

# Nejat Newsletter

Issue No 21

21 March 2008

## Happy Nowruz

In Iran, preparations for Nowruz begin in Esfand (or Espand), the last month of winter in the [Persian solar calendar](#).

There are some information about Nowruz as celebrated in Iran on the last page.

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## Iraqi President Jalal Talabani: Presence of MKO illegal

Based on the new constitution of Iraq, presence of members of the terrorist Mujahideen Khalq Organization (MKO) in Iraq is illegal and forbidden, Iraqi President Jalal Talabani said on Sunday.



President Talabani made the remarks while speaking at a joint press conference with his visiting Iranian counterpart Mahmoud Ahmadinejad who arrived in Baghdad Sunday morning on a historic visit to Iraq by an Iranian president after the 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran.

President Talabani stressed that the government of Iraq has made some arrangements about the issue related to the remaining members of the terrorist organization in Iraq.

The Iraqi president did not give any further explanation in this regard.

In late February, Iraq's Ambassador to Tehran Mohammad Majeed al-Sheikh said that the presence of members of the terrorist organization in Iraq is not permanent.

"The MKO members have been staying in Iraq before the Saddam Hussein regime was toppled," he said, adding the necessary measures have been taken to expel them.

The ambassador stressed Baghdad's dissatisfaction with the presence of the remaining MKO members in Iraq.

## Al-Masakin News Agency

### **Iraqi tribes urge MKO expulsion**

**Iraq's tribal leaders have urged Iran to help Iraqi government expel the terrorist Mujahedin Khalq Organization from their homeland.**

The request came at a meeting of almost 70 tribal leaders from different parts of the country with the visiting Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Sunday. Ahmadinejad arrived in

Baghdad on Sunday as the first Iranian president ever to visit Iraq.

The tribal leaders attending the meeting described the Mujahedin Khalq Organization (MKO) members as the henchmen of the former Iraqi dictator, Saddam Hussein, in his brutal crackdown on the Iraqi people.

They also called on the Iranian government to contribute to the recon-

struction of the war-torn country.

Ahmadinejad, for his part, urged unity and solidarity among the various groups of the Iraqi nation and warned Muslims against their enemies' plots.

Ahmadinejad also met with the Shia leaders of Iraq, during which he expressed Tehran's readiness to rebuild the country's holy shrines.

## Report on the situation of remaining members of Mojahedin Khalq Organisation in Camp Ashraf after Consultation with Iraqi Government officials

**Iran-Interlink,  
February, 2008**

In January through February, Iran-Interlink representative **Massoud Khodabandeh** was invited by the Iraqi Government for a series of consultation meetings on Camp Ashraf. His report has now been published.

Camp Ashraf is home to Forward Operating Base (FOB) Grizzly, but also contains 3,400 foreign terrorist fighters from the Iranian Mojahedin-e Khalq Organisation (MKO or MEK) who were corralled and disarmed by US Special Forces in 2003. The fighters have been under US military police protection for five years and now the Iraqi Government wants them removed from the country.

MKO leader Massoud Rajavi has told his group to stay in Iraq at all costs until they can be re-armed, but human rights organisations agree that Iraq is extremely dangerous place for the Iranian group and that any who do not wish to be voluntarily repatriated must be taken to third countries as refugees.

While in Baghdad, **Massoud Khodabandeh** met with officials from Iraq's Ministries of Human Rights, Defence, National Security as well as non-governmental agencies to formulate a two part solution. He reported Iraq's Ministry of Foreign Affairs position that 'both the MKO and PKK are foreign terrorist organisations. They are especially harmful to the relations between Iraq and its neighbouring countries

at this point of time. Iraq cannot accept nor afford further problems by accommodating international terrorist organizations whether as a group or as individuals.'

An interim plan was immediately agreed by Iraq's Ministry of Human Rights to permit the establishment of Sahar Family Foundation. Organised by former members of the MKO and families of people still trapped in the camp, Sahar now provides short-term rescue facilities for ex-MKO who are no longer being protected by US forces in Iraq before they are taken to third countries.

