

Nejat Newsletter

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Happy Nowruz

We do apologize all our readers for the long delay in publishing the newsletter. We wish that the New Iranian Year would bring peace and progress for the world as well as for the Iranians, and we do hope that all families of the MKO cult members would soon reunion with their beloved ones who are trapped in Ashraf Cult Garrison in Iraq.

MKO denies members to choose next stay

By: [Press TV](#)
April 08 2009

MKO leader Massoud Rajavi (L) and former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein. Saddam equipped the MKO against Iran.

The MKO denies its members the right to choose an alternative place to stay, as Baghdad starts a countdown to move the group out of Iraq.

The leaders of the Mujahedin Khalq Organization (MKO) have refused to allow a group affiliated to the Iraqi ministry of human rights to access the residents of Camp Ashraf, the MKO's headquarters in the Iraqi province of Diyala, Farsnews agency reported on Monday.

According to the report, the human rights team was trying to get in contact with the members of the terrorist group to ask

their opinion on an alternative place to go to as the Iraqi government has decided to shut down their headquarters in the near future.

Iraq has vowed to move MKO members to their country Iran or send them to a third country as it holds the anti-Iran group responsible for destabilizing Iraq through its terror attacks.

According to a late March report by the Iraqi al-Bayyina al-Jadida daily, Iraq has been in talks with Australia to convince it to accept MKO members.

Iraqi sources also revealed in February that several countries were considering granting entry permission to certain members of the terrorist group.

Egypt, they said, had agreed with a request by MKO leaders to establish

a camp in the country.

The MKO is blacklisted as a terrorist organization by many international entities and countries, including the US.

The group was exiled from Iran after the Islamic Revolution and settled in Iraq in 1986, where it enjoyed the support of former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein.

The MKO is responsible for numerous acts of violence against Iranian civilians and government officials as well as Iraqis during the reign of Saddam.

Tehran has long called for the expulsion of MKO members from Iraq. Tehran says the members of the group who have not participated in terrorist activities can return home but others will need to stand trial.

<http://www.presstv.ir/detail.aspx?id=90669>

An Interview with Iraq's National Security Advisor about Camp Ashraf

By: [Iran Interlink](#)

April 07 2009

An Interview with Iraq's National Security Advisor Dr. Mowaffak al Rubaie about Camp Ashraf by Anne Singleton

After 2003 the disarmed Iranian terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq (MEK) organisation was consolidated from various locales in Iraq and protected by US forces at Camp Ashraf in Diyala province; a bizarre anomaly in Iraqi and coalition efforts to bring unity and peace to the country. The Government of Iraq has long regarded the MEK as a foreign terrorist group which continues to threaten internal security and is culpable for aiding Saddam Hussein in the violent suppression of Kurdish and Shia uprisings in 1991. Successive announcements in 2008 by President Jalal Talabani and Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari made clear their government's determination to expel all the MEK members as soon as possible.

But solving the conundrum as to why the group has been protected and promoted by western interests for all this time has become clearer since January this year when responsibility for Camp Ashraf was handed over to the Government of Iraq by the Coalition Forces. As the Government of Iraq has moved swiftly to fulfil its decision to expel members of the MEK from the country, so the protests by those who have a stake in the continued presence of the group have intensified.

During March, three debates were held in the UK parliament by members supporting the MEK. In spite of being on the US terrorism list since 1997, CBS and CNN news channels have broadcast MEK films showing its personnel obstructing Iraqi authorities as they try to perform their duties. Additionally, the Washington Post has quoted an MEK spokesman in which he is threatening the Government of Iraq

that "a human catastrophe" will follow further action.

Even though Europe and the UK have un-proscribed the group as it claims to no longer believe in violence, no moves have been made to have European and British citizens and those with residency rights removed from Camp Ashraf to safety. Instead, powerful lobbies who have used the MEK for their own interests are continuing their efforts to force the Government of Iraq to maintain the infrastructure of a terrorist organisation in its country. Keeping the group in Iraq can only serve the interests of those Saddamists who still believe the group will give them leverage over the Government of Iraq.

Spearheading Government plans to remove the MEK is Iraq's national security advisor Dr. Mowaffak al Rubaie. His role is to advise the Government of Iraq and coordinate policies and activity in relation to national security and intelligence matters.

Over several months Dr. al Rubaie has fielded criticisms and attacks with repeated assurances that the residents of Camp Ashraf will be treated according to international human rights standards and that none would be forcibly repatriated. To date, nothing has occurred at Camp Ashraf to give any cause for concern to human rights organisations. In recent weeks two MEK members departed Camp Ashraf voluntarily. One confessed that he had been instructed to commit suicide in order to implicate Iraq's Army. These two men, who were protected and comfortably accommodated by the Iraqi Government under observation by the ICRC and the Iraqi Ministry of Human Rights, spoke openly of the human rights violations perpetrated by the leaders on MEK members. It was partly in response to this information that Dr. al Rubaie has focused efforts to protect the individuals inside the camp.

Indeed Dr. al Rubaie's plan for the difficult task of dismantling an extremist cult has revealed an enlightened, humanitarian approach which could become a blueprint for tackling similar organisations worldwide.

However, as the clamour continues, I asked Dr. al Rubaie for an interview in order to further clarify his Government's approach to events at Camp Ashraf.

Anne Singleton: You want to move the residents from Camp Ashraf for their own protection, yet the MEK commanders say they must remain in Camp Ashraf. What do you think motivates them?

