

# Nejat Newsletter

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## Scott Ritter's Views on MKO

Part of Foaad Khosmood's Interview with Scott Ritter,

January 31, 2007

Zmag.com

... FKk: Let's now turn to Iran and your new book Target Iran. Who is the MEK?

SR: MEK is the Mojahedin-e-Khalq [1]. It's an Iranian Marxist organization that came into being in the 1970's. It was a force that was opposed to the rule of the Shah of Iran. It was primarily a military opposition group to the Shah and it carried out a number of attacks against the governmental institutions and the military and American military advisors in Iran.

When the Islamic revolution took place in 1979, the MEK initially allied with the Ayatollahs but soon fell out of favor with them. MEK went into exile and they took root first in Europe and later in Iraq where it became a very powerful military wing of the Iraqi Mukhaberat or the intelligence service. Today it's funded by the CIA in their policy of using this organization to be a stick in the side of Iran. Even now, the MEK continues to be listed by the State department as an international terrorist organization.

FKk: OK, so this is a terrorist organization that is responsible for attacks against American civilians. There are many negative things against this group, especially in this political climate. Yet it has managed to have favorable public relations in Washington. Is this all because of CIA backing or are there other benefactors?

SR: Well, if you're dealing with a population that is pre-programmed to accept at face value anything that is put forth by the mainstream

media or other punditry which opposes the Islamic Republic, as being good, then all these negatives go away.

The MEK also has the support of the state of Israel. It has the support of the powerful pro-Israeli lobby here in the United States. It has the support of many members of congress, whether they have arrived at their position independently or as a result of intensive lobbying. The MEK does have a base of support among the anti-Tehran groups in Washington.

FKk: In your new book, Target Iran you say that Israeli intelligence was the true source of the new information on Iran's hidden nuclear facilities. You also say that Michael Ledeen and some Washington necons arranged for MEK to be the conduit of this information. Why was it important for another organization to be the deliverer of this news?

SR: The answer is twofold. One, Israel has a PR problem if it comes out as the lead element in tackling Iran's nuclear program. Two, if your goal is regime change and one of the organizations that you're backing is the MEK – you would also like to... As you say, there are a number of negatives to this organization, so you would position the MEK as an organization that is capable of getting quality information on Iran. This was the same strategy that was used with the Iraqi National Congress and Ahmad Chalabi.

FKk: You also write that this information was known to George Tenet ahead of time. Does this mean Washington is once again engaged in manipulation of intelligence by withholding and strategically releasing information?

SR: I don't think this was premeditated by Washington. I have written that the United States was almost 100% focused on the Iraqi problem and barely concerned about this particular issue. Tenet was aware of this information, as were many other people concerned about the Iranian nuclear program, but he did not treat this information as credible.

I don't think this is part of a conspiracy trying to manipulate data. This was simply the United States putting this information on the back burner and not giving it the attention it needed which is why the Israelis needed to find more dramatic, publicly accessible means of giving this data to the mainstream press. This is one of the reasons they chose the MEK.

FKk: So what happened to these sites? Were there inspections of the specific sites that were revealed by the MEK?

SR: These sites were inspected by the International Atomic Energy Agency. Some of the sites like Natanz have emerged as having been involved in a uranium enrichment program. None of the sites have been found to have been involved in a nuclear weapons program. In fact there has been no evidence found of a nuclear weapons program existing in Iran, just a nuclear enrichment program for the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Some of the information the MEK later put out turned out to be false. Basically the release of this information - which was debunked - was an effort to take control of the headlines and interpretation of what's going on to take out voices other than those who detest Iran by providing information that is not accurate.

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This happened a lot when I was a weapons inspector. We dealt with Israel. Israel provided outstanding information up front. But later on, as the investigation went on, the well dried up. No more information could be provided while the Israeli data turned out to be inaccurate.

## Can the Rajavi Cult Dupe Progressives?

By [Paul Foote](#),

March 27, 2007

[http://www.opednews.com/articles/opedne\\_paul\\_foo\\_070324](http://www.opednews.com/articles/opedne_paul_foo_070324)

[can the rajavi cult .htm](#)

(This response and the original article were posted originally under: **March 24, 2007 at 00:01:47**

[Detente or Appeasement?](#) by

[Jubin Afshar](#) ,

<http://www.opednews.com>,

Jubin Afshar, is Director of the Near East Project at Near East Policy Research in Washington, D.C.)

Everyone should look at the content of the author's Web site. The author's solution for is the totalitarian takeover of by the MEK (Rajavi Cult or Pol Pot of Iran). The MEK has murdered American military officers and Rockwell International employees. The MEK has committed terrorist acts, even in New York City. The State Departments of Presidents Bill Clinton and of George W. Bush have placed the MEK on terrorist lists for good reasons. At the end of the Iran-Iraq War, Massoud Rajavi waved to 2,000 MEK fighters from the safety of Iraq while they invaded Iran .