**Read the full report at:**

<http://www.iran-inter-link.org/?mod=view&id=4095>

## Former MKO seeking refuge in western countries

**BBC Persian Service,  
January 26, 2008**

**Javad Firuzmand interviewed by Mehrdad Farahmand**

The military coalition under the US commandment in Iraq confirmed that some

MKO members have left this organisation and their base in Iraq.

Confirmation of this news takes place after some reports were published indicating

that in the past few weeks the efforts of dozens of former MKO to escape Iraq and seek refuge in western countries have failed and many of them are left hanging around in Iraq where they are in a very desperate situation.

In the past four years since Iraq was occupied by the US forces and its allies, some MKO members gradually left this organization and Camp Ashraf which is their base in Iraq.

The US army which is guarding Camp Ashraf during this period, kept the dissidents under its own protection in a camp near to this base. As the press office of coalition forces under the US command has informed the BBC, during the last four years 380 individuals of MKO have returned to Iran at their own request.

But those dissidents who did not wish to return to Iran despite the efforts made by the United States did not gain the confirmation of any country for their application for refuge.



# Statement of Sahar Family Foundation (SFF) in Iraq ([saharngo.com](http://saharngo.com))

## Sahar Family Foundation

### To aid the families of the MKO members

#### *Patience, dawn is near.*

The Sahar (Dawn) Family Foundation is a non-governmental, non-political and non-profitable organisation which has been established to provide humanitarian aid to the families of members of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organisation (MKO) who are based in Camp Ashraf in Iraq. This foundation is solely focused on charitable and human rights issues regardless of political or group considerations and geographical boundaries and only aims to help the suffering families.

The Sahar Family Foundation covers a great number of families as well as former members of the MKO who seek help. This foundation enjoys good support amongst the local and international bodies in Iraq which is the base of the foundation.

The MKO has been based in Iraq, precisely in Camp Ashraf, for more than two decades. This organisation is run as a classic cult and therefore would not give its members the chance of free association with the outside world or with their families. Therefore the families of these members are suffering severely and seek assistance from humanitarian organisations.

When the former regime of Iraq was toppled, a small light of hope lit the hearts of the families and they thought that, in the new situation in Iraq, they would be able to visit their beloved ones freely and adequately without the presence of a third party. Some of these families

have not heard from their relatives for more than 20 years and some even don't know if their beloved ones are still safe and sound. According to these families those who are residing in Camp Ashraf – as is the case with many cults throughout the world – are considered to be captives both mentally and physically and therefore are assumed as hostages. The Sahar Family Foundation is striving to reunite the members of these families again using every possible means.



Camp Ashraf is the base of the MKO members which is guarded by US forces in Iraq. On the other hand the present Iraqi government insists that Camp Ashraf must be dismantled. Iraqi constitutional law does not permit any foreign terrorist organisations to remain in that country. The US State Department as well as that of Canada, along with the European Union and the British parliament and many other governmental and international bodies have officially designated the MKO as a destructive and terrorist cult. Obviously the members of a cult and their families are considered to be the prime victims whom must be helped. In May 2005 Human

Rights Watch published a report called 'No Exit' which details human rights abuses meted out by the MKO against its own members.

At the present time Baghdad is the central meeting point for the unfortunate families and the former members, as well as concerned entities which are all waiting for the crack of dawn. They seek help from all the humanitarian bodies throughout the world. Anyone can help a little. On the other hand, of course, Camp Ashraf, according to many international security professionals, is a centre for training terrorists. The families are concerned about the fate of their children who are subjected to brainwashing and terrorist training.

Please contact us. We would be more than pleased to have your comments and ideas. Help us in any way you can. The members of Sahar Family Foundation are all volunteers who have moved to Iraq to work in

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# Stop taking our beloved ones as hostages!

**Nejat Society, Tehran,**

**March 11, 2008**

[http://www.nejatngo.org/index\\_en.php?news\\_id=828](http://www.nejatngo.org/index_en.php?news_id=828)

On Sunday March 2nd, a meeting was held by Nejat Society Gilan Branch, in Rasht, where a lot of families of Nejat Society attended to represent their determination to save their beloved ones from camp Ashraf and stop taking them as hostages by MKO Cult.

