

Nejat Newsletter

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Iran Exile Group Stays on EU Terror List

By: **CONSTANT BRAND**

06.28.07

European Union governments decided Thursday to keep an Iranian opposition group blacklisted as a terrorist organization after reviewing its demand to be removed following a recent court ruling, diplomats said.

The Paris-based People's Mujahadeen Organization of Iran, which seeks the overthrow of Iran's Islamic regime, is also on the U.S. government's list of terror groups.



Former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein let the group - also known as the Mujahedeen-e Khalq, or MEK - operate camps in Iraq from which it staged attacks on Iran.

The group says it has renounced military action and its militants in Iraq have handed weapons over to U.S.-led forces.

IranPeyvand.com

East French Rail Lines in Terror Alert with Four MKO Members Sought

TF1, France, News at 20:00, August 08, 2007

<http://tf1.lci.fr/info/france/0,,3518161,00-grand-est-menace-par-alerte-terroriste-.html>

French Channel One Television (TF1) announced on the 20 Hours news broadcast August 08, 2007 that train services between Luxembourg and France are being investi-

gated after information received from Luxemburg authorities indicated that up to five terrorist suspects (4 Iranians and one of Afghan origin) are being sought. The news went on to say that information received from the Luxemburg authorities claim that the four of Iranian origin are closely linked to the Mojahedin Khalq Organization Headquarters in

France. The rail system between France and Luxemburg has been interrupted for almost twenty-four hours and security has been increased as France investigates this terrorist alert.

Link to the video, France TF1, News at 8 pm, August 08, 2007

<http://tf1.lci.fr/info/france/0,,3518161,00-grand-est-menace-par-alerte-terroriste-.html>

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Breaking The Ties That Bind

A family torn apart by Mojahedin Khalq Organisation (Rajavi cult)



Full story on page 3

Iraq PM: The presence of MKO in Iraq is against the law

Al-Iraqiyah TV, Baghdad, in Arabic August 06, 2007

Within its 1700 gmt newscast on 6 August, Baghdad Al-Iraqiyah Television in Arabic the channel carries the following report: "Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki has said that his forthcoming visit to Turkey will seek to enhance Iraqi-Turkish relations at all levels. Al-Maliki added that the visit is part of a government plan to upgrade security and economic cooperation with Iraq's neighbours."

The report cites Al-Maliki as saying: "This visit comes in response to an invitation by the Turkish prime minister to view bilateral issues and files. Needless to say, one of the files we will discuss is security cooperation to face terrorism and the terrorist challenges which the region in general and both countries in particular are witnessing. The

Turkish side has expressed a strong desire to conclude economic agreements and pave the way for Turkish firms to take part in the reconstruction process, especially in the central and southern areas."



Al-Maliki adds: "The Iraqi



General Tahir Abduljalil Habush, the head of Saddam Hussein's Security Forces, in visit with the leader of the MKO Mas'ud Rajavi

Government will not allow Iraqi territories to become

the launch pad of acts that can harm the interests of the others. Likewise, we will not allow Iraq to become a haven for illegitimate or terrorist organizations acting against any neighbouring country. This, in fact, is stated in the Constitution. We are keen that no neighbouring country is harmed by acts coming from Iraqi territories."

Commenting on his upcoming Iran visit, Al-Maliki says: "Here again, the same files will be raised, including security cooperation and the Mojahedin-E Khalq organization, which is viewed as a threat to Iran's security and which is classified as a terrorist organization. The presence of this organization in Iraq is against the law and the Constitution. In addition, there are other common issues related to borders, water, and cooperation at the economic, oil, and power levels."

Four more defectors of Rajavis' Cult repatriated

Posted on 2007-08-01

Four more defectors of Rajavis' Cult repatriated

Nejat Society

Tehran-July 30th 2007

According to Nejat Society correspondent, four other people defected MKO and repatriated. The four defectors, who were MKO members for a long time,

spent a few weeks in TIPF Camp and finally could return



Iran with Red Cross cooperation.

The defectors' names:

- Ahmad Rostamian
- GholamReza Shirdom
- Jamil Abdollahzade
- AliReza Naghashzade

The above-named people will consequently state their comments on the disruptive atmosphere in Camp Ashraf.