Rajavi told them they would not need to fire a single shot because one million Iranians would march with them to Tehran. In 1991, the MEK committed terrible atrocities against unarmed Kurdish civilians--including running over them with tanks or with armoured personnel carriers.



In April 2003, the American and coalition forces attacked the MEK at Camp Ashraf, Iraq . Does the author dare to reveal where Massoud Rajavi is today? Is the American military holding Massoud Rajavi as a prisoner at a camp in Iraq or protecting him until the American military invades Iran? This is the same group of crazies who burned themselves in front of television cameras in June 2003. While

the American government has closed the office of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI) in Washington, DC, the American government has not closed the operations of other supporters of America's terrorist enemies. Many of the neo-conservatives (neo-Trotskyites) have been strong supporters of the Rajavi Cult. See, for example, the Web site of the Iran Policy Committee. While the Iran Policy Committee does disclose that one of its employees is a former employee of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the IPC does not disclose its funding sources. With the help of the neo-conservatives (neo-Trotskyites), this totalitarian terrorist organization has been able to dupe many in the Democratic and Republican parties. Can the Rajavi Cult dupe progressives? Professor Paul Sheldon Foote

<http://360.yahoo.com/paulsheldonfoote>

Professor, California State University, Fullerton

[http://www.opednews.com/articles/opedne\\_paul\\_foo\\_070324](http://www.opednews.com/articles/opedne_paul_foo_070324)  
[can the rajavi cult .htm](#)



### Operations could wreck American peace strategy

**Simon Tisdall in Ankara Thursday March 22, 2007**  
[Guardian Unlimited](#)

(excerpts from an article published in the British daily *The Guardian* )

.....

US support for Iranian Kurds opposed to the Tehran government is

adding to the agitation. "The US is trying to undermine the Iran regime, using the Kurds like it is using the MEK [the anti-Tehran People's Mujahideen]," said Dr Logoglu. "Once you begin to differentiate between 'good' and 'bad' terrorist organisations, then you lose the war on terror." But he

warned that military intervention might be ineffective and could be "disastrous" in destabilising the region. A recent national security council assessment also suggested that senior Turkish commanders were cautious about the prospects of success.

## British claim on the captured marine in Persian Gulf discredited by allowing Rajavi terrorist cult to act as its spokesman

**Iran Interlink, March 31, 2007**

The new diplomatic conflict between Iran and Britain over the capture of 15 navy personnel by the Iranian border guards has prompted the UN Security Council and the European Union to interfere to resolve the crisis.

The Iranians claim that the incident occurred in Iranian waters, while the British government insists that its troops were in Iraqi water and have never crossed Iranian territorial borders.

While diplomatic efforts, together with wider western pressure, are being used to resolve the crisis, the British Government's position was discredited by allowing an interview with the Mojahedin Khalq Terrorist organisation (Rajavi cult) representative, Hussein Abedini (Mojahedin Khalq Organisation or National Council of Resistance of Iran) in London .

Hossein Abedini, a member of the Mojahedin's alias the National Council of Resistance, in an interview with Sky News TV on March 29, in response to the suggested fact that the British navy personnel "have admitted trespassing into Iranian territorial waters", says:

Well, this is what the mullahs say, but all the indications and all information proves that the British personnel, navy personnel were abducted at gunpoint and they have been taken to Tehran forcibly and they are being interrogated. So, we have information that this was a carefully concocted plan by the Revolutionary Guards and these plans always carry the seal of the highest political and military authority of the Iranian regime...

([http://www.mojahedin.ws/news/ext\\_news\\_en.php?id=1133](http://www.mojahedin.ws/news/ext_news_en.php?id=1133))

The claim of having information from Iran (where the group is hated for their cooperation with Saddam during Iran-Iraq war) is not new. ABC News reported the terrorist group's representative in Washington as claiming:

"The Iranian regime is secretly engaged in the organization and training of large Iraqi terrorist networks in Iran to heighten insecurity and instability and force the coalition forces to leave Iraq, which would in turn pave the way for the establishment of an Islamic Republic in Iraq," Jafarzadeh said. The same report adds:

"There was no independent confirmation of the latest information. The U.S. Mission to the United Nations had no immediate comment.

**"His statement today is a public announcement that this group has been the source of allegations which officials are making about Iranian intervention in Iraq ,"** said Mohammad Mir Ali Mohammadi, a spokesman for 's U.N. Mission'."

(<http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory?id=2968501&CMP=OTCRSSFeeds0312>)

The group which remains on the terrorism lists of the US (1997), UK (2000), European Union (2002) and Canada(2005), has been used to discredit any information which has come out against the Iranian government.