The meeting began with the speeches of Mr. Ebrahim Khodabandeh, a former political activist of MKO in England.

He described the studies made on cults during years, stressing that all the

cults have the same nature in brainwashing and psychologically manipulating of the members, forcing them to divorce, separating the children from their parents.

Mr. Arash Sametipour, the former member of MKO's operational teams mentioned the presence of families in Iraq to visit their children citing the story of a mother who was desirous to visit her son in Camp Ashraf but found him as a robot without any feeling.

She became assured that the manipulation system in the organization is very complicated. She decided to rescue her son by the help of international human rights organizations.

Sametipour also introduced Sahar Family Foundation

which was recently founded by former MKO members from Canada, England and US, in Baghdad, in order to aid all families whose beloved ones are captured in Camp Ashraf.

At the end, Ms. Marjan Malek, a former member of MKO military teams addressed the meeting, describing how she could save her two daughters pursuing the case with the help of Holland authorities.

Mr. Fadaiee Kowsari also talked of his trip to Bagdad a few years ago and his determination to link families with their children.

The meeting ended with the appreciations made by families.





## MKO family members and representatives talked to administrative assistant of Presidential Office in Iraq

### Nejat Society report from Baghdad

On Sunday, February 3rd, 2008, a number of family members and relatives of MEK members residing in Camp Ashraf as a delegate of a large number of such families visited Mr. Nazar Muhammad Saieed, the administrative director of Mr. Jalal Talibani's office. These individuals, who were hosted warmly by Mr. Saieed, explained their problems for meeting their beloved ones.

During the meeting, the visitors, describing the troubles and obstacles MKO created against those who want to meet their family members in Camp Ashraf, stressed that they are willing to meet them in Bagdad ,out of the organizational atmosphere of MKO, without any intermediate ,for at least three days. The other problem presented in the meeting was that of defectors who left the organization or will leave it in the future.

The representatives describing the funny tricks and futile efforts of MKO to represent them as terrorists, asked Iraqi President and government to protect their lives and provide required cooperation in order to help these defectors leave the camp and reach a safe place. They also presented a number of documents proving MKO's terrorist operations in Iranian cities, violation of members' human rights, and cooperation with Saddam Hussein to oppress Iraqi people and submitted a [complaint letter signed by 350](#)

### [former members of MKO for Iraqi President](#) .

In Addition, they submitted a version of Arrest Warrant for Mojgan Parsaee, Sediqeh Husseinie and Abbas Davari, in order to reinforce the execution of the ruling.



**Mr Arash Sametipour, one of the officials of Nejat Society in Tehran (on the left), accompanied the families of the members of the MKO based in Ashraf Camp in Iraq visiting Mr Nazar Mohammad Sa'eed (on the right) the head of Iraqi presidential office on 3 February 2008 in Baghdad.**

They confirmed that their objective is totally to make sure of the condition of their beloved ones that if they are in a healthy physical and mental condition having the free will to choose and act. They also asked that their concerns on the destination of their children who are under the brainwashing and manipulating inspirations and terrorist trainings, would be brought to Iraqi President and state and authorities.

Mr., Nazar Saieed promising to do anything the presidential office is capable of and stressing the terrorist nature of MKO stated that the case is completely related to human rights.

Explaining that MKO's leader-

ship has also bloody hands of Iraqi people's blood as well as Iranians, he noted that MKO is one of the problems that former dictator left for our nation. He pointed that Iraqi state and people won't tolerate the presence of MKO, a foreign terrorist organization.

Finally, the Mujahedin's family members appreciated the hospitality of the director of presidential office.

## Camp Ashraf- Human Catastrophe

### A report on the meeting of Iranian Human Right Association in Europe and North America

**Iran Ayandeh**

**Translation: Nejat Society**

**March 7th, 2008**

On Thursday, March 6th, a number of human right associations and MKO defectors attended a roundtable, investigating the human aid to captured people of Camp Ashraf and TIPF; in the round table which lasted the whole day, Mr. Masud Khodabandeh submitted a report on his activities in Iraq during previous weeks, then they discussed the ways to aid the Iranian captives of Ashraf and also harmonizing the efforts and functional ways in order to accelerate their salvation.