Breaking The Ties That Bind

(A family torn apart by Mojahedin Khalq Organisation - Rajavi cult).



By: neha gandhi, CBC Television, August 12, 2007

<http://exposure.cbc.ca/video/breaking-ties-bind>

A tale of a family torn apart by lies, deception, and government bureaucracy, "Breaking the Ties That Bind" is a true story of the Mohammady family and their tangled history with the Iranian resistance force known as the Mujahedin-e Khalq (MEK).

About Somayah:

Somayah was only 17 when she met the recruiters of the Iranian opposition group Mojahedin-e Khalagh (MEK) in Toronto.

Born into a family with sympathies towards the group and having already lost her favorite aunt in guerrilla fights against Islamic Republic of Iran, Somayah

decided to drop out of her grade 10 high school class at Etobicoke Collegiate Institute and attend a MEK camp in Iraq for a month. Most of all, she was thankful to MEK for offering to pay for her expenses to visit her aunt's grave. On February, 1998 Somayah

left Toronto to spend a month in what later on turned to be a guerrilla compound called Camp Ashraf, the headquarters of the Organization of the Freedom Fighters of the Iranian People. Somayah is a now a 25 year old, still living under harsh conditions of Ashraf, despite her parents' restless tries to bring her back home.

Somayah is one of the many Canadian and American teenagers who were deceitfully recruited by MEK and sent to Camp Ashraf, where they were trained for guerilla fights and forced to stay inevitably. In an independent letter sent to the Canadian embassy in Jordan, Somayah asks for the Canadian government's



help to get her back to Toronto. Later however, she was forced by MEK in a court hearing to denounce her family and state that

she wants to stay with MEK "holy worriers", now a banned terrorist organization under Canadian law since 2005.

Somayah's life has been in great danger in the past 10 years and she is defiantly threatened to comply with MEK's rules. Her story is

very damaging to MEK and as a result the organization does not allow Somayah to leave camp Ashraf in order to contact or meet with the Canadian Officials in private or in a 3rd party country. This has further complicated her case, as she officially told an immigration judge over satellite phone that she does not wish to return to Canada. Her family and friends know this to be a testimony made under

pressure and therefore devoid of any truth. Somayah is kept like a hostage at Camp Ashraf and must be

treated like one.

About Us

We are Family and Friends of Somayah Mohammadi who are deeply concerned about her safety as she has been forcefully kept by Mojahedin-e Khalagh (MEK), Iranian guerrilla fighters in Iraq, for the past ten years. Somayah is one of the many Canadian and American youth who were recruited to monthly camps when they were teenagers, only to be kept like hostages at the headquarters of the Organization of the Freedom Fighters of the Iranian People, Camp Ashraf, Iraq. This website is to raise awareness about Somayah's case and help us organize our campaign to save Somayah.

Somayah website: <http://www.somayah.org/>

Massoud Rajavi name in Mojahedin propoganda signals a cult spiralling toward disaster

Iran Interlink Brief

Iran Interlink, July 13, 2007

Our brief in February 2007 mentioned that the Mojahedin Khalq's own analysis places blame for its current difficulties on its critics; in particular former members of the cult who continue to speak out on the cult's continued use of violence and its human rights abuses. One of those critics is Mohammad - Hossein Sobhani, a human rights activist who was mentioned in the May 2005 Human Rights Watch report 'No Exit'.

<http://www.iran-interlink.org/?mod=view&id=797>

In recent days the MKO has published, on YouTube and similar media, several videos depicting violence and fighting. The words introducing the video clips mention Mr Sobhani by name although none of them actually show him on film. In addition, hundreds of articles have been published without authorship on the tens of websites which have no discernible ownership other than being strongly linked with the MKO which also implicate Mr Sobhani in this violence.

What has happened to provoke this?

On June 17, 2007 Mr Sobhani was invited as a speaker to a meeting in Paris on 'Peace and Tolerance'. He has previously spoken on television and radio. He was invited to

speak at the European Parliament on February 27, 2007.

<http://www.iran-interlink.org/?mod=view&id=1863>

During the Paris meeting Mr Sobhani, along with the other guests of the meeting, was attacked by over fifty people. It was later revealed that the attack had been organised by the Mojahedin Khalq from its

rorist who had been transferred from Iraq (and back again) to act as 'military commander' at the scene.