Mowaffak al Rubaie: The self-appointed leaders at Camp Ashraf will have to speak for themselves. What I will address is how the residents of Camp Ashraf have cooperated or not cooperated with the policies and decisions of the Government of Iraq. The GOI does not deal with the MEK as an organization. We deal with the residents as individuals. The GOI has informed them that as members of a foreign terrorist organization they cannot remain in Iraq and must choose whether to return to their country of citizenship or some other country. Remaining in Iraq is not an option. The GOI has taken steps to assure their security while beginning to exercise sovereignty at Camp Ashraf as we do in every other part of our country. Ashraf is not above the law. Any infractions of Iraqi law will be handled by the GOI authorities with attention to due process and humanitarian standards. To date, the residents of Camp Ashraf have created a series of obstacles to the legitimate exercise of sovereignty by the GOI and this will not be tolerated. They must cooperate in order to avoid obstructing our authorities carrying out their legitimate duties.

AS: Some observers speculate that MEK leader Massoud Rajavi is in

An Interview with Iraq's National Security Advisor about Camp Ashraf

the anti-nuclear bunker inside Camp Ashraf and that is why the commanders refuse to move. Do you think this is possible?

MR: We do not know exactly what is within the bounds of Camp Ashraf. The GOI has informed the residents that we will diligently and progressively examine all areas of Ashraf to ensure there is no contraband, that there are no illegal activities taking place, and that they must cooperate with this legitimate exercise of Iraqi sovereignty and enforcement of the rule of law.

AS: You have spoken of 'detoxifying' the people in Camp Ashraf. Could you explain what this means and why you feel it is necessary? What do you hope to achieve?

MR: As you know from observing the behavior of the MEK and from their history, this is an indoctrinated and tightly disciplined organization of extremist zealots who have employed terrorism and at times even self-immolation to secure their aims. In normal everyday language we can say that they have been "brainwashed". As is common in organizations of this type, the indoctrination and discipline rely on the continuous pressure of their leaders and the total control by them of their environment. Therefore, individuals have little ability to exercise their free will because they exist in this closed environment and fear for personal reprisals if they are discovered to have deviated from the approved line of responses. As we strive to determine from each individual where they wish to go since they cannot remain in Iraq, we are conducting individual surveys and a census which are open to oversight by the ICRC and the UN. We believe that if we can separate individuals from the all-encompassing domination by their leaders, we can allow them to begin to exercise their rights as individuals and make appropriate choices. That is, we hope to remove them from the toxic effects of their indoctrination and leaders.

trination and leaders.

AS: CBS and CNN have been broadcasting clips showing women shouting at and insulting Iraqi soldiers from behind closed gates. Could tell us more about what these scenes depict.

MR: You will have to ask CBS and CNN when and under what circumstances they obtained their filmed scenes. What I can tell you is that the Iraqi Army unit posted to defend and secure Camp Ashraf has been in full control since 20 February and has exercised patience and extreme restraint in spite of the staged provocations and demonstrations that Ashraf's self-appointed leaders have launched in defiance of the legitimate exercise by the GOI of its sovereignty.

AS: Families are concerned about having access to their relatives without MEK minders being present. Do you see a time in the near future that such visits can be facilitated?

MR: The GOI has already facilitated visits by families and has provided the residents of Camp Ashraf written procedures which are fully permissive. Our security forces at Camp Ashraf have and will continue to facilitate legitimate family visits with no interference by either the MEK or anyone else. These visits are also completely open to ICRC and UN observation. The MEK have been the obstacle to establishing a comfortable facility for such family visits.

AS: The MEK claim that the Government of Iraq has not allowed medical personnel or medical supplies into the camp and that this has resulted in the deaths of some women and that others are dying. They want ICRC and UNHCR intervention. What is your response to this allegation?

MR: These allegations are false and baseless.

AS: The MEK's supporters have paid millions in legal fees to have the group removed from the UK and European Council terrorism lists. Have any of the group's western supporters offered to help remove these people to their countries?

MR: The GOI has communicated with ambassadors from the European Union and all other countries we suspect have citizens or persons with some claim to residency in their countries. We have asked them to offer to allow those with status in their countries to return and to consider hosting others who may want to reside in their countries. We have facilitated visits by representatives of these countries to Camp Ashraf. We are hopeful that this level of openness and transparency by the GOI will persuade these countries to allow such returns.

AS: In your view, what can the UK, European and other western governments do to help resettle the MEK?

MR: These governments can agree to allow their citizens and others who have status in their country to return.

AS: The Washington Post quoted MEK member Mohammad Mohaddessin clearly threatening that self-immolations similar to 2003 and other suicide acts would be performed by the residents of Camp Ashraf. What is your response to this?

MR: We have and will continue to treat the residents of Camp Ashraf humanely and in accordance with Iraqi law and international law and conventions. We will not initiate acts of violence against them. We do expect them to cooperate in our efforts to exercise our sovereignty according to the rule of law. Should they choose extremist acts such as self-immolation, it will be their decision which we would regret.

Anne Singleton

Iraq's National Security Advisor on MEK

By: [Reuters](#)
April 07 2009



Iraq's National Security Advisor Dr. Mowaffak al Rubaie on Camp Ashraf, Massoud Rajavi and 'Detoxifying' MEK Members

LONDON, April 6 /PRNewswire/ -

- In an interview with Anne Singleton of Iran-Interlink, Dr. Mowaffak al Rubaie, Iraq's national security advisor clarified his approach to the Government of Iraq's decision to remove the Iranian terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq (MEK, aka MKO, PMOI) from the country.