<http://www.iran-interlink.org/?mod=view&id=1114>

In 1994 the US Department of State gave a report about the Mojahedin Khalq Organization, which is permanently headed by self-appointed cult leaders Massoud and Maryam Rajavi. It gave the most up-to-date and researched report in 40 pages describing the nature of the Mojahedin; their internal relations as well as their involvement in killing Kurds, Iraqis, Iranians as well as Americans. The report revealed their total dependency on Saddam Hussein.

<http://www.iran-interlink.org/files/child%20pages/USstatedept.htm>

In May 2005, Human Rights Watch (HRW) published a condemning

report on the abuse of human rights by leaders of the Mojahedin against their own people in . Human Rights Watch also brought to light the way they have been using psychological methods to keep hold of their members against their will.

<http://hrw.org/backgrounder/mena/iran0505/>

It is widely believed that the Iranian Government has benefited the most from the freedom given to this terrorist organization in Washington and London . The Iranian Regime by refusing to accept any opposition except the Mojahedin Khalq (Rajavi cult) has long convinced the people of Iran that the alternative to the Islamic regime would be an Islamic Cult (Rajavi cult) which has been working for the enemy during the 8 years war with Iraq and which is now under the control of Neo-conservatives and Israeli right wingers who are pushing for a military confrontation between the west and Iran. Iran has also frequently used the claim that the terrorist organization is 'the only source of western intelligence from Iran and thereby discredits and rejects all these accusations by default.

After the fall of Saddam and the disintegration of the Mojahedin's military base in Iraq (disintegration of Saddam's private army in 2003), it is clear that the presence of the cult in western capitals has now shifted the problem of Mojahedin Terrorism from Iran and Iraq (where they were working as an annoyance to the Iranians and Iraqis) into the heart of Europe and America.

The group, which orchestrated mass suicide and self-immolations in June 2003 in the capitals of western countries, has now openly threatened the west with more suicide attacks if they refuse to take them off the lists of Terrorist entities and allow them to continue their activities as a destructive cult.

# Mojahedin a bargaining chip in Iran - US negotiations

17 Jan 2007

The transcribed version of

[BBC 2- News Night program on MKO](#)



For two decades it was one of the oddest armies on the earth. Prevailed to overthrow the ayatollahs in Iran, The widow Maryam Rajavi stuck amongst fanatical devotion. She is accused by some of running a crew, a manipulative cult. The America which protects the now-disarmed fighters in Iraq can't decide what to do about them, it runs the people Mujahedin, also known as MEK or MKO as terrorists but according to some politicians it is still a potential ally.



**Bob Filner (Democrat):**

I know the MEK supports a secular democratic, non nuclear Iran. What's there to oppose them? We should be a help to them in any way we can. The Mujahedin's position in Iraq now is a desperate uncomfortable one. Just north of Baqdad you find Ashraf in a vast desert. This land was given to them by Saddam Hussein but the new Iraqi govern-

ment wants them out. And even though President Bush has so far rejected propose to talk to Iran. American policy makers believe the Mujahedin would actually have to be scarified for better relations with Iran.



**Keneth Pollak:**

Iran and the US need to work together to stabilize Iraq which will be disastrous for both countries if it's led to civil war. We also have the nuclear negotiations which are very very delicate and we don't want the MKO to make muddy those already troubled waters. The other matter is that the US does need to take charges against the MKO that is a terrorist organization.

*We are in a house in the suburb of Leeds.*

Ann Singleton and her husband Masud also are ex-Mujahedin activists who now campaign against the movement that commanded them absolute loyalty for twenty years. She joined MKO when she was a student in Manchester University in the late 1970's when the students believed that they can change the world.



**Ann Singleton :**

The only organization which I had access to directly and that would actually going out to doing something was the Majahe-din. They would ask for dona-tions of course and that is how they recruited the crew I guess. The process started with me. They would ask for money and I would give them more than that they asked for to show them my commitment.



Mujahedin began as a guerrilla group fighting the shah of Iran. Along side the followers of Ayatollah Khomeini, they succeeded to overthrow the Pahlavies in 1979.

But afterwards ayatollah Khomeini was not willing to share the power with them. Mujahedin rose to debate him but they were defeated. From then on the organization was bored with the Islamic Republic. Hundred of Iranian officials were killed or wounded by

## Mojahedin a bargaining chip in Iran - US negotiations

Mujahedin's bombs. In one attack the country's current supreme leader Ayatollah Khomeini lost his right arm. In several times in the 1980's these fighters invaded Iran from Iraq. Meanwhile thousands of Mujahedin members were executed in Iranian jails. The leader of the organization and many supporters fled to the West.

Ali Safavi who works for Mujahedin's umbrella organization, NCRI, he has convinced many politicians that this movement which has left violence is a democratic alternative to the Islamic Republic." All accusations against them" he says " are organized by Iran".



### Ali Safavi:

"they view the people's Mujahedin as an existential threat because they know that the Mujahedin has a large support among the Iranian people and that is why they have spent no effort in fight to legalize the Mujahedin by engaging in a massive expensive propaganda Campaign to demonize the Mujahedin.