The Mojahedin subsequently tried to exploit Mr Sobhani's brief arrest and his release along with some of the films they took themselves - which show the attackers' own engagement with employees of the venue's security firm - in an effort to claim that Mr Sobhani attacked the MKO



Mr. Sobhani in European Parliament. Feb. 2007

headquarters in Auver-sur-Oise. Its purpose, to stop anybody criticising the cult.

<http://www.iran-interlink.org/?mod=view&id=2653>

Over fifty attackers were arrested by police at the scene. From among the invited guests Mr Sobhani was arrested by mistake and was subsequently released. He has filed a complaint against Mohammad Hayati, a known MKO ter-

at the venue where he had been invited as a guest to speak. The MKO propoganda is clearly aimed at discrediting Mr Sobhani as a prominent critic of the group.

This attempt has been going on for the past three weeks but appears not to be working. Even the Mojahedin's own supporters and members cannot explain to themselves why fifty people were sent to violently attack five speakers at the

Massoud Rajavi name in Mojahedin propaganda signals a cult spiralling toward disaster

Paris venue.

In an unprecedented move the Mojahedin have issued a lengthy document introduced as a statement by Massoud Rajavi – the MKO's leader who has been in hiding since the 2003 fall of Saddam Hussein.

In the statement, which purports to be in his name, Massoud Rajavi targets this specific issue and states as a matter of fact that fifty MKO activists were attacked by Mr Sobhani at the venue.

This is the first time that Massoud Rajavi's name has been used in this way. He has never issued any similar statement in all the time he has acted as leader of the cult. The significance of this can be gleaned from exposing Maryam Rajavi's repeated instruction to the Mojahedin's membership that the first, second and third aim of the cult is to protect Massoud Rajavi and his name. But now we see that she herself is spending his name as an expendable asset of the MKO.

In Mojahedin terms this announcement - purportedly by Massoud Rajavi – is intended to act as an injection of 'ideological' drug into the Mojahedin cult

body. The effect of using Massoud Rajavi's name should be to convince the members to somehow accept the blatant contradictions inherent in the lie. Not only has Rajavi's statement not convinced them, but during the past few days we have received numerous reports from inside the Mojahedin that the supporters and some members

Leader even though his name has now become an expendable asset. They must try not to doubt him, but they can't avoid the inevitability of this which has been imposed on them by this propaganda move.

Observers of the Mojahedin cult are seeing clear signs of desperation. This use of Massoud Rajavi's name in this recent propaganda



Mr. Sobhani stabbed by MKO thugs. June 2007

are struggling with the idea that 'if Massoud Rajavi's name can be used as cover for a ridiculous lie like this, then how can we trust him not to have been lying all the time from 1979 until now'. The problem for the ideological members is to try to revere Massoud Rajavi as their Ideological

campaign more than anything signals that the cult is spiralling out of control. It is becoming more and more isolated and extreme in its behaviour. There should be a warning in this to security officials in European countries.

**Iran-Interlink
July 13, 2007**

“Elaheh”, the singer of “flowers” passed away

BBC Persian.com



17 August 2007

Bahar Gholam-Husseini, otherwise known as **Elaheh**, a veteran diva singer of the Iranian folk music, died at the age of 71 in Tehran.

In 1994 she participated in a concert in support of the MKO which left her with sever criticisms. She latter announced that she did not know about the nature of the concert which was held as a propaganda campaign for MKO and its leader Maryam Rajavi in Paris.



Coordinator of MKO-Terrorists Arrested

Jodat Kazem/Al-Hayat,
London, July 26, 2007

http://www.daralhayat.com/arab_news/levant_news/07-2007/Item-20070722-ef2b358d-c0a8-10ed-0169-5e997cf6fc0c/story.html

http://www.daralhayat.com/arab_news/levant_news/07-2007/Item-20070723-f4305e96-c0a8-10ed-0169-5e991ed6d997/story.html

U.S. and Iraqi forces have arrested Abdullah Al-Jabouri, former governor of Diyala on charges of coordinating the activities of al-Qaeda, Baath party and Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization and also because of being involved in terror and

sabotaging operations.