About 3400 members of MKO whose lives are in danger; are in Iraq and if the efforts to help them are not well organized, we might encounter a human catastrophe. Therefore, all the associations in the round table and the other associations (via telephone) decided to dedicate their activities to the extradition of Iranians from Iraqi territory and their survival out of Iraq. During the round table Mrs. Batoul Soltani the former member of MKO's leadership Council who has recently left Camp Ashraf and also TIPF and is now working as a responsible of Sahar Foundation in Iraq, attended the meeting via telephone and was interviewed by Behzad AliShahi. The attendees were also engaged in cooperation with Sahar Foundation on its human rights activities. At the end a statement consisted of seven articles was issued.

**The resolution is as follows:**  
The statement on the support of Captured Iranians in Camp Ashraf

1. Regarding the situation of Iraq today and particularly the recent confirmations made by Iraqi gov-

ernment on the trial of some members and the expulsion of some others, the problem of the future of members of Ashraf and helping them is absolutely a human problem and should be investigated without any political tendency.



2. Regarding that the problem of members captured in Ashraf is absolutely a human one, there is no difference between a defector and a non defector of MKO and their ranks within the MKO. The priority is the support for the principal human rights of the whole 3400 members.

3. Regarding the human emergency which dominates Ashraf and the serious threatens for Ashraf members in Iraq and the documented reports of a majority of International human rights organizations, the transfer of these people to a third secure country (especially European or North American countries) has the priority and we condemn any political abuse of such a situation.

4. As the individuals or organization settles in Europe or North America, we stress the necessity of the information given by mass media in order to reflect the emergency and dangerous situation of Ashraf and we demand for the concentration of all the associations on the problem.

5. We ask the entire Iranian forces, oppositions, groups and individuals in abroad to forget their political opinions and try to do their best to rescue their compatriots who once stepped in the way to achieve democracy and freedom for their nation.

6. We declare our complete support for the families who are asking for their minimum human rights including a private visit with the captives of Ashraf, stating our readiness to assist Sahar Family Foundation in Europe and North America.

7. We ask the leader of Muajhedin Khalq Organization, Mr. Masud Rajavi and his assistant Mrs. Maryam Rajavi and their foreign cooperators in Telaviv, London and Washington especially their supporters' committee in British parliament to recognize the human rights of captured members in Camp Ashraf after three decades and stop their obstructions and hostility that heightens their pains, setting for a logic and human turn towards cooperation with human right organization such as Sahar Family Foundation.

**Iran Peyvand Association**

**Aawa Association**

**Rahaiee Association**

**Iran Qalam Association**

**Iran Pars Association**

**Iran Sabz Association**

**Iran Intelink Association**

**Norway Peace Association**

**Negah-e-no Association**

## Adalat Abdollah: Americans use proscribed Mojahedin Khalq Organisation terrorists against the will of Iraqi government

**Translated by:**

**BBC Monitoring**

Text of article by Adalat Abdallah entitled: "Problem in a closed circle"; published by Iraqi Patriotic Union of Kurdistan-funded daily Aso on 12 March

Recently, and from a constitutional perspective, the president of Iraq has made two pledges to the two presidents of Iran and Turkey. The first was to disallow the presence of the Mojahedin e-Khalq. The second one was to cooperate with Turkey in coming up with a final solution to the PKK problem. Some political observers believe that even although Talabani's two current pledges are supported by the country's constitution, the actual conditions in Iraq and the provincial equations deter them.

On the other hand, although the Americans consider the Mojahedin [e-Khalq] as a terrorist organization, it is important to the Americans that they remain as a resistance force against Iran. If it were not for America, Iran's sectarian allies in Iraq would have forced the Mojahedin out of the country a long time ago. As for the PKK, the regional [Kurdistan] government is unwilling to join the fight against it, and the Baghdad government does not have the power to do so. Therefore, as we see, cooperation with Ankara by Baghdad will only remain as a constitutional and ideological

stance. The mechanism of its implementation is weak. The Turks themselves understand this reality well. And even when the Turkish parliament showed the green light to the army, they unequivocally announced that they do not pin any hopes on any cooperation from Iraq.