But there is no evidence that Abbas Sadeqinejad relates to Iranian intelligence. This former Mujahedin member who now lives in Germany with his family that he thought he had lost for ever when he fled Iran. The years when he stayed in Camp Ashraf he believed what the Mujahedin had told him that his wife and his new born daughter were dead.



**Sadeqi:**"they told me that they set two people to find my wife and one of them was killed by the Regime but they said that they pursued my case with a second and they found out that my wife had died when giving birth to my daughter . That's how they cut my ties with my family. Same time, they told my wife that I was killed by the Regime as I was leaving the country.

"Psychological manipulation" as described to Newsnight by many interviewed former members. This part of the system of control by Masud Rajavi and his new wife Maryam was established in Iraq in the 80's and 90's. They launched what they called "Ideological Revolution". The women got key jobs. The announcement of sexual feelings became forbidden and divorce became obligatory.

### Singleton:

they decreed that every member should divorce. All your thought and feeling and energy, your whole being have to be devoted to the Rajavis. That was a forced system of reporting, any erotic fantasy they had for example they have aroused by sister so so or by what's his name brother. They were expected to tell everything totally open, any thing was in your mind or you feel with your heart.

### Reporter:

were all members forced to divorce?

### Safavi:

No, every individual member of the Mojahedin decided on his own to forget family life, those who were married of course.

### Reporter:

all of them?

### Safavi:

yes. Yes. All of them.

- So every single married member in Ashraf at that time made the voluntary decision to divorce or forget the family life?

-yes

-How many people where there?

-I don't exactly know what the number was but hundreds people ,yes every member of the hundreds.

- Hundreds?

-yes

-Hundreds. Every single one voluntarily to divorce!

- Yes.

- Isn't it implausible to see that hundreds of members, all voluntarily take a decision to divorce?

-Not at all.

The level of devotion expended to the members' squirm of suicide feared European citizens in 2003. To protest the temporary arrest of Maryam Rajavi

The Newsnight has serious accounts that in the 1990's those who seemed less reliable were tortured in the confinement of the organization's Camp in Iraq.

### Sadeqi:

they hit my knees so hard.... He pulled my hair and said that he would teach me a lesson I would never get. He put handcuff on me and hung me from my right hand.... I shouted why you are hitting a member of the organization. But they hung me like that for twenty minutes. ...

Mujahedin were the guests for Saddam Hussein in 1980's

## Mojahedin a bargaining chip in Iran - US negotiations

when he was the ally in war with Iran of the West. He offered them the most convenient bases. It was certain that their association with the Iraqi traitor would become their big terrible trouble. In the 1990's after the Iraq invaded Kuwait, Saddam became the West's enemy. Meanwhile in 1997, when the new reformist president Muhammad Khatami was elected in Tehran, in that year America listed the Mujahedin as terrorists, something that weakened their abilities to work on fund raising in West. Some believe that the move was a coquetry just to appease Iran.

### Kenneth Polack:

There was definitely a debate within the US government. As to whether or not the MKO should be added to the list but the ultimate decision that was made was that the US needs to be consistent at the application of its standards. That no country would take the US seriously if the only groups that are put on the list of terrorists were the groups who are at war with the US and its allies.

In 2001, the US attacked Afghanistan. Both America and Iran after the remove of Taliban had a reason to talk. One of the deals the officials looked around was that the US and Iran talk about the existence of Mujahedin.



### Colonel Lawrence Wilkerson:

We had some intelligence, indi-

cated that some key senior officials of AlQaida might have gone to Iran. Just casual conversations suggested that Iran should be willing to turn over those AlQaida figures and we had to give them a probe and whenever speaking of the pre-proposed proba MEK was there. It happened around discussions almost all the time because it was clear that Iran is very concerned about the MEK.



Laurence Wilkerson and his boss Collin Powell weren't sure how high in the Iranian government the approach came from. They didn't listen to the offer but a year and a half later there was a better chance to deal.

After the US-led invasion of Iraq, Iran sent Washington a secret letter proposing talks. Here, we have a copy of the letter; it's not signed but the State Department understood that it came with the approval of the highest authorities in Tehran and that offers exactly what many in Washington, believe America should have been seeking from Iran.

Tehran offered to use its influence to support stabilization in Iraq and to have full transparency on its nuclear programme and remarkably end the military support to the militant Lebanese group Hezbollah and aid to the Palestinian Hamas. In return it wanted the US to halt hostile behavior, abolition of all sanctions and specifically pursuit of the Mujahedin and repatriation of their members.

