing toward Tooz, Khormatou and Kirkuk.

The second team was going to Sulaiman Beg and AlAzim then Kefri and Kellar in the North West of Khaneqein in the same direction; they were responsible to occupy the cities and the surrounding areas. The third team contained several divisions which were advancing toward Jlula and Khaneqein in the South West of Qasr Shirin Iran.

Pre War Steps:

To prevent the minds of the members, the cult used the following tricks:

1. To hidden more than a thousand of Iranian POWs while the Red Cross was exchanging the POWs. (The cult of Rajavi, first kept the mentioned people in a base called Sardar, near Kirkut

and then took them to Hanif Camp in Nozhvel and used them as slaves to dig rifle-pits and operate other preparation processes, a month before the settlement of the forces.)

2. Through a message, Rajavi told the NLA that this time "Forough 2" is through Kurdistan direction and stated the reasons including cooperation of the whole forces in Kurdistan of Iran. They pretended that some Kurdish province of Iran have stated their solidarity with MKO. Therefore they justified the legitimacy of their campaign toward Kurdistan, Iraq.
3. Rajavi explained leaving of their battalions to Karbala and Najaf as only taking care of the MKO's cemetery in Karbala.
4. They sent a dozen of professional teams to Kuwait to transit the booties of war. While trafficking one of the officials of MKO named Shaban Esrafilian was wounded.

As I said the war was started in Qader Karam Tee in the North of Tooz while the north of Iraq was completely fallen and the people of Iraq had set out to control the roads and make military departments. The cult captured and disarmed all of them and shot many of them. MKO could control the region and seized the both ways to Baqdad and prevented the Kurds from advancing toward Bagdad. In this situation several groups of Kurds called on the MKO's commandant to negotiate with them but they were crushed under the tanks and the city of Tooz Khor Matou, the place of negotiation was bombarded. The description of such crimes is shown in the propaganda and films of Morvarid in the proper organization. Rajavi bombarded the meek Kurds hypocritically and said:" we want to enter our country through Kurdistan and you are the obstacle against our victory." In that cold weather, the citizens of Tooz sought refuge in the mountains behind the city, Rajavi and Saddam didn't have pity on them and used Napalm bombs to kill them. Through this tragedy many children were killed and Rajavi kept his mandate in Iraq.

Besides killing and massacre, Rajavi used other tricks to deceive the members:

1. He sent some of his forces, under the order of Qasam Bour Bour, to Iran, in order to take some boys as hostages. They threatened them to death unless they confess that they are captured near Ashraf Camp and they are the agents of Iranian Regime.
2. They shot some of their own watchmen, since they were about to being captured by the opponents, including Shahriar Shojaati, from Shiraz.

Later they recalled him as a person who committed suicide. In fact he was shot under the order of Efat Javadi who herself acted under the direct order of Maryam who was patrolling above the area in her helicopter and was ordering to kill people.

3. they lay some of their own members as baits in wait for Kurdish opponents to stimulate other members and give them motives to kill more and more (Zhila Tolou executed this plan)

NEWS

Chalabi says Iraq must tackle foreign militants

Reuters, November 7, 2005

LONDON, Nov 7 (Reuters) - Iraq must do more to stop the country being used as a base for foreign militants seeking to destabilise its neighbours, Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad Chalabi said in comments published on Monday.

In an interview with Britain's Financial Times, Chalabi acknowledged Iran's "legitimate concern" about Mujahedin-e Khalq, an Iranian opposition group operating in Iraq which the United States lists as a terrorist organisation.

He said there were also concerns in Turkey over bases in northern Iraq operated by the banned Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK).

"We should enforce the article in our constitution that Iraq should not be a transit point or base for destabilising neighbours," Chalabi told the newspaper. "We should deal with these issues humanely and fairly, but firmly."

Turkish leaders complain the PKK has a safe-haven in the mountains of northern Iraq from where rebel commanders direct operations into Turkey.

After more than 20 years of conflict, Turkish forces have failed to completely quell the PKK's armed campaign for home-rule in the mainly Kurdish southeast.

On Iran, Chalabi said Tehran had agreed to study his proposal for an inquiry by British, Iranian and Iraqi representatives into recent violence in the southern city of Basra.

Chalabi said Britain raised tension in the area by accusing Iran of helping Iraq militants to plant roadside bombs which killed British troops.

He added that Iran also inflamed the situation with allegations of British backing for militant Arab separatists in south-west Iran, according to the FT report.