Responsibility for Camp Ashraf was handed over to the Government of Iraq by the Coalition Forces in January this year. Since then, Dr. al Rubaie's plan for the difficult task of dismantling an extremist cult has revealed an enlightened, humanitarian approach which could become a blueprint for tackling similar organisations worldwide.

Dr. al Rubaie explained, "This is an indoctrinated and tightly disciplined organization of extremist zealots who have employed terror-

ism and at times even self-immolation to secure their aims. In normal everyday language we can say that they have been "brainwashed". He added, "The Government of Iraq does not deal



with the MEK as an organization. We deal with the residents as individuals."

Under observation by the ICRC and the Iraqi Ministry of Human Rights, Dr. al Rubaie has focused efforts to protect the individuals inside the camp following allegations that human rights abuses are being perpetrated by MEK leaders against the residents. To this end he said, "We believe that if we can separate individuals from the all-encompassing domination by their leaders, we can allow them to begin to exercise their rights as individuals and make appropriate choices. That is, we hope to remove them from the

toxic effects of their indoctrination and leaders."

In response to the many obstacles thrown up by the MEK to their removal from Camp Ashraf, Dr al Rubaie told Iran-Interlink, "The Iraqi Army unit posted to defend and secure Camp Ashraf has exercised patience and extreme restraint in spite of the staged provocations and demonstrations that Ashraf's self-appointed leaders have launched in defiance of the legitimate exercise by the Government of Iraq of its sovereignty." "Ashraf is not above the law," said Dr. al Rubaie.

Asked what can the UK, European and other western governments do to help resettle the MEK, Dr. al Rubaie replied, "These governments can agree to allow their citizens and others who have status in their country to return."

For the full interview see <http://iran-Interlink.org>

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<http://www.reuters.com/article/pressRelease/idUS149616+06-Apr-2009+PRN20090406>

The US's position on the disposition of Camp Ashraf

By: [Department of State](#)

April 04 2009

Acting Deputy Department Spokesman - Daily Press Briefing

MR. DUGUID: Gordon, is the United States working with the Iraqis on the disposition of the MEK people? It seems like they're kind of – the Iraqis are rushing to judgment on this sentence and – well, what outcome would you like to see for these people?

MR. DUGUID: As you may be aware, the disposition of Camp Ashraf was given a full transfer to the responsibility of the Iraqis on February the 20th. We continue to monitor the situation to ensure that the residents of Camp Ashraf are treated in accordance with Iraq's constitution and international obligations. And those are the two key factors that specifically address your question. Although the United States Government remains engaged on this issue, responsibility for resolving the situation at the

camp rests with the Government of Iraq at this time.

QUESTION: Do you have a desired outcome from this?

MR. DUGUID: The desired outcome is one that fully fits within Iraq's laws and their international commitments to the residents of this camp.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/dpb/2009/03/120983.htm>

MKO Suicide bombers

By: [Cults and Terror](#)

April 05 2009

The Use of the Philosophy of Martyrdom within Religious Cults for Acts of Terrorism

Martyrdom as an asset for a cult:

Martyrdom for the majority of people from different faiths and nationalities might be an honour, an example of people standing by their values and principals; and perhaps for some the promise of heaven. Some even might believe that their martyred friend or relative, can take seventy of their family and friends to heaven with themselves. But for a cult like Assassins in 11th century or Al-Qaeda or Mojahedin of Iran, martyrs are the greatest assets of all. They gain legitimacy for their goals and the rightness of their path by the number of their martyrs and how brave they were or how horribly they were killed.

Although one might say that the modern history of suicide attacks started with the Japanese Kamikazes. But I think the new phenomenon called suicide bombers started with the Mojahedin's suicide attacks against Iranian authorities during 1980's. Let me read part of the will of one of them mentioned in the publication of MKO 19th of June 1982, Gohar AdabAvaz. She killed the Friday Prayer Imam of Shiraz after praying with a few others who were present there. She writes in her will, "I don't think my life belongs to me, it belongs to God and the people and the Mojahedin organization. If a new path can be



Self burning of a Mojahedin's member in Paris after arrest of Maryam Rajavi. 2003

opened with my life, then I will be very happy that I be small token in this path. I have chosen this path knowingly, and am waiting that moment of martyrdom, impatiently."

Let me conclude that the use of the rich philosophy of martyrdom within a cult has given new meaning to martyrdom; it has changed it into new tools for materializa-



A scene from ceremony of signing an oath with Mojahedin's leader in Iraq.

tion of the goals of the cult.

For example in 2003 when the co-leader of the Mojahedin; Maryam Rajavi was arrested for few days in France, eleven members of the organization set themselves on fire in front of the French embassies in several countries and two of them, one in London, were killed as a result.

Tom Spender, in new shoppers, writes about one of those who set himself on fire in London but survived. He writes:" Hamid, 21, of Lanacre Avenue, Grahame Park, was one of several Iranians across Europe to register the most extreme of protests at the arrest in France of about 160 members of the People's Mojahedin of Iran (PMOI) - including the group's leader Maryam Rajavi.... What followed stunned the Western world. Images of men and women silhouetted in flames on the streets of London and Paris dominated the television news. One Iranian in London, Neda Hassani, a 26-year-old Canadian computer science student, later died of her burns. Another woman in Paris also died." When Hamid is asked why did he set himself on fire? He replies:" I wanted to shock the world. Injustices are committed all over the world but most of them are not reported well." And when he asked if he regret? He replies:" It was definitely worth it. I have not for one second thought that I shouldn't have done it."