### Wilkerson:

and we thought, it was precious moment to do that. I think the Secretary of State and Deputy of the Secretary of State just thought at the same time but when it got to the White House and to the Vice-President's Office, the old mantra that we don't talk to the evils which includes the guy of Pyongyang, North Korea and includes the guy of Tehran, Iran. Reasserted itself and to our embarrassment, State as far as I'm concerned the cable that I saw go back to the Swiss, ashly upbraided the Swiss to being so bold and audacious to present such a proposal to us on behalf of Iran. It was the Zenith of American strength in the region, a natural time for republicans of the White House to wonder if the regime change in Iraq could be followed by the regime change in Iran

Mujahedin obvious allies in a research campaign have been bombed by the US during the invasion in Iraq and afterwards the State Department ordered Them to be disarmed but the especial Pentagon forces sent to perform that task found out so instantly how useful the exiled fighters could be.



### Military Lawyer (Vivian Gembara):

they were a formidable fighting force there, I mean but it was not the best equipped force that we have ever seen. A Force which is led by women. It's such a unique: I mean it

## Mojahedin a bargaining chip in Iran - US negotiations

sounds like almost fiction.

And the US army's instant infatuation with Muajhedin fully were recruited a very pragmatic force that was so loyal to Saddam, now apparently wanted to serve America in any way it could.

### Military lawyer:

we wanted to disband them essentially and that was what we had a problem with because they still wanted to work with us.

Back in Washington the state of Department wasn't interested...

### Wilkerson:

everyday from Monday to Friday we had meetings at the State Department from 8:30 and one of the questions that came up almost everyday was what we have to do with the MEK, the MEK were still wondering around Iraq, still they had their arms .they are still a cohesive body of people saying what's happening?

They're a terrorist organization we declare them ourselves. The President, himself does agree that we should do something about the MEK but nothing is happening. The Defense Department doesn't do any thing. By their actions, I must say that Secretary of Defense and his underlings and the Vice President's Office must have thought that the MEK might prove the fruitful instrument in the future and therefore they don't want to take any drastic action against the MEK. President Bush has now relinquished the services of the former Defense Secretary Donald Ramsfeld but Newsnight understands that still the strong pro-Mujahedin lobby within the administration, one of the possibilities ,apparently have been concerning is to use the group as a go-between to help Ameri-

can forces reach outs to Sunni insurgence.



Meanwhile in Europe the charismatic leader of the Iranian resistance Maryam Rajavi has been rallying among her supporters with talking of victory. The Mujahedin have just wanted the Judgment of European court of justice on freezing their assets that they believe it's the first step to removing the terrorist tag, that still haunts them. Though their last attack was in 1999 and they have since renounced any military role.

### Ali Safavi:

Instead of tying engaged with Mullahs in Tehran the international community has to reach out to the democratic opposition and the very opposition which by the key reveal allegations on the Iran's nuclear weapons program. In some sense really the international community and the Western countries owe a huge debt of gratitude to the Mujahedin.

In fact there's no more much sign of support for the Mujahedin in Iran. Since they moved to Iraq they've been widely regarded as traitors. The disbanding of the group plays as the key goal for Tehran. In the short term chances of the US-Iranian relations is very little. President Ahmadinejad and President Bush both talk with the language of confrontation but many in Washington regret that.

### Wilkerson:

I think the failure of the US to make some sort of meaningful overtures to Tehran has been a terrible mistake that has put Iran in a strategic position in the Middle East that she couldn't have gained by her own magi. We have through our inaptitude and our refusal of the talk, it is certainly giving Iran the cat-bird seat in the region.

Published by the Mujahedin's latest promotional material, the 3500 remaining residents of Ashraf deprived of their military role enjoy a cultural life in the middle of the Iraqi desert. They even revived their own form of dance.



The organization believe that they can survive here under the protection of Geneva and again one day play a big role in the Iranian political scene but as Tehran strengthens its influence in Iraq and the US runs an eventual plan the Mujahedin's time must have been running out.



## Mojahedin a bargaining chip in Iran - US negotiations - ( transcribed version)

Posted on 2007-03-27

By Nejat Society

## Country that forgets the past creates another Osama bin Laden

March 17, 2007

*The CIA has been accused of assisting separatist militants inside Iran, a course of action that would be baffling and dangerous, writes Waleed Aly*

NASROLLAH Shanbe Zehi was publicly hanged in Iran last month. He had detonated a bomb in the city of Zahedan in Sistan-Baluchistan, killing 11 Revolutionary Guards. This sequence of events is sadly unremarkable on two counts: first, executions of this kind are common in Iran; second, there has been a marked increase in political violence in the country in the past two years. Iran is host to a wide range of often persecuted ethnic and religious minorities. Many pursue militant separatist causes. Kurds in the west, Azeris in the northwest, Ah-wazi Arabs in the southwest, and Baluchis in the southeast have all been said to have perpetrated violent acts against the Iranian regime in that time.

The question is, precisely what is fuelling such a civil escalation? Tehran's explanation has long been clear: they are the beneficiaries of material support from the US and Britain. In the case of Zehi, one local official told the Fars news agency that the bomber had used British and US-made weaponry.