Iran Interlink Demands Indictment of Mojahedin-e Khalq's Massoud Rajavi

November 12, 2005

The trial of Saddam Hussein has begun. His toppled regime actively supported international terrorism and Iran's Mojahedin-e Khalq (MEK) group - led by Saddam's closest ally, Massoud Rajavi - was at the top of the terrorist list.

In a press conference on Thursday November 10 - at The Ambassador's Hotel in Bloomsbury, pressure group Iran Interlink demanded that Massoud Rajavi joins Saddam in being brought to justice.

The conference started with a documentary film showing Massoud Rajavi as he briefed his forces on their mission, along with eye witness accounts of the Mojahedin's offensives against civilian Kurdish populations in the Spring of 1991. The documentary revealed that the Mojahedin, acting as Saddam's private army, played a decisive role in the suppression of the 1991 internal uprisings in Iraq, and is responsible for the massacre of many Iraqi Kurds who opposed Saddam.

Following the film, French journalist and researcher on terrorism, Alain Chevalerias, spoke about the terrorist nature of Massoud Rajavi's Mojahedin organisation. Chevalerias - whose book 'Burned Alive' charts the psychological manipulation exerted on MKO members which resulted in several members setting fire to themselves in Paris and London in June 2003 - gave a clear definition of terrorism for the audience and said that groups which attack civilian populations in countries of which the west is critical must be viewed in the same way as the terrorists who target western populations.

Anne Singleton, author of 'Saddam's Private Army - how Rajavi changed Iran's Mojahedin from Armed Revolutionaries into an armed cult', spoke about the cult nature of the Mojahedin. It is not a political organisation, nor is it a military organisation, it is a cult, said Ms Singleton. Worse than this, it is a terrorist cult. Ms Singleton spent over fifteen years in close proximity to the cult and spent three years full time with them. Ms Singleton pointed out that neither the Mojahedin organisation, nor its leaders, Massoud and Maryam Rajavi, have ever publicly condemned Saddam Hussein or his crimes, and have never publicly renounced violence as a means to achieve their aims.

Ms Singleton asserted that the Mojahedin, because it is a cult, can play no part in the political future of Iran. Moreover, now that its forces - with the exception of the people in Camp Ashraf in Iraq - are based in western countries, the Mojahedin no longer presents a threat to Iran. Rather, when its forces set fire to themselves in the streets of western cities, this organisation has now become a problem for the people of those countries.

The speakers were followed by video evidence secretly filmed by Saddam's own security services depicting the financial, spying and terrorist relationship between the Mojahedin-e Khalq organisation and Saddam's regime.

The conclusion of the press conference was that not only was each and every military and terrorist operation carried out by the Mojahedin in Iran ordered directly by Saddam Hussein and his intelligence and secret services in Iraq, but that as it faces greater and greater rejection from western governments, the Mojahedin will inevitably return to the side of Saddam Hussein. In this respect, it is possible that they are already participating in the insurgency in Iraq as well as planning terrorist activities in the west.

At the end of the press conference, a Question and Answer session was held with two former members of the Mojahedin.

A three-member team of supporters of Massoud Rajavi and the Mojahedin had been admitted to the conference by Iran Interlink in order to have them watch the films and listen to the speeches. It was hoped they might be in a position to answer some of the journalists questions about the crimes of Massoud Rajavi. During the Q&A session, the team began to rant and admitted they had come with the sole aim of accusing speakers at the meeting of working with the Iranian intelligence ministry.

Massoud Khodabandeh and Karim Haghi, who were holding the Q&A session, restored order so that bona fide journalists were able to get their stories. Unfortunately, the team of Mojahedin supporters, frustrated in their efforts, then began to accuse journalists at the press conference also of being agents of the Iranian intelligence ministry.

The supporters of Massoud Rajavi were unable to answer the central accusation, or to refute or deny the evidence shown at the press conference - that Massoud Rajavi had ordered his own people, Mojahedin forces, to suppress the Kurdish uprising in 1991 as a part of Saddam Hussein's repressive regime.

Iran Interlink repeats its demand - that Massoud Rajavi be tried alongside Saddam Hussein for war crimes, terrorism and crimes against humanity.