Also, according to one of the CNN Turk reports, one of the points that Talabani clarified to the Turks in his visit was the reality of Qandil mountain as a topographic impediment in the way of any military campaign that aims at putting an end to PKK militias. During the meeting he held with the media figures and the out-

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standing newspapers of Turkey, he summed up the issue, saying: Even the Americans cannot annihilate the PKK in that rugged area and force them out.

This view emerges from three sources, the first of which is the experience of the Kurdish armed movement in three parts of Kurdistan - the eastern, northern and southern parts - which have all often used Qandil as their hide-out, particularly the border triangle

of Iraq, Iran and Turkey.

Second, it was an indirect and diplomatic urging and call on the Turkish government to think of a political solution and not to adopt war as the only way.

Third, it proved that, no matter whether the Iraqi army or the Kurdish parties get involved in the war against the PKK, it will be a useless demand, particularly in the current conditions Iraq is passing through, when the state does not yet have a complete army. Even if we suppose that it has such an army, it will have to be redeployed according to the consent of the Kurdistan Region Government.

With this meaning, there are only two possibilities remaining:

The first one is to try another proposition by Talabani, which is that Ankara should hold a dialogue with the [Kurdistan] Region Government with regard to any feasible cooperation.

And second: Turkey could resort to another armed campaign, particularly as The Turkish Daily News says in one of its reports that the army did not withdraw under any external pressure, and that, whenever it wishes, it will launch another campaign.

**Source: Aso, Kirkuk, in Sorani Kurdish 12 Mar 08 p5**

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**Happy Nowruz**

Nowruz marks the first day of spring and the beginning of the [Iranian year](#). It is celebrated on the day of the astronomical [vernal equinox](#) (start of spring in northern hemisphere), which usually occurs on [March 21](#) or the previous/following day depending on where it is observed.

As well as being a [Zoroastrian](#) holiday, it is also a holy day for adherents of other religions and is the traditional [Iranian new year holiday](#) celebrated by [Iranian](#), [Turkic](#) and many other peoples in [West Asia](#), [Central Asia](#), [South Asia](#), [North-western China](#), the [Caucasus](#), the [Crimea](#), and the [Balkans](#).

In Iran it is also referred to as an [Eid](#) festival, although it is not an Islamic feast. [Alawites](#) celebrate Nowruz. The term Nowruz first appeared in [Persian](#) records in the second century AD, but it was also an important day during the time of the [Achaemenids](#) (648-330 BC), where kings from different nations under the Persian empire used to bring gifts to the emperor ([Shahanshah](#)) of Persia on Nowruz.

## 'Terrorists will not use Iraq soil'

Mon, 03 Mar 2008

**Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki has said that Baghdad would not let terrorists use its soil to attack neighboring countries.**

Democratic Iraq has a constitution and will not let terrorist groups including al-Qaeda, the Mujahedin Khalq Organization (MKO) or the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) insurgents turn Iraq into a base against friendly countries in the region, al-Maliki told IRNA Sunday.

He added that Iraq is the 'safety valve' of the region and gave assurances that Baghdad would destroy terrorist group bases in the

country to restore regional stability and security.



The premier pointed to the current historic visit by the Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to Iraq and invited Iran to carry out projects for the reconstruction of Iraq.



## Baghdad to present plan on MKO to Ahmadinejad

[TEHRAN](#)

March 1 (MNA) -

Iraqi national security adviser Mowaffaq al-Rubaie has said his country's plan for ending the issue of Mojahedin Khalq Organization (MKO) will be presented to Iranian [President Mahmud Ahmadinejad](#) during his visit to [Iraq](#), the pan-Arab daily Asharq Alawsat said in a report on its Website. "We have an individual plan for ending MKO dossier," al-Rubaie told the Asharq Alawsat.: There will be a focus on security issues during Ahmadinejad's talks...