If they can set themselves on fire over the arrest of their leader, what can stop them from using martyrdom as a means for any end?

22 MKO ringleaders await prosecution

By: [Press TV](#)

April 05 2009

Iraqi courts will prosecute top members of the Mujahedin Khalq Organization (MKO) on the charge of killing civilians in the country.

"The Iraqi government has urged 22 leaders of the anti-Iran MKO group to appear in court to be held accountable for their crimes," IRNA quoted head of the Center for Iraq Media Development, Adnan al-Seraj, as saying on Saturday.

According to al-Seraj, Iraqi courts have already convicted 450 senior MKO members on charges of killing and acts of sabotage, most of whom have escaped from their headquarters and training site at Camp Ashraf -- located in Iraq's Diyala Province.

"The prosecution is brought against 22 members who remained in the camp," the official said.

Based on the Iraqi Constitution, the MKO terrorist group is banned from its activities in the country.



After the finalization of a security agreement between Baghdad and Washington, Camp Ashraf was placed under Iraqi control as of Jan 1, 2009.

The Iraqi government now seeks the expulsion or separation of the MKO, which it holds responsible for attempting to destabilize the country, insisting that "staying in Iraq is not an option for them".

Blacklisted as a terrorist organization by many international organizations and countries, including the US, the MKO has claimed

responsibility for numerous bombings, killings and attacks against Iranian officials and nationals over the past 30 years.

The attacks include the assassination of the late president Mohammad-Ali Rajaei, prime minister Mohammad-Javad Bahonar and Judiciary chief Ayatollah Mohammad Beheshti.

After its exile from Iran, the MKO settled in Iraq where it enjoyed the support of former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein and assisted him in the massacre of Iraqi civilians.

Tehran has long called for the expulsion of MKO members from Iraq, saying that any members of the group who have not participated in terrorist activities can return home.

All MKO members who have organized or carried out criminal acts must stand trial if they wish to return.

<http://www.presstv.ir/detail.aspx?id=90458>

Iraqis preparing to expel MKO

By: [Tehran Times](#)

April 07 2009

TEHRAN – The Iraqi administration has made the necessary provisions to expel members of the terrorist Mojahedin Khalgh Organization (MKO) from Iraq, the Asharq Alawsat newspaper reported on Sunday.

The newspaper said Iraq's National Security Advisor, Mowaffak al-Rubaie, has not allowed doctors to enter the Camp Ashraf, the MKO headquarters, to put pressure on the group to leave Iraq soon.

The Iraqi security officials have also made consultations with the Australian administration to accept MKO members, the paper added.

The Washington Post had earlier quoted al-Rubaie as saying that his government plans to move members of the Mojahedin Khalq Organization from its sanctuary to a location where leaders and "brainwashed cult members" will be separated and the latter "detoxified".

The U.S. military has protected the group's camp in Iraq since the 2003 invasion. It handed over control of the camp to Iraqi security

forces in February

Saddam Hussein's government used the group during his decade-long war against Iran in the 1980s, and it also played a role in Hussein's bloody suppression of Shiite and Kurdish uprisings after the Persian Gulf War in 1991.

On a visit to Iran on Jan. 23, Rubaie said Camp Ashraf would be ""part of history within two months"".

Camp Ashraf, 40 miles north of Baghdad, houses 3,418 residents.

http://www.tehrantimes.com/index_View.asp?code=191544

Iranian dissidents in Iraq. Where will they all go?

The Economist,
Print edition,
April 08, 2009

Economist.com

http://www.economist.com/displaystory.cfm?story_id=13447429

"IT WAS one of the strangest places I'd ever seen," says one of the few Farsi-speaking Westerners to have spent weeks in Camp Ashraf, 65km (40 miles) north-east of Baghdad, where some 3,400 Iranian dissidents are hunkered down and are now threatened with expulsion from Iraq, perhaps even back to Iran. It was "like a spiffy midsized town in Iran", with parks, offices and buildings—but no children. It was "sterile, soulless and sad". Nearly two decades ago, families living in the camp were "dissolved", couples were forcibly divorced, and their children sent away, many of them to live with supporters living in the West, to be brought up in the faith of a movement widely described by independent observers as a cult.

For the past six years, the Americans have protected the camp, whose raison d'être is generally opposed by the surrounding Iraqi communities and by most Iranians, whether or not they are for or against the clerical regime in Tehran. But as American troops prepare to go home, the Iraqi government, which wants cosy ties with Iran, now says the camp must be closed and its inhabitants dispersed, probably back to Iran, where they would face an uncertain future, to put it mildly.

The group is variously known as the People's Mujahedeen of Iran (PMOI) or the Mujahedeen-e Khalq Organisation (abbreviated as both MEK and MKO). Founded in 1965 as a youthful underground opposition to Iran's Shah, it was usually described as "Islamic Marxist". When the Shah fell it at first backed Ayatollah Khomeini but soon fell out with him, embarking on a campaign of violence and bombings which, on a single occasion, is reckoned to have killed 70 civilians, including several senior clerics; the withered arm of Iran's current supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, was a result of that bomb. The group's political um-

brella is called the National Council of Resistance of Iran.