Dutch Author Calls Iranian Opposition 'Dangeruos'

Radio free Europe

November 8, 2005

Judit Neurink was interviewed about her book "Misleide Martelaren" (Misled Martyrs), which covers the 40-year history of the Iranian opposition group known as the Mujahedin Khalq Organization (MEK), Radio Farda reported on 7 November. Neurink told Radio Farda she got interested in the subject about two years earlier, when MEK members immolated themselves after their leader, Maryam Rajavi, was arrested in France. Neurink asked herself why people would do such a thing, and said "My book tells a story that many don't know -- about brainwashing, about the imprisonment of friends and comrades, about torture, and about persuading people to go to Iran and kill civilians." Neurink said she interviewed MEK members, but experience showed her that this is like listening to a recorded message when the needle is stuck. Neurink described MEK as "dangerous." Radio Farda said Neurink's book will be translated into English and Persian. BS

Iraqi Kurds want Iranian opposition leader tried

Radio Free Europe

By Bill Samii

10.29.2005

Iraqi Kurds want Masud Rajavi, leader of an Iranian opposition organization based in Iraq, to be arrested and tried, Radio Farda reported on 20 October. Rajavi's group, the Mujahedin Khalq Organization (MEK), settled in

Iraq in the 1980s, where it received assistance from and cooperated with former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein. The Kurds say they want Rajavi to be tried because of the role his organization played in their repression by the Hussein regime.

Mohammad Tofiq Rahim, an official with the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, said in an interview with Radio Farda that his organization has documentary evidence of Rajavi's role. He said that when the Kurds seized control of northern parts of Iraq with U.S. assistance at the end of the Gulf War in 1991, the MEK cooperated with the Iraqi Army in retaking control of the city of Kirkuk. In the process, he charged, hundreds of the city's residents were killed by the MEK.

"Everyone in Iraqi Kurdistan knows that Masud Rajavi cooperated with the Mukhaberat [intelligence] and security forces of Saddam Hussein not only in the suppression of the Kurds, but all the opponents of the regime of Saddam," Rahim added.





MEMORIES

Evidence Proves MKO Massacred Kurds

A brief look at Morvarid Operation (memoirs of Hamid Dehdar Hassani, former member of the MKO)

Kill the Kurds to save the life of “The Master”!

In everybody’s lives, there are black points whose remembrances are associated with shame and disturbance. Whether the act is pleasant or painful is up to the views and attitudes of the individuals toward their surrounding world and rules, which govern human relationships. March to September 1991 is bitterest loathsome shameful point in my life.

After a relatively heavy mental process, I was just starting to digest the issue of cooperating with the Iraqi regime that operation “Morvarid” was set before me and other members of the organization (MKO). After Saddam invaded Kuwait (Kuwait Occupation), the US and its allies started heavy bombings in order to retake that country. Amid that war, known as “Gulf War”, Iraqi Kurds who had been suppressed by Saddam regime

for years started expressing their opposition to Saddam. The risk of being toppled by revolutionary Kurds threatened Saddam, whose army had lost its power due to Gulf War as well as war with Iran. I never forget that although US planes never bombed MKO bases, Rajavi ordered all members of Ashraf to spread over the hills of Kurdish region of Kefri in order to be safe from bombings. The bitter events started when MKO members were ordered to return to Ashraf Camp.

We were passing the Kurdish township of “Tuz” when we heard the ill-fated voice of Rajavi on radios. “Revolutionary guards and agents of Iranian regime in Kurdish clothes are going to attack MKO members, therefore kill them as soon as you see them” this was his message!

Neither anyone nor I could have thought that there’s something else behind this event. At those anxious hours, no one could think that Rajavi’s order was a show of his faithfulness to Saddam. Saddam (who was called “landlord” by Rajavi) was on the edge of cliff and revolutionary Kurds were taking the control of Iraqi cities, one after another. At that time, the ouster of Saddam meant the full destruction of MKO and according to Rajavi himself (which was expressed later in meetings): “Whether we want or not, our interests and fate are tied to those of Iraqi government.”

On that bitter day, following the order of Massoud Rajavi, MKO members attacked those regions believing that Iranian agents and revolutionary guards (in Kurdish clothes) were hiding in the villages.

A number of minibuses, full of passengers, were set on fire by MKO’s weapons near the city of Kirkuk and Kefri. Women, children and other passengers burnt to ashes in front of us. Rajavi had said that they would kill all MKO members if they’re not stopped, therefore MKO members used cannon fire from a close distance so that the bodies of Kurds were torn into pieces, and they (members) enjoyed seeing such scenes. After Massoud Rajavi, it was the turn of Maryam who shouted on the radio like a vulture:

“Shoot at these (Kurds). Ride your tanks over them”!