Foad al-Taaei, director of al-Khales Information Office in Diyala, said to Al-Hayat newspaper: "U.S. and Iraqi forces have arrested Abdullah al-Jabouri who was formerly acting as the province's governor. He was the leader of an al-Qaeda team in the area of Sa'diah al-Jabal, mostly comprised of Al-Jabour tribes."

"He was also the coordinator of activities between the MKO and members of the tribal elements of Al-Sa'dieh. He provided them with financial and logistical support," he added.

"His arrest warrant had been issued earlier but it had not been executed since he was in London. He was arrested by U.S. and

Iraqi forces as soon as he entered his house near al-Sa'diah district."

After the news of arrest was announced, a man introducing himself as Al-Jabouri, the former governor of Diyala, called Al-Hayat newspaper and denied the reports.

Meanwhile, Multinational Forces (MNF) in Iraq said in a statement- a copy of which available to Al-Hayat- that "U.S. special forces, along with Iraqi forces, have arrested the former governor of Diyala."

"Intelligence reports indicate that the detained man has been in touch with terrorist groups of Al-Qaeda, Baath Party and Mojahedin-e Khalq organization and has been involved in terror, murder and unrest," the statement adds.

Status of Mojahedin Khalq (Rajavi cult) Members Held in Iraq Prompts Debate (cont)

(cont from page 7)

MEK a terrorist group.

The U.S. has permitted family members to visit Camp Ashraf. Masumai Rasahid has been there to see her son four times.

Ms. RASAHID: (Through Translator) When he met me, he had a very bad reaction in front of everybody. He screamed at me and yelled at me. His friends told me that he was forced to do that. The last time that we met, it was much better. They let us stay for the night in the camp with him, and he was a little better than the previous time.

SHUSTER: The last time Masumai Rasahid saw her son was in 2004. Since then, it's been far too dangerous to make the trip.

The U.S. has been unable to decide just what to do with the MEK. The Iranian government has reportedly offered to exchange some al-Qaida members it says it is holding for the leaders of the MEK, permitting the rank and file to return to Iran to be reunited with their families.

Some U.S. officials have suggested sending the MEK to a third country. Others have argued that the U.S. should continue to hold the MEK as a bargaining chip and even use them for covert operations against Iran in retaliation for attacks that the U.S. says Iran is behind in Iraq.

Arash Semitapur(ph) urges Washington not to be tempted to use the group against the Iranian govern-

ment.

Mr. SEMITAPUR: Maybe there are some people in U.S. government who would think that they are useful for them, but I don't think that they are so naive that they can trust these guys.

SHUSTER: Semitapur argues for a more humanitarian solution to the problem – helping the families to spend more time in Baghdad or in bordertowns with MEK members. That way, he says, many will decide to come home. So far, according to the Najat Society, since the U.S. invasion of Iraq, about 300 MEK members have returned to Iran and are now living with their families.

Mike Shuster, NPR News, Tehran.

Status of Mojahedin Khalq (Rajavi cult) Members Held in Iraq Prompts Debate

National Public Radio, Weekend Edition - Saturday, July 21, 2007 listen to the program:

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=12144968>



SCOTT SIMON, host:

This is WEEKEND EDITION from NPR News. I'm Scott Simon.

Coming up, climate change comes to the Sky Islands. But first, the next round of talks in Baghdad between the U.S. and Iran is expected to take place before the end of July. One issue of particular interest to Iran is the presence in Iraq of more than 3,000 militants of the Mujahideen cult of the People's Mujahideen.

Until the U.S. invasion of Iraq, this group carried out cross-border attacks against the government in Tehran aided by Saddam Hussein. Since the invasion, the MEK, as it's known, has been confined to a base in Iraq under the control of U.S. forces. In Tehran, an effort has emerged to persuade MEK members to return home.

NPR's Mike Shuster has more from Tehran.

MIKE SHUSTER: Arash Semitapur(ph) is a fresh-faced young man with unkempt black hair. Eager to please, he doesn't look like a terrorist or an assassin. Only his false right hand suggests something may have been amiss in his past.

Semitapur is one of the leaders of the Najat Society here in Iran. Najat means salvation and its goal is to bring the Iranians of the MEK home. Semitapur joined the MEK in the 1990s, recruited as a naive college student in Virginia. Eventually, he made his way to a training base in Iraq. And in 2001, he was sent over the border with automatic rifles, ammunition, grenades and two cyanide pills in his mouth.