It is the kind of spectacular allegation we may expect to come from Tehran. It is the kind of news we may expect to be picked up by the Green Left Weekly. But recently The Sunday Telegraph in London, Britain's most conservative broadsheet, reported that it has been confirmed, on condition of anonymity, by a former high-ranking CIA official in Washington. According to this source, it is "no great secret" any longer that the CIA is funding these separatist militants from its classified budget.

Fred Burton, a former counter-terrorism agent with the US De-

partment of State, appeared to agree: "The latest attacks inside Iran fall in line with US efforts to supply and train Iran's ethnic minorities to destabilise the Iranian regime," he said.

Other observers feel this is obvi-



ous. John Pike, head of Washington's Global Security think tank, stated flatly that, having observed the recent separatist escalation, "it would be a scandal if that was not at least in part the result of CIA activity".

If the reports are true - and Washington officially denies the allegations - the US is embarking on a bafflingly foolish course. These separatist militias are known for resorting to terrorist methods. One, the Mujaheddin-e Khalq, which has a long history of anti-regime violence, is listed by the US State Department as a terrorist organisation. Yet Pike believes that "a faction within the Defence Department wants to unleash them". There is an obvious philosophical incongruity in a nation proclaiming to the world that it is fighting a war on terror while funding perpetrators of it.

Any policy that seeks to exploit them as proxy fighters against the Iranian regime is necessarily one of pure political convenience, not philosophical conviction.

But beyond the philosophical, this promises to be a strategic disaster. Here is an array of militant groups with no ideological confluence. They share no aspirations beyond the removal of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's regime and certainly share no philosophical alliance with the US. Nothing is more predictable than that such militias, at some point, will turn savagely against the US after accepting its money. The

US has been here before, most famously in the 1980s. The enemy back then was the Soviet Union. One beneficiary of US assistance was a man by the name of Osama bin Laden.

Spanish philosopher George Santayana's contention that "those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it" is as wise as it is ignored. For all the obvious sense in Santayana's dictum, it is a greater challenge to identify those who have managed to avoid repeating the blunders of their past than to name those who have not. It seems the one constant of history is that we refuse its lessons.

But today our amnesia is becoming increasingly extreme. These allegations, if true, reveal that, more than forgetfulness of the past, we are even forgetting the present. The elements of Iran's political terrain noted above should sound frighteningly familiar. Here we have an artificially created nation with ill-conceived post-colonial borders that have fostered a range of disparate militant factions. This is precisely what prevails in Iraq. To bankroll an escalation of this is to court yet another apparently intractable civil war. If Ahmadinejad's regime is weakened, the resultant power vacuum is likely only to heighten the violence. There is much about this that should trouble us, not the least of which is the thought that not only has the Bush administration executed a monumental foreign policy blunder in Iraq, it may be quite happy to repeat it.

And what if Washington's denials are true? The lessons of Iraq must surely still be heeded. True, as Condoleezza Rice reminds us, Iran is not Iraq. But the similarities are sufficiently concerning and the differences more so. A military invasion - as Vice-President Dick Cheney quite openly mooted during his recent trip to Australia - particularly if it results in regime change, also risks precipitating another civil war from which the US



## Country that forgets the past creates another Osama bin Laden (cont)

will never satisfactorily disentangle itself, and from which whatever is left of its goodwill in the region will be comprehensively shredded.

It is worth remembering what that means: providing another battleground and another rallying point for terrorist groups, and increasing the terror risk accordingly, without any accompanying, foreseeable solution.

Alternatively, the process of regime change would be a much bloodier and costlier affair than that in Iraq. Iran is a proud nation with greater technological capacity than Sad-

dam Hussein's Iraq. Any differences between the invasion of Iraq and an invasion of Iran are likely only to be negatively so.

If there is a time for the Bush administration to discover the ancient art of diplomacy, it is now. It has taken four taxing years in Iraq for the US to accept, finally, that it may need to begin talking with stakeholders in the region whom it has previously dismissed as evil, namely Iran and Syria. The announcement this month that the US will attend a ministerial-level meeting in April about the future of Iraq with representatives from across

the Middle East and the UN Security Council powers is a welcome relief. It is as yet unclear whether the talks will also encompass Iran's nuclear program, which is ostensibly prompting the US to consider a military response.

Still, we can only hope this represents a new, more collaborative phase in US thinking on foreign policy in the region rather than an aberration. Sense and history are calling.

*Waleed Aly is the author of People Like Us (Picador), to be published later this year.*

## Iraqi Cleric: MKO TO BE EXPELLED SOON

**Ali Mohsen**

Razi/Barasa news agency,

**March 17 2007**

Friday prayer leader of Ba-

a terrorist organization involved in killing Iraq people during Sha'banieh uprising and also participated in other crimes of Saddam Hussein. This organization is repeating its crimes in

submit a request to the UN according to which it could expel the MKO from Iraq to another country."