Time passed and my anxieties melt down a bit. Then, I, some other members, found that no one was in front of us except Iraqi Kurds, women, children and old defenseless people.

Although I saw a number of Kurd rebels, there was no Iranian Revolutionary Guards. I understood that I was involved in a horrible crime! When I expressed my protest to my commander (Farhad Olfat) and said that Kurds’s issues had nothing to do with us, he shouted on me: “No one fights against Saddam except the Iranian

agents! Now we can destroy regime's social base among Iraq Kurds..." Rajavi and his agents used different explanations to justify this crime but they shamed to say that they had committed this crime because they were Saddam's serviles. In addition to deployment of forces into Kurdish areas, MKO had established checkpoints across the roads to prove its total officiousness to Saddam. MKO members stopped cars, identified revolutionary Kurds and opponents of Saddam, arrested them and delivered to Iraqi security officers. If someone protested to the activities of MKO, or refused to cooperate with them, he was beaten severely. Recalling these scenes is shocking. MKO arrested a number of Kurd villagers and took them as detainees to Ashraf Camp.

Once, Baathist officers came to receive a number of Kurd detainees. We got them on an IFA trucks and brought them, blindfolded and handcuffed, to the gates of the camp. Mehdi Abrishamchi (a high-ranking official of the organization) climbed the truck and pushed the detainees off the vehicle, using violence. Baathist officers also used maximum violence to take them to Saddam prisons. Mehdi Abrishamchi, wet-nursing , behaved the Kurds like animals.

Many of the MKO members raised questions about such activities, but no one was able to protest. During a meeting, Massoud Rajavi stated insolently: "in a recent meeting with Izzat Ibrahim, he appreciated our efforts and called the MKO the best friend of Iraqi government. He said they're going to give us new armors and weapons to show their appreciation for the suppression of Kurd rebels."

Rajavi called "Morvarid" a self-defense but he never explained the reason and logic behind the involvement of MKO in Iraq's internal affairs and suppression of Saddam opponents. Of course, it was clear that there was no honesty in the explanations of Massoud Rajavi because everyone knew the consequences of Baghdad occupation by Kurds. Rajavi deceived members and said that Iranian revolutionary guards were in Kurdish clothes but soon all members found that there's not even an Iranian Revolutionary among detainees or the dead. Therefore, Rajavi and his agents talked about "protecting the landlord (Saddam)". In a meeting after Operation Morvarid, Rajavi said: "in this operation, we wanted to advance toward Tehran, but the master (Saddam) didn't advise it!"

I don't know what happened to Kurd detainees but after the fall of Saddam Hussein many mass graves-full of the bodies of these Kurds- were found. After Operation Morvarid, Mojahedin-e khalq has always been in fear of being subjected to the anger and revenge of Iraqi Kurds, therefore Rajavi tried to justify his crimes and win the satisfaction of Kurds but Iraqi Kurds or Shiites who had been attacked repeatedly by MKO never accepted

it as a revolutionary freedom-seeking force. Some members of MKO were attacked by Kurds in Iraq and even after the fall of Saddam, ordinary Kurds killed a MKO commander (revenge for the lives of innocent women and children killed by Mojahedin). It was so difficult for the MKO (after the operation) that they couldn't go to the cities without bodyguards. They asked for Baathists help when they wanted to go shopping in the city. MKO members were armed to the teeth when going into cities. People looked at them with anger and hatred. Some Iraqis spat on them and were called "traitors"...

Today, years after massacring Kurds by MKO, memories are still agonizing me. Nightmares of destroyed villages and houses of the Kurds upset me. I can never forget the kids who burnt to ashes in the bosom of their mothers by the fire of MKO.

Indeed, why were they killed?



A Dreadful Narrative of Mujahedin's "Morvarid "Operation

Here is the "Hadi Nagravi" 's diary of Morvarid (Pearl) Operation which was organized by Mujahedin –e-Khalq to suppress Iraqi Kurds in 1987. Hadi Nagravi is one of the defectors of MKO who stayed in the cult for 14 years:

...what I consider to denounce through this documents is about a particular period of time called "***Killing Kurds***" or "***Pearl Operation***"

... After the seizure of Kuwait by Saddam Hussein, US and its allies began fighting Saddam and bombarded the Iraq territories extensively. After his meeting with Saddam, Masud Rajavi ordered his commandments to disperse their forces in order to be saved from the allegedly American attacks, however the story was something else.