Mr. ARASH SEMITAPUR (Leader, Najat Society, Iran; MEK Member): That was like the street order we had that when you entered in Iranian territory, you have to have the cyanide pills in your mouth. We were convinced that if we get arrested here by the securities, we will be tortured to death. And we were told that the easiest way is just to have the cyanide pills and chew them if you are getting arrested. Then you will be a hero. You will be a martyr.

SHUSTER: Semitapur's mission was to assassinate an Iranian general in Tehran, but everything went wrong and he was arrested. Even the cyanide pills did not kill him.

Mr. SEMITAPUR: Of course, my handgun was jammed and it didn't work. And I was taken to the police station. There they didn't

search me. I had a hand grenade, like a small grenade in my pocket. Again, with the street orders of the organization, I tried to commit a suicide again so I exploded the grenade in my hand, but fortunately didn't kill me.

SHUSTER: Because Semitapur didn't kill anyone he served just four years in prison. When he got out, he joined the Najat Society to try to convince others of what he calls the MEK cult to return to Iran. The Najat Society also helps the families of MEK members to visit Iraq and try to persuade their loved ones to come home.

After the U.S. invasion, Masumai Rasahid(ph) tried to bring her son Sayed(ph) home. So far, she has not been successful.

Ms. MASUMAI RASAHID (Resident, Iran): (Through Translator) They're completely brainwashed and even they don't trust us. When my son accuses me as his mother that you got money from the Islamic government to come here, to persuade me and convince me to go back. And she says I'm your mother, how can I cheat you? And this is the way they taught you and they do not trust and believe nobody.

SHUSTER: The MEK is confined to Camp Ashraf, about a hundred miles north of Baghdad. When U.S. forces seized the camp, they disarmed the MEK and took possession of hundreds of tanks, artillery pieces and other military hardware. The State Department considers the

Anne Singleton Interview with BBC Yorkshire Radio Leeds

BBC Yorkshire

Radio Leeds

July 26, 2007

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/leeds>

P: We're joined now by Anne Singleton she's a married mum from Leeds. Who was actually brainwashed by extremists at one point but now campaigns to warn others. Good Morning Anne.

AS: Good morning.

P: Is brainwashed the right word to use? What actually happened to you Anne?

AS: It is a word which resonates with people. More familiarly I would call it 'mind control techniques'. These are well-known, well-documented. For years and years destructive cults have been using them. The way that they work in essence is that they will take a perfectly ordinary person and strip that person of their values using specific psychological manipulation.

P: What got you into this position in the first place?

AS: I was involved with Iranian students at the time of the Iranian revolution in 1979. I was at Manchester University. I was young and innocent, looking for something to fulfill my ambition to 'change the world'. I was very idealistic and I got involved with those people. They seemed to me very sincere, very genuine and committed to making change in their country. I hadn't grasped that the path which they were leading me along led to extreme violence.

P: So this was happening in this country, it wasn't happening in a foreign environment where you would maybe be more susceptible to someone else's culture.

AS: I was recruited at Manchester University. Having said that, ten years down the line – I was just supporting the



group from a distance, I had a job and ostensibly a normal life. But ten years down the line I took part in a hunger strike and that's really what tipped the balance for me and sent me over the edge into total commitment to this group. After about five days of eating nothing I was on a complete high and I felt as though I was moving at a different speed to the rest of humanity.

P: What was it they encouraged you to support?

AS: The Mojahedin even today present themselves as an alternative to the mullahs' regime in Iran. They say that they want to overthrow the whole regime in its entirety and replace that regime with themselves. They frame this in the context of human rights. They say we will protect human rights by overthrowing the mullahs. What I came to realise was that they were committing just as much abuse of human rights inside their organization as Amnesty International was 'clocking-up' in other countries throughout

the world.

P: Anne, what do you think of the stories today? The front page of the Yorkshire Post says 'University Launches Review after Conviction of Student Terror Ring'. How do you feel when you hear about these students, about what they were doing – substituting their faces with the faces of the 9/11 hijackers – after what you have been through.