He also added that he had visited Nuri Al-Maliki last



rasa mosque in Iraq, Jalal al-Din Al-Saghir, said on Friday that, "MKO will be expelled from Iraq in the near future because it was

Diyalah province".

"Iraqi government will soon

week to discuss the issue as well as the fact that Diyalah has become a safe haven for terrorists.

## MKO hired actors for demonstration in Brussels: German news magazine

Iran-interlink, cologne,  
April 2, 2007



The MKO (Mojahedin Khalq Organisation) terrorist group (Rajavi cult) hired extras for a demonstration in Brussels on March 8 in a bid to cover up the small number of protestors, the weekly Focus news magazine reported Monday.

Around 60 Iranian actors and actresses who were not informed beforehand about the action, were paid the usual 50 euros per day fee to take part in the recent demonstration in Brussels where the MKO was protesting its continued black-listing as a terror group by the European Union.

The extras were hired by a German casting agency, named 'House of Extras',

which transferred them via two busses from Cologne to Brussels.

According to Focus, most of the side actors and actresses were duped into believing that the MKO demonstration was part of a movie and not a real event.

Once the extras arrived at the scene of a demonstration they were shocked and most of them broke away from the other demonstrators.

Meanwhile a representative of the German casting agency said that extras were also hired for another MKO demonstration in New York in fall 2005.

Jochen Cerff confirmed that 50 actors and actresses were hired in Hamburg and Leipzig to take part in a New York rally in front of

the UN building.

The extras received reportedly a one-week complimentary trip to New York.

The MKO had also paid poor European-based immigrants from Africa and the Middle East, most of them social welfare recipients, to attend demonstrations in Berlin.

Several of the paid African demonstrators were told by the MKO that they would go on a sightseeing trip to Berlin.

The MKO was earlier found guilty of massive social welfare fraud in Germany throughout the 1990s.

Link to the original article by Focus.de

<http://www.focus.de/politik/deutschland/gekaufter-protest-aid-51864.html>

## New Charges Added to MKO's Criminal Case

IRNA, April 07, 2007



French prosecutor announced that new charges have been added to the case against MKO and the head of the group Maryam Rajavi.

AFP's report from Paris on

Wednesday indicate that prosecutor general has asked the court to add money laundering and fraud charges to the case, which includes connection with terrorism and saboteur groups.

According to the report, prosecutor has submitted this request to anti-terror court on March 19.

MKO collected public donations in Paris and sent the money to bank accounts abroad, judges say.

On June 17, 2003, French



police attacked MKO headquarters in the suburbs of French capital and arrested 164 MKO members including Maryam Rajavi.

The group has been listed as terrorist by the US and EU.

## Baqubah, Terrorism and MKO

**Reported by: Iran didban  
Marwan Tofiq/  
Barasa news agency,  
April 03, 2007**

The MKO is a remnant of former regime that has remained active in our country by deception and its goal is to disrupt the situation of new Iraq.

The organization, which acted under the control of former regime and enjoyed considerable equipments and facilities, is still trying to keep its sabotaging role since it's aware that a fate like that of former regime is awaiting it. The hostility between Iran and occupiers, of course, has delayed the fate of this group.

What we see today in Diyala (killing Shiites, terror and ...) are all backed logistically and the terrorist group of Mojahedin-e Khalq has a history of such attacks. What's happening inside Iraq is not irrelevant to the group. Group's long presence in Iraq has helped the group to get good information about Iraq. This organization was a tool for former regime in suppressing opponents and attacking them. The group maintains its capabilities and is fully aware of developments in Iraq.

The comments of Iraqi interior minister on the MKO and their activities in Iraq exposed part of realities on terrorist operations in

Diyala and showed that the MKO was involved in the activities.

Controlling this organization will decrease terrorism in the province. They are terrorists and we should get rid of them.

It's surprising to hear that it's trying to maintain its presence in Iraq by slogans of democracy and liberty. In fact, they want to go on with their destabilizing activities. However, we are not surprised to see hypocrites appearing each day with a new face to get to their filthy goals.

I should repeat that former Baath party and its partners, including the MKO, is the major drive behind all problems and disasters in Iraq

## MKO supports the terrorists

**The Italian News Agency (AKI)  
April 3, 2007**

'Zari Al-Fahad Al-Asadi' the deputy chief of the administrative council of the province of Diyala said: "the inhabitants of this province would never forget the crimes of the elements of MKO in the events of suppressing the uprising the Shiite Moslems in the south and the Kurds in the north in 1991 which was committed jointly with Saddam Hussein's forces.

"The people of this province have repeatedly demanded that the members of the organisation be expelled from Diyala, but the Americans have never given a positive response to this enquiry." He added.