The Kurds had begun their invasions to Saddam's regime from all directions. And Rajavi had promised to Saddam that Mujahedin would fight the Kurds with their entire power. Therefore through a message, he

declared:” Pasdaran, in Kurds clothes, are supposed to attack Mujahedin.” But when the members started to hesitate about the operation he stated:”regime’s Pasdaran and YKT’s have allied to attack Mujahedin”

While crossing the Kurdish villages and towns we didn’t see even one Kurd attacking Mujahedin. But Mujahedin started their savage invasion against the Kurdish civilians using their light and heavy weapons.

Kurds had advanced up to near Baqdad and Mujahedin were aware that the falling of Saddam equals the Rajavis’ removal.

Through a radio message, Saddam Hussein asked the people in northern areas to cooperate with Rajavi’s forced as well as Baath Army and their disobedience would lead them to death...

I stated my protest to my commandant (Samira Shams):

“You had said that Pasdaran of Regime wearing Kurdish clothes were supposed to attack Mujahedin, but we have not seen one yet...”

My commandant and some others got angry suddenly and attacked me and hit and kicked me...

There is no doubt that during that period the Baath army was not able to solve the crisis of Kurdish region and Mujahedin saved Saddam from fall.

Although after Morvarid Operation, Rajavi told the forces: ”Ezat Ebrahim” (one of the ministers of Saddam’s Regime) appreciated pearl Operation and will give us modern armed equipments and facilities”, the negative effects of the operation lead many people to ask for secession due to having observed the crimes of the organization.

I don’t know if the human rights organizations and societies are not informed of the crimes in Morvarid Operation or they pretend that they ‘re not aware?!

Do such mercenaries of Saddam deserve the status of political refugees? Is there a guarantee that they will not repeat such crimes in the future?

As a former member of MKO, a person who spent years among Mujahedin’s relations, I declare my preparation to all Kurdish organizations, political activities and people, to denounce Rajavi’s crimes and to witness in any fair court.

OTHERS VIEWS

A Testing Time for the Mojahedin

Saddam's Private Army

Ann Singelton

Pages:95-97


Yet as soon as the war with Iraq ended, Rajavi launched a desperate and foolhardy bid for power. He ordered the NLA to attack Iran with disastrous results. The Forouq-e Javidan operation is examined in the next chapter. The point here is that even when they had their chance to do what Rajavi had promised, the NLA failed. Since that time there has been little scope for believing that they could even repeat the exercise let alone succeed. Half the army was killed in the operation. It took years for the members to recover their morale and capacity. Even when they did, Rajavi made a decision in 1991, which was to seal the fate of the NLA and condemn it to little more than a terrorist group.

For this purpose, they moved some of their own service, repair centres and headquarters into the Mojahedin camp. The Mojahedin became more familiar with real army life as a result and became so much a part of it that it was acceptable for the Iraqi army to communicate with them as a military division. They gave up their amateur transceivers and used proper military equipment. They became familiar with using the basic command and operational terms of the Iraqi army. This, of course, is what enabled the Iraqi army to use the Mojahedin as an instrument to help crush the Kurdish uprising during the Morvarid operation of March 1991. .

The military parade of 1991, was the graduation ceremony of this division. In this parade, NLA

personnel traversed along a wide purpose built boulevard, passing the observers in the middle. At the end of the street, vehicles were waiting to take the crews of the tanks and other vehicles back to the beginning of the street for them to come down again with more tanks and armoured vehicles. The NLA had acquired a whole army load of equipment from Saddam, but hadn't enough people to show it off, particularly to show women on tanks

The Gulf War in 1991, proved a testing time for the Mojahedin in many ways. Politically, they estranged themselves from their erstwhile supporters in the West by choosing to remain under Iraqi hegemony. Militarily it was also a disaster. After the war ended, Saddam Hussein saw his opportunity to crush the ensuing Kurdish rebellion in the north of Iraq. The Mojahedin army was also mobilised by Saddam to crush the Kurds. They used their tanks to raze Kurdish villages and kill civilians.



The Massacre of Iraqi Kurds

The peoples Mujahedin of Iran :

A struggle for what?

By :Victor Charbinnier

Chapter14-page 44

The last major Mojahedin operation took place in March 1991, when they fought the Iranian Revolutionary Guards (Pasdaran) near the border city of Qasr-e Shirin and joined with the Iraqi Army in putting down the Kurds. A Kurdish rebellion had broken out in northern Iraq soon after the end of Operation Desert Storm, launched in January of that year.