AS: What comes to mind first of all is that terrorism is such a complex issue. Yes, it sounds horrific on the surface when you hear of people having extremely radical views like this. And people are frightened because they know that such views can lead to violence. But what I have understood from my experience is that to tip somebody over the line between radical ideas and actually perpetrating violence needs psychological manipulation. Words don't kill people, they never have. Words are how societies move forward, through discussion, debate and progress. There have been lots of radical ideas throughout history – the world is round was quite a radical thought at one point. So we must pull back a little bit and say that OK there are extremist views but if we remember a few years back – 1993 – the Admiral Duncan pub was bombed, a gay pub in Soho. If you start looking only at the so-called ideology of these people then you are going to miss a whole lot of clues that lead you to understand how a person goes from thinking extremely to acting extremely.

P: You mentioned the hunger strike thing and that really strikes a chord with me. When I was going through my di-

Anne Singleton Interview with BBC Yorkshire Radio Leeds (cont)

voice I literally couldn't eat a thing. And it absolutely does your mind no good. If you are not eating properly you think in a totally irrational way. That's my experience. So, when you say your hunger strike was the one that led you up to that kind of high, moving and thinking differently from everyone else, that must be part and parcel of it.

AS: This is a fundamental technique for psychological manipulation. These techniques are used by all destructive cults – whether they present themselves as religious, therapeutic, or like the Jonestown cult of the 1980s. They each present themselves differently but they all use the same techniques. These techniques are very effective, you can actually recruit and convert somebody into a cult member within three or four days. That's how effective they are.

P: This was happening to you at Manchester University. Now we hear about these students at Bradford University. There are some interesting issues about how this radical thought, idealistic thought can tip over the edge into violent action, but in terms of the universities what is the best plan for them in your experience in combating this, I mean tipping over into violent action.

AS: I think that young people generally need to be educated in the danger of destructive cults. You should start at high school even. I am surprised that in schools you may be given sex education, you are educated about how to keep your PIN number safe and not get robbed, But where is the education to tell people how to look out for somebody who is going to come along, take you

out of your normal environment and convert you into either a terrorist or at least a cult member.

P: But will that education be enough? I think one of the things Bradford University is looking at as well is the idea of surveillance and looking at what people are looking at on the Internet and monitoring the traffic that's coming through.

AS: I am not a security expert so I couldn't say how effective that would be.

P: Would education have stopped you?

AS: Certainly it would have opened my eyes a lot sooner to looking for signs that people were trying to influence me in ways that I wasn't aware of actually happening. I think university students are quite vulnerable because they are away from home usually, they are in a vibrant atmosphere. They are intelligent, idealistic and are looking for new experience and new ideas.

P: You are a mum, Anne. How many kids have you got?

AS: I've just got the one.

P: And how old is your child?

AS: My child is seven.

P: Right, so a long way to go in terms of university. How do you feel about your life now and your fears for your child?

AS: I have to add here is that the reason I have one child is

that we started rather late. I was involved with a terrorist cult, the Mojahedin Khalq, which denied its members marriage and children. Those are the levels of intrusion that these organisations have on ordinary members. So, they would not allow anyone to be married, they forced people to divorce and took their children away from them. It was only after I left and met my husband that I was able to have a family. And I realise now that being in one of these organisations deprives you of all your basic, fundamental human rights, even freedom of thought. Because a person who is brought around to thinking as terrorists do in order to give their own life to this other person – because it is someone else who will be persuading them to do that – your basic freedoms are taken away from you without you realising. Now, if you are aware, first of all, of your basic freedoms - what are the basic human rights that everyone is entitled to - that is a starting point from which you can say, I do have the right to have a family, to have children. These are certainly the things I will be teaching my child as he grows up and certainly I will be teaching him to think and to question and not to accept anything at face value, ever.

People can be very persuasive. I think we've all been sold something we didn't really want by somebody who was very persuasive. The same techniques will persuade you to act in ways that you don't mean to let alone buy things.

P: Anne, thank you very much for coming in. She's a wife and mum and she was involved with the Mojahedin in West Yorkshire.