In this manner Asadi, while meeting the reporter of the website of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, said as a reply to the sayings of the representative of MKO in Britain whom was quoted in the 'Al-Sharq Al-Awsat': In relation to the comments made by Dowlat Nowruzi who claimed that 132 thousand Iranian mercenaries are present in key governmental positions in Iraq, the government and the parliament of Iraq must answer, but as far as the province of Diyala is concerned, this is the district that this terrorist organisation is still occupying. I must emphasise that "the inhabitants of Ashraf Camp are still continuing their terrorist roll and support all terrorist activities of the aggressive cults and enemies of the Government after the fall of Saddam Hussein and shelter them. This organisation is acquainted with death squads,

terror, torture and taking hostages. The MKO not only is not in financial difficulties as Nowruzi claims, but has bribed his allies with millions of dollars.

Al-Fahad then continued: the inhabitants of Ashraf Camp continuously carry on with political and lobbying activities and in this way they have managed to attract the attention of the forces supporting the previous regime and the Ba'ath party to cooperate with them. They cooperate with some of intelligence officers of Saddam Hussein and some tribe leaders and have established the so called the council of rescue of Diyala province headed by former governor Abdullah Jaburi.

He added: regarding this group's illusion that has claimed that the Iraqi government has considered their forces as political refugees; I must declare that this is mere lie. On the contrary, we as the members of the council of the province of Diyala, have officially urged the present and past governments and parliament to expel these people from our province, but the Americans do put obstacles in the way of our requests.

The deputy chief of the council of Diyala province criticised the roll of the organisation which cooperated with the previous regime and said: "This organisation has a dark history of cooperating with the regime of Saddam Hussein. Their involvement in suppressing the movement in the south and the mass murder of villagers in the districts of Kelar and Kefri would not be forgotten. The MKO holds meetings and sessions in our cities which

are welcomed by the terrorists. In relation to the claim of this organisation that the Ashraf Camp has school, university and hospital and has presented services to the inhabitants of the region for the past 20 years, I must say that this Camp is situated in a remote area and the people's access to it in the past and at the present time was and still is impossible. The simplest reason is that the security forces of Saddam Hussein who were working with this group had agreed with them that Kurdish citizen of the districts of Mandali and Khaneqeyn or the Shiite Moslems of Diyala cities have no right to get near to the Camp, since these people are familiar with Farsi which was the language of the elements of the MKO and would learn about the nature of their cooperation with their allies.

Al-Asadi once more repeated the demand of the people of this province and urged that the forces of this organisation be expelled from Iraq and also reminded that: We request that the declaration of the council of transient government regarding the deportation of MKO forces from our soil. The reason of course is that we are the province that has borders with Iran and therefore we want to have good relationship with our neighbouring country and that is to our best interests. Not to support MKO is not to intervene into the internal affairs of other countries and we do not wish that our soil once more become a safe heaven for terrorists. We must avoid anything which might cause tension in our relationships. The problems and disorders of the cities of Mandali, Qaraniya, Khaneqeyn and other cities would be adequate for us.

# Briefing Publication of Nejat Society

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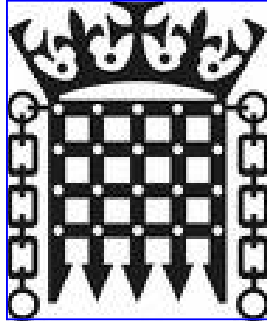
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The EU-wide asset freeze against MeK is therefore still in force

Britain, House of Lords,

March 13, 2007



**Lord Avebury**

(Liberal Democrat) |  
[Hansard source](#)

asked [Her Majesty's Government](#):

What action they have taken to comply with the ruling of the [European Court of First Instance](#) in the case *Organisation des Modjahedines du Peuple d'Iran v Council of the European Union*, annulling [Council Decision](#) 2005/930/EC of 21 December 2005 freezing the funds of the organisation; and in what

manner they will now provide for the full hearing of the case against the organisation.

**Lord Triesman**

(Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Foreign & Commonwealth Office) |  
[Hansard source](#)

On 12 December 2006, the [Court of First Instance \(CFI\)](#) of the [European Community](#) annulled the Council of the European Union's decision to add the Mujahedine Khalq (MeK, also known as [OMPI](#) or [PMOI](#)) to its list of terrorist organisations subject to an [EU-wide asset freeze](#). The CFI judgment focused on issues of EU procedure; the Court did not rule on the substantive question as to whether the MeK is a terrorist group.

The specific Council decision of Decem-

ber 2005 annulled by the Court has been replaced by a subsequent Council decision of May 2006. The EU-wide asset freeze against MeK is therefore still in force. The EU keeps its terrorist asset freezing decisions under regular review.

Following the CFI decision on the MeK case in December, the EU has reviewed the listing, using improved procedures, and on 30 January reaffirmed its decision to include the MeK on its list of terrorist organisations. In line with the Court's requirements, it has written to the group setting out the reasons for the decision, and explaining how the group can exercise its right to provide further information relevant to the case and/or petition for delisting.