The PMOI's leader, Massoud Rajavi, fled to France in 1981 but he and his followers, many of them women, relocated in 1986 to Iraq, where Saddam Hussein gave them a big base at Camp Ashraf, which is thought to be around 20km in circumference. Saddam abundantly supplied the PMOI with Brazilian and British tanks (captured from Iran during the war of 1980-1988) and Russian armoured personnel carriers, among other arms. In return, the PMOI made attacks on Iran itself, which is why Iranians of all stripes tend to regard the group as traitors. It is also said to have spearheaded Saddam's attacks on rebellious Iraqi Kurds and Shias in 1991, after the first Gulf war, a charge it strongly denies.

Follow my leader

No less controversially, the PMOI is widely reviled by human-rights groups for nurturing a messianic cult of personality around Mr Rajavi and his wife, Maryam, and for enforcing a totalitarian discipline on its adherents. Several defectors testify, in the words of one of them, to a "constant bombardment of indoctrination" and a requirement to submit utterly and unquestioningly to the cause. No sources of news are allowed without the PMOI's say-so. According to one defector, around 50 members who rebelled were sent to Saddam's prison in Abu Ghraib, west of Baghdad.

Members are completely cut off from contact with their families. When the above-mentioned Farsi-speaking Westerner, who visited Ashraf in 2004, enabled wavering group members to talk to their families in Iran by satellite telephone, some of their parents refused to believe it was their children, for they had been told by the PMOI that they were dead.

No one is sure whether Mr Rajavi is alive but most think not; he has not been heard of since the American invasion of 2003. His wife, known as "the president-elect", travels the world, soliciting support from a wide range of sympa-

thisers, including some in the American Congress, the European Parliament and the British House of Lords. No one is sure who really controls the PMOI in Camp Ashraf. It is thought that nearly 400 residents have voluntarily returned to Iran, where they are said to have been treated adequately so far. But who can really tell? Several hundred more are seeking refugee status elsewhere. A few dozen have—or rather had—passports to Western countries, some of which have verified their bona fides.

In the past year, the European Parliament and Britain's courts have removed the label of "terrorist" from the PMOI, mainly on the ground that the group says it has disavowed violence, is not known to have carried out any acts of terror since, at the latest, 2002, and surrendered its weapons (at any rate, its heavier ones) at Camp Ashraf after the American invasion. This has irritated several national governments, especially the British and French ones, which think the PMOI is a nasty nuisance and its presence on their soil bad for relations with both Iraq and Iran.

The outfit is still officially deemed a terrorist organisation in the United States but has a fierce lobby there too, backed by a mix of neoconservatives and leftists, that accepts at face value the group's insistence that it is a secular and democratic movement with mass support in Iran and a real chance of eventually displacing the mullahs' regime. Its lobby in Europe is much exercised by recent statements of Muwafaq al-Rubaie, Iraq's national security adviser, who makes it plain he wants the camp disbanded and its people sent abroad, mostly to Iran, whose rulers have become more vociferous in calling its fellow reigning Shias in Baghdad to send them back.

The PMOI has a sophisticated network of ardent supporters. Without a doubt, its voice of despairing outrage will rise to a squeal if the Americans give way to Iraqi and Iranian demands to cut the movement loose. But it may happen.

Unwanted guests, Iraq's controversial issue

By: [Sattar Orangi](#)

April 09 2009

Reported by Niqash on 1 April 20 09, in an interview held with Saleh Mutlaq, leader of the Sunni oppositional list, to inquire about the front's political position and the accusations posed against it. Mutlaq is alleged to have played a role as a mediator between the Iraqi government and the dissolved Baath party. He is also a strong supporter of the terrorist Mujahedin-e Khalq organization (MEK) that the government is decisive to expel as a measure to restore peace and security to the country and combat terrorism.

Niqash: Why do you support the Mujahedin-e Khalq organization (MEK)?

Al-Mutlaq: The MEK is a complex topic and the government has issued a decision banning any cooperation with it. The decision describes everybody who supports or cooperates with MEK as a terrorist. We are against expelling the organization from Iraq for humanitarian reasons because of our Arab and Iraqi traditions and values of respecting guests, providing them with support and helping the oppressed. Of course, this issue is not at the top of our priorities. We should first defend Iraqis and their interests and find solutions to the problems of Iraqi widows, orphans and refugees abroad. But this does not mean that we shouldn't say what we really believe in when

it is necessary to do so.

After fleeing Iran in the early years after the 1979 Islamic Revolution, the MKO, after being expelled from France, took refuge in Saddam's Iraq where it enjoyed full financial and political support and got involved in Saddam's dirty work including the slaughter of Iraqi dissidents and their families, in particular Kurds and Shiites. MKO's settlement in Iraq was not at all an issue of refugee's case or accepted guests but a matter of cooperation and bilateral interests.

In a secret meeting with the head of Saddam's notorious security and information system, Mokhaberat, following the bloody crackdown of 1991's uprising wherein MKO played the role of Saddam's mercenaries, Massoud Rajavi addressed General Saber al-Duri saying:

In mind and heart, I cannot disengage our interests from that of yours; they are merged together exactly as one. We may have our differences in some points but the fact is that our interests are strongly intermingled. Please express my regards to the president [Saddam] and tell him we were, are and will be staying at your home as long as possible we can. (Iran-interlink)

It seems that Mr. Mutlaq has misunderstood the meaning of guests and mercenary terrorists. Neither the outcasts who are settled in another country are called guests nor Mr. Mutlaq seems to be very respectful

of Arabic traditions and values. Furthermore, Iraq is the home to its own nation and it is people and their legally elected authorities who can decide to keep guests, as Mr. Mutlaq calls them, or expel them as they have turned to be thorns in the side of country.