Two postings from NIAC about MKO misuse of democratic institutions in USA

Iran Interlink,

July 23, 2007

Mr. Daioleslam who has been mentioned in the report is very closely affiliated to the Mojahedin Khalq Terrorist cult. His comments are frequently posted on various Mojahe-din Khalq websites.

link:State Department Report on Mojahedin Khalq Organisation. Rajavi cult headed by Massoud Rajavi

and Maryam Rajavi

<http://www.iran-inter-link.org/?mod=view&id=2309>

Voice of America has also in recent days given interviews to Abdolmalek Rigi another well know drug smuggler in the Baluchistan who represents the Jondollah Terrorist organisation.

Link to a report about Voice of America and Jondollah

<http://www.iran-inter-link.org/fa/index.php?mod=view&id=2051> (In Persian)

Link to the use of FOX News by Alireza Jafarzadeh, also a known member of Mojahedin Khalq who is used frequently to promote the MKO

<http://www.iran-inter-link.org/?mod=view&id=821>

NIAC Makes Progress in Defamation Case with VOA Persian

National Iranian American Council,

Jul 11, 2007

http://www.niacouncil.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=832&Itemid=2

Washington DC – The National Iranian American Council (NIAC) has taken legal action against proponents of US-Iran war who have waged a defamation campaign against NIAC. As a first sign of success, Voice of America's Persian Service agreed to halt providing these activists a platform to spread false rumors about NIAC.

In a letter dated June 19, 2007, NIAC's attorney Afshin Pishevar demanded that Voice of America, Persian Service (VOA) "cease and desist" from continuing to function as a political platform for those attacking

NIAC. This was the first time NIAC resorted to legal measures to thwart the campaign to depict all opponents of war between the US and Iran as agents of the Iranian government.

The cease and desist came following a broadcast on June 7, 2007 on VOA featuring Hassan Daioleslam. Throughout the program, Daioleslam lodged malicious and baseless claims against NIAC and its efforts to prevent war.

Unlike private news outlets, the government-funded VOA is legally bound to live up to strict journalistic standards and is answerable to Congress and American tax-payers. These standards include double sourcing information and providing accurate, all encompassing coverage of a given issue. The agency's Journalistic Code requires that for all coverage, in-

cluding call-in shows, "views of a single party must be challenged by the interviewer if alternative opinions are unrepresented."

In violation of VOA's publicly proclaimed standards, the VOA host did not counter the slanderous remarks made by Daioleslam against NIAC during the live TV show, nor did he press the guest for evidence to back up his claims. NIAC was not invited to appear on the program, despite the host's public statement to the contrary.

Whether this was intentional or the result of staffer's lack journalistic training, the broadcast functioned to validate and propagate Daioleslam's false information.

Earlier this year, Daioleslam published an article

NIAC Makes Progress in Defamation Case with VOA Persian (cont)

targeting NIAC in FrontPage Magazine, a neo-conservative outlet. [In April, NIAC issued a formal response to Daioleslam's article exposing the speciousness of his claims.](#)

VOA had scheduled another appearance with Daioleslam on July 7. In a letter dated July 5, an attorney for NIAC called the advent of such a project "clear and convincing evidence of malice and wanton disregard for the truth" and placed the agency on legal notice. The program was cancelled the next day.

There is widespread concern that VOA has as of late failed to live up to its strict journalistic standards and organizational mandate. "Certainly, VOA Persian is not giving the Iranian public a fair image of American journalism or American values," Afshin Pishevar concluded in its letter to the agency in June. "And certainly, this is not the type of journalism Congress had in mind when they allocated funds to VOA's Persian programming."

NIAC is seeking a meeting

with VOA's management to put a permanent stop to its broadcasts being used for political defamation.

Founded in 2002, NIAC is a grassroots, non-partisan and non-profit organization promoting the interests of the Iranian-American community. Its members and staff are deeply committed to ensuring that war between the US and Iran is avoided and that the disputes between the two nations are resolved peacefully.

NIAC rebuts MKO and FrontPage Magazine's untruths and fabrications

National Iranian American Council,

April 21, 2007

http://www.niacouncil.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=744&Itemid=59

Washington DC - The National Iranian American Council (NIAC) has been the target of several erroneous, maliciously defamatory opinion pieces by Kenneth Timmerman and Hassan Daioleslam in Frontpage Magazine. The articles are riddled with inaccuracies, misquotations, incorrect links and references to figures that played no role in NIAC's inception, operations, or its development over the years.