Jalal Talebani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan in Iraq (PUKI), confirmed the organization's role. He told reporters "5,000 Iranian Mojahedin had fought alongside Saddam's forces in the Battle of Kirkuk".

Ordered by Iraq and carried out by Massoud Rajavi, this role in repressing the Kurdish revolt must have created serious problems within the organization. Many members have Kurdish roots.

In addition, the PMOI clashed with Kurdish groups within the Iranian opposition, leading to more defections and the further isolation of Massoud Rajavi.

In a statement included in an appendix (below), former members of the organization, combat veterans of the NLA, admit having seen acts of extreme cruelty carried out by Mojahedin against the Iraqi Kurds. They are willing to testify in any international proceeding on the crimes committed by the Mojahedin in Iraqi Kurdistan. They write: "The Mojahedin, who live off Saddam's generosity, have no interest in rebelling against him. Iraq gives them the anus they need for their attacks on Iran. In helping the Iraqi Army put down the Kurdish rebellion in March 1991, the Mojahedin wanted to show their loyalty. At that time, Saddam himself awarded Rajavi the Rafidaln Medal, a high Iraqi decoration." (See Appendix 2)

It is important to note that the Mojahedin's largest military operations, "Eternal Light" in 1988 and the Kirkuk massacre of Iraqi Kurds in 1991, accomplished nothing for the Iranian people, either inside or outside their country. Carried out under Saddam Hussein's orders, both provided Iraq with desperately needed strategic support as it emerged, exhausted and near defeat, from two wars.



Repressing the Kurds

Autopsy of an Ideological Drift

By: Antoine Gessler

Chapter 17

Pages: 124-125

Another chapter in their history is no less than a permanent stain on the reputation of Massoud Rajavi's People's Mojahedin. They lost respectability from this. Having participated actively in the repression of the Iraqi Kurds, the PMOI can hardly win the confidence of Iran's Kurds whom that often cite as supporters. The propaganda machine worked overtime to silence assertions dealing with this black page in the PMOI's record:

'Defamatory and absurd statements according to which the Mojahedin participated in the Iraqi Kurdistan liquidations 'have been repeated for 10 years and thousands of times by the Mullahs' intelligence services. That is why these assertions have no credibility. Moreover in his official letter to the Dutch judicial authorities of July 1999 the international relations official of the Democratic Party of Iraqi Kurdistan underlined that his political group had investigated 'rumors concerning Mojahedin units aiding Iraqi troops'. These enquiries

concluded that ‘no basis in proof and no document permit any confirmation that the Mojahedin had taken part in any hostility against Iraq’s Kurdish population’. Please note that the Democratic Party of Kurdistan, under Massoud Barzani was Saddam Hussein’s ally. Strangely enough, it is this group that provides the defense for the Mojahedin, despite the established facts.

Haqqe Mani, a PMOI dissident, knows the reality:

“It was at this time that we began our direct military collaboration with the Iraqi Army and the Mojahedin were turned into support troops helping the in the suppression of popular uprisings against Baghdad. This was to prevent the Kurds from driving all the way to the plains around the capital”.

The other leader of Iraqi Kurdistan, Jalal Talabani, Chief of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) has, for his part, clearly denounced the participation of the PMOI. He declared to reporters that “5,000 members of the Iranian Mojahedin joined forces with Saddam in the battle of Kirkuk”. But, even more clearly, those who took part in the massacres, the soldiers under Massoud Rajavi’s orders have spoken out. They have shared eyewitness accounts:

“Mohamed Reza Eskandari, a dissident Mojahedin, now living in Holland as a political refugee was an eyewitness to the movement’s participation in this repression.. .Stationed in the Sulayman Beg region (near the ‘border’ with Iraqi Kurdistan) where the massacre of civilians took place, he states”: ‘There was an old closed-down rail station which was our base. From this point, we attacked the Kurds, encircling them on three sides. There were eighteen dead Kurds. We buried them right there in a common ditch’.

Eskandari also talks about the Mojahedin’s summary executions of unarmed Iraqi deserters and the interrogation of soldiers who had left the front in several Iraqi towns.

Eskandari also insists that the People’s Mojahedin handed over to the Iraqi Army and Secret Services all those whose identity papers showed that they were Kurds.

The organization had many defectors following these operations: more than 800 fighters became dissidents. This policy was the straw that broke the camel’s back. It was the apogee of the errors committed since the movement moved to Iraq”.