Blacklisted as a terrorist group by many international organizations and countries, including the US, the MKO has claimed responsibility for a spate of deadly bombings, killings and attacks against Iranian officials and the common people over the past 30 years. Reported recently, the Iraqi courts have also drawn to prosecute top members of MKO on charges of killing Iraqi civilians. It has to be pointed out that Iraqi courts have already convicted 450 senior MKO agents on charges of killing and acts of sabotage. However, most of them are reported to have escaped from their headquarters and training center in Camp Ashraf with a handful remaining.

Of course, as Mr. Mutlaq defines, these convicted members are the oppressed who need to be provided with help and support. Where the interests of the nation stand and who is responsible to defend them, if they ever have any priority, is a question that none of the likes of Mr. Mutlaq can ever find a solution for. MKO might be a complex issue to deal with, but the Iraqi government has coped with it cleverly and will put an end to it whether its advocates like it or not.

Invited by Saddam: Iranian opposition members refuse to leave Iraq outpost

(Marriage here is forbidden. There have been no children for years)

The Christian Science Monitor,
April 07, 2009
Jane Arraf Correspondent of
The Christian Science Monitor



Texas-born Elham Kiamanesh seems thoroughly American, but in the last decade she's spent working to overthrow the Iranian regime, this military camp with its tree-lined avenues and flower-filled parks north of Baghdad is the only home she's known.

"You can call me Ellie, that's my nickname," says Ms. Kiamanesh as she explains why she gave up normal life and her love of children to try to topple the government of a country she's never visited.

Kiamanesh is one of some 3,400 residents, including several hundred Westerners, in the middle of one of the strangest episodes in the dramatic shift in relations between Iran, Iraq, and the United States.

In the 1980s, in the midst of Iraq's bitter eight-year-war with Iran, Saddam Hussein invited the Iranian opposition to set up military operations here. When Saddam's regime was toppled, US forces disarmed the group. In January, Camp Ashraf reverted to control by the Iraqi government, which plans to close the base as a sign of goodwill toward Iran.

Its residents - members of the People's Mujahadeen (Mujahadeen e-Khalq, known by the Farsi acronyms MEK or MKO) - are either to return to Iran or to the third countries where they have citizenship. But to the Iraqi government's consternation, they are not going will-

ingly.

Militarily irrelevant, but still symbolic

Disarmed, Camp Ashraf has become militarily irrelevant. But as an embarrassment to both the Iranian and Iraqi governments, it still has considerable symbolic value.

In the first media visit granted by Iraqi authorities since they took control of the camp this year, residents told The Christian Science Monitor they would not voluntarily leave.

"I've decided to stay here until there's a free Iran," says Hassan Mohammad. Mr. Mohammad lived in the camp with his mother until the age of eight and then was sent to Canada where the family had refugee status during the 1991 war over Kuwait. He returned here at the age of 17 and spent the next several years with a MEK tank unit in the south of Iraq.

Now, he spends his time here in computer classes and the evenings occasionally watching movies on the Iranian opposition's television channel. "The last one was 'Slum Dog Millionaire,'" he says

The sprawling camp, one of the biggest military bases in Iraq, has its own university classrooms and hospital. Men and women live in separate dormitories and for the most part study or work in segregated classes. The MEK's philosophy is a mix of Marxism and Islam teaching with a dose of feminism and a very large element of control.

Marriage here is forbidden. There have been no children for years.

"We have left family life behind," says Hossein Madani, an urbane former aerospace instructor in Virginia and a senior official at Camp Ashraf.

Iraq: 'The party is over'

Mr. Madani and other MEK officials invite guests into a cool, white reception room and serve tea and cake while producing a wide variety of documents and letters that do little to alleviate the ambiguity over the camp's legal status.

Madani dismisses the issue of Iraqi

law, which authorities say makes the MEK residents illegal foreigners in the country. Instead he cites the Geneva Conventions, under which the US military had recognized the MEK as noncombatants in the war and pledged to protect them.

"This is purely an agenda forced by the Iranian regime. Why do we have to give in to such a thing?" he says of the Iraqi government's plan to shut down the camp and move residents to a more remote location in Iraq as a prelude to leaving the country.

Iraqi National Security Advisor Muwaffaq al-Rubaie has a simple answer for them.

"They have to understand that the party is over for them," Mr. Rubaie told journalists recently, after refuting allegations from the MEK that their members were being mistreated. "They need to understand that they have to leave. This is not [the era of] Saddam Hussein using them against Iran. We will never use them against Iran."

Describing the residents as "brainwashed cult members from a high-trained terrorist organization," Rubaie says Iraq does not intend to forcibly deport them but "if they resist and carry out this engineered crisis there will be some pain."

The Iraqi government is pressuring other countries to take back about one-third of the camp residents with either foreign passports or travel documents. The rest will be given the Iranian passports they are entitled to and a plane ticket home.

Plenty of places to go, but this is home

The residents include Americans, Canadians, Swedes, and Dutch. Rubaie says another 309 could legally return to France, where the MEK is based. While the US lists the group as a terrorist organization, the European Union has dropped that designation. As individuals, MEK members are also free to return to the US unless there are specific arrest warrants for them. **(cont. page 12)**

Iraqi security adviser discusses MKO

By: [Al-Araghiah](#)

March 31 2009

Iraqi security adviser discusses Mojahedin Khalq Organisation (Rajavi cult)

(About 1000 MKO members have US and EU passport and have to go back)

... He says about 1,000 of them have US and European passports and resident permits or political asylum status in the United States and in Europe and they can go there, noting that "900 women are in the camp," and adding that they can return them to Iran, but stressing that "we will not send anyone to Iran against his will." He notes that "we have returned 118 to Iran on their own free will over the past two years."...