The two articles are written by a neoconservative author (Kenneth Timmerman) and a Marxist Mujahedin-e-

Khalq (MKO) supporter (Hassan Daioleslam), whose group has been identified by the State Department as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (Daioleslam's article was initially published on a MKO website prior to being used by Frontpage magazine).

The real reason for their unprovoked attacks on NIAC seems to be to silence an independent Iranian American voice opposing war with Iran.

Proponents of war between the US and Iran seek to equate opposition to a US-Iran war with lobbying for the Iranian government. This, however, is erroneous and disingenuous. In fact, the causality is likely reversed: War would strengthen the Iranian government, just as it did in 1980 when Saddam Hus-

sein's Iraq invaded Iran. NIAC's position on this issue is clear: War between the US and Iran would devastate the region, be counter to US national interests, undermine America's position in the region, strengthen rather than weaken the Iranian regime and lead to tremendous loss of innocent life on both sides.

As NIAC's activities have grown and become increasingly effective at preventing a US-Iran military confrontation, naturally it has attracted the ire of people who support war. By deliberately providing a false choice between the Iranian government and the MKO, the authors assert that the Iranian-American community cannot adhere to alternative positions, independent of the Iranian government or the MKO's militant agenda.

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Talebani: Iraq will spare no effort to help Iran fight against terrorist groups

Press TV, July 29,
2007

[http://www.presstv.ir/
/detail.aspx?id=1773
5§ionid=3510201
01](http://www.presstv.ir/detail.aspx?id=17735§ionid=351020101)

Iraqi President Jalal Talabani has said Baghdad will not let armed forces use its territory against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In a meeting with Governor General of Iran's western Kurdistan Province Ismaeil Najjar and his accompanying delegation, Talabani added Iraqi border guards have received necessary orders regarding the case.

Iraqi border guards are duty-bound to firmly counter any armed forces who intend to infiltrate into the Iranian territory, IRNA quoted the president as saying.

He said Iraq believes that under the current regional and international circumstances, armed clashes have the same meaning as terrorism, stressing Baghdad would not allow terrorists to use its soil against neighboring countries.

Iraq will spare no effort to help Iran fight against terrorist groups and has the same expectation from Iran, as an old friend to the Iraqi nation, Talabani added.

He called for expansion of amicable ties with Iran particularly in border regions with respect to bonds between the Iranian and Iraqi nations.

He said the Iranian nation has always supported the Iraqi

people, adding opening an official crossing checkpoint at Bashmaq border was another humanitarian aid by Iran which would cause a big economic development in the region.

Najjar, for his part, said legalization of the checkpoint was a dream of local residents of Iran's Kurdistan and Iraqi Sulaimaniyah Provinces which came true during Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's visit to Kurdistan.

He added that legalization of the checkpoint on Thursday, which was already used as an unofficial border crossing by locals, would prepare the ground for bolstering bilateral relations in all fields

NIAC rebuts MKO and FrontPage Magazine's untruths and fabrications (cont)

Opposing a military engagement with Iran has been on NIAC's agenda since its members cast their votes in near unanimous numbers against a military confrontation. Concerned about the devastating potential for the loss of life that would stem from a war with Iran, NIAC and the Iranian American community have stepped up efforts to prevent a war. For the past 12 months, NIAC has worked to stimulate debate to include a variety of perspectives from Iranian Americans, to the dismay of certain groups on

the far left and far right. Much indicates that Mr. Diaoleslam and Timmerman are sensing their influence waning and resorting to desperate misinformation tactics.

NIAC continues to promote the interests of the Iranian-American community and ensure that a multitude of voices are heard in debates held in Capitol Hill concerning US-Iran relations. NIAC believes that fringe elements in the community should not be allowed to continue to monopolize the discus-

sion over this issue, and by that, misrepresent the multitude of views of the Iranian-American community.

Still, though NIAC disagrees with Mr. Diaoleslam and Timmerman's support for a US-Iran war, we welcome their inputs into the debate. We are, however, dismayed that instead of intelligently contributing to the discussion with facts and reasoning, they have relied on defamation, intimidation, and personal attacks.

<http://www.iran-interlink.org>