Baghdad Al-Iraqiyah Television in Arabic, a government-sponsored television station run by the Iraqi Media Network, at 1901 gmt on 21 March broadcasts a recorded 55-minute interview with Iraqi National Security Adviser Muwaffaq al-Rubay'i by Aziz Rahim in Baghdad; from the "Exclusive Interview" programme.

Rahim asks Al-Rubay'i about his job, which he has been occupying for years. He says the job of the national security adviser is new in many countries, and is new in Iraq as well. He says his job is to "coordinate among the security ministries - Defence, Interior, and National Security Ministries, and other intelligence services," adding that lack of coordination might cause clashes or confusion. He says his office "draws up state policies and strategies in the military, security, and intelligence domains as well as in matters of security in the fields of economy and health as well as in social and international security," noting that it also takes care of "the religious and intellectual security against intrusive ideas such as the takfiri ideas [holding other Muslims to be apostates] or extremist ideas."

Al-Rubay'i says his office draws up ways to help the prime minister, the president, and other officials imple-

ment state policies. He adds: "The national security adviser's office provides analysis for each problem, whether it is related to security, intelligence, military, economic, or health. It offers a diagnosis and an analysis of each problem, presents options for a solution, and recommends certain options." He says it deals with the "general concept" of security rather than details.



He says the adviser's office helped create the Iraqi Army, noting that in June 2004 there was only a regiment under training at the Baghdad Airport, "but now we have 17 divisions, an Air Force, a Naval Force, counter-terrorism forces, and five intelligence services." He adds: "We have defeated our enemies, whether they are from Al-Qa'idah, the militias, the extremists, special terrorist groups, and organized gangs." He says that security achievements in Iraq over the past 5 years have been realized because of the "policies that we thought of and drew up." He says contacts and efforts exerted with the neighbouring countries "based on mutual interests" and on the principle of "you scratch my back and I scratch yours" have been very fruitful.

Asked about the connection between him and the Iraqi National Security Council, he says that the Council is headed by the prime minister and includes the interior minister, the defence minister, the foreign minister, the finance minister, the minister of justice, the head of the intelligence, the chief of the Army staff, and the national security adviser." He says the national security adviser prepares the agenda of the meetings.

(...)

Rahim then asks him about the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization [MKO] issue and about Camp Ashraf and if reports that the government is to close down Camp Ashraf by the end of March are true, he replies that there is no specific date for closing the camp but the Iraqi government has decided to close the camp as soon as possible. He adds: "If the closure is delayed more than a few months, we might transfer the camp to another place. The aim is to transfer it to the west of the country and divide it into more than one camp to make it distant from the Iranian fire, if I may use this expression." He says the aim is to protect the inmates of the camp and keep them outside the range of the Iranian fire, "because as a government we are responsible for protecting them."

Al-Rubay'i says that most of he states in the world, including Iraq, consider Mojahedin-e Khalq a terrorist organization. He adds: "We do not deal with the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization and we do not fear the intimidating propaganda machine it is operating in the world and we do not fear their public relations machine and its political campaign against us."

He adds: "We have an international and humanitarian responsibilities, and we have pledged to the world, that we will deal with this issue in a humanitarian and civilized manner. We have decided to close down the camp and deal with the inhabitants of the camp as individuals and not as an organization.

"We believe that there is a group - 15, 20, or 25 - who are the commanders that are controlling others. The vast majority of the camp's inmate are perhaps brainwashed. They in fact want to return to their country once this pressure is lifted off them. If we remove those who are washing their brains, the vast majority will go home." Asked how this can be done, he replies: "This can be done by isolating them from these commanders, and separating them by any civilized way."

Iraqi security adviser discusses MKO

Al-Rubay'i says that there are some 3,418 members of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, and they are very well trained, and adds: "This is an ugly terrorist organization and it perpetrated crimes against the Iraqi people during the intifadah and after the intifadah and after the change of the regime, in addition to its crimes against the Iranian people. They are brainwashed and are very well trained and they are close to the Iranian border. Of course Iran considers this a threat to its national security and it might do something to them. It is our duty to protect them by moving them to another place."

Asked to react to a statement to the newspaper Al-Sharq al-Awsat by a Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization official called Mohammad Iqbal "that a human disaster is expected because the Iraqi Army is besieging Camp Ashraf and that supplies to its inmates have stopped," he says: "On 1 January 2009, the security responsibility was gradually transferred from the Multinational Forces to the Iraqi forces and the transfer was completed on 20 February. Now the Iraqi Army is responsible for protecting the camp. It is besieging it of course to prevent anyone from entering and also to protect the inmates."

Al-Rubay'i says: "Many inmates want to leave it. Two escaped from the camp and we now have them. One of them said: They sent me away by telling me to go and burn myself up inside the Iraqi Army compound and say that the Iraqi Army set me on fire." Asked why this is not told to the media, he replies: "We do not want to enter into media campaigns and wrangling with this terrorist organization. We are a government. We have international and humanitarian obligations. In any case, these are human beings and they at least must have the rights of human beings but they are not political refugees or humanitarian refugees. They have no status and we inherited this from the previous regime, and now it is becoming an affliction."

"We told them that remaining in Iraq

was not an option. Either you go back to Iran or we will give you Iranian passports. The Iranian government is prepared to give them Iranian passports and they can go to any state in the world. Many nations do not need a visa stamped on Iranian passports. They might go to Turkey, Malaysia, Indonesia, or to any European country."

He says about 1,000 of them have US and European passports and resident permits or political asylum status in the United States and in Europe and they can go there, noting that "900 women are in the camp," and adding that they can return them to Iran, but stressing that "we will not send anyone to Iran against his will." He notes that "we have returned 118 to Iran on their own free will over the past two years."

He says that the Iraqi government ascertained through the Iraqi Human Rights Ministry and the ICRC that these 118 have not been harmed during the past two years, and "therefore, most of the camp inmates can go to Iran."

He says that four or five days ago, the Iraqi Army outside the camp moved to a building near the camp and wanted to stay in it. He says that the area of the camp is 400 square kilometres of Iraqi territory and the Iraqi Army must enter the camp and protect them, and adds: "The Iraqi Army has been stationed in certain buildings built especially for the Iraqi army." He adds: "The inmates of the camp occupied the buildings, declared a state of civil disobedience, and refused to leave. They are 200. We told them: all right, stay and we will protect you. Anyone who leaves the building will not be allowed to return. We bring them food, water, and medicine and everything they need." He adds: "In fact there is an entire regiment protecting the camp. The US forces are there with the Iraqi forces as observers. If the Iraqi forces commit any violations, the US forces will see that."

Al-Rubay'i admits that the telephone

numbers and other information on the identity of any visitors of the camp are being taken down, and adds: "Do the Iraqi security forces not have the right to make an inventory of who are staying in the camp? They gave us a number: 3,418. We asked them about the names but they refused to give us the names, the dates of birth, or any other information." He says the Iraqis want to know if some of them want to return to Iran or to the country from which they arrived.

He says: "They had a terrible arsenal and they handed it all over to the Americans - tanks, armoured vehicles, missiles, rocket launchers, RPG's, BKC's, hand grenades, all sorts of things. It was an entire arsenal and it was handed to the Americans with lists. Now we want to search the camp and see if there are arms left or not."

He says the Iraqi Human Rights Ministry prepared a form that the inmates should fill in with personal information. It distributed it to 3,418 persons but only 180 returned the forms filled, noting that their commanders did not allow anyone to fill the form. He says: "They refuse to give general information or fill forms, they refuse to cooperate with the Iraqi security forces. They want to invent a crisis with us."

Concluding, he says that this is an issue of sovereignty, because they are occupying 400 square kilometres of Iraqi territory against Iraq's will and counter to Iraqi decisions. He adds: "We are a self-respecting government, a sovereign government, and we must impose our control and respect inside the camp."

Al-Iraqiyah TV,

Baghdad,

in Arabic

21 Mar 09

BBC Monitoring Middle East,

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Invited by Saddam:

Iranian opposition members refuse to leave Iraq outpost

(cont. form page 9):

After 2003, the US military seized the MEK's tanks and other weapons and confined its residents to the isolated base. All of the camp residents renounced violence and underwent background screening by US authorities.

MEK members argue that their cooperation entitles them to stay.

"We used our own money to build this, to plant every single tree and plant in this place," Madani says bitterly, driving past parks and streets punctuated with giant sculptures of tulips and birds. "This is their home. There are cemeteries, people who have died here, they are buried here, they have lived here."

Outside the museum dedicated to Iranian atrocities, Kiamanesh sits with her friend, Gohar Mohajeri, on a walkway planted with flowers. Ms. Mohajeri was born in New York but grew up in Germany. She has never been to Iran.

"For outsiders, when they don't know what our goal and aim is, obviously our life is abnormal for them," says Mohajeri. Kiamanesh translates for her from Farsi.

Neither seem to realize how isolated they are at the camp. "I do believe this is the greenest place in all of Iraq," says Kiamanesh, a former law student who without a headscarf would look like the girl next door. "Why would anyone ever want to leave this place

MKO desperate for Arab support

By: [Press TV](#)

April 04 2009

Head of the Mujahedin Khalq Organization Maryam Rajavi urges the participants of the Arab summit in Doha to support MKO terrorists.

In a letter to Arab leaders attending the summit in Qatar, Rajavi rallied support for the anti-Iran group which is on the verge of losing its Iraq headquarters and training site, Camp Ashraf, located in Diyala Province.

After the finalization of a security agreement between Baghdad and Washington, Camp Ashraf was put under Iraqi control as of Jan 1, 2009.

The Iraqi government now seeks the expulsion or relocation of the

MKO, which it holds responsible for attempting to destabilize the country, maintaining 'staying in Iraq is not an option for them'.

"The residents should understand ... that their days in Iraq are numbered and we are literally counting down," Iraqi National Security Advisor Mowaffaq al-Rubaie told reporters on Friday.

Blacklisted as a terrorist organization by many international organizations and countries, including the US, the MKO has responsibility for bombings, killings and attacks against Iranian officials and nationals over the past 30 years.

The attacks include the assassination of the late president Mohammad-Ali Rajaei, prime minister Mohammad-Javad Baho-

nar and judiciary chief Ayatollah Mohammad Beheshti.

After its exile from Iran, the MKO settled in Iraq where it enjoyed the support of former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein and assisted him in the massacre of Iraqi civilians.

Tehran has long called for the expulsion of MKO members from Iraq, saying that the members of the group who have not participated in terrorist activities can return home but those who organized and carried out criminal acts against the Iranian nation must stand trial.

<http://www.presstv.ir/detail.aspx?id=90102§ionid=351020101>