

Nejat Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 6

March/April 2011



Inside this issue:

| | |
|---|---|
| MKO defected members in a Press Conference in Iraq | 1 |
| Nejat Society Announcement on Camp Ashraf Clashes | 1 |
| Give the Mojahe-din-e Khalq an amnesty | 2 |
| MKO Ringleaders Kill Dissidents to Control Iraq Base | 3 |
| The Chameleon-like Mujahedin-e Khalq | 4 |
| MKO defectors offered suicide option | 6 |
| Singleton visits Camp Ashraf in wake of violence by Rajavi cult loyalists | 7 |
| MEK Terrorists Interfering in Iraq Democratization | 7 |
| Iraqi people want MEK terrorists out of Iraq | 8 |

MKO defected members in a Press Conference in Iraq

By: [Press TV](#)

April 20 2011

The spokesperson of the Iraqi defense ministry said members of the terrorist Mujahedin-e-Khalq Organization, MKO, escaped Camp Ashraf and surrendered themselves to the Iraqi forces.



He said the defected members have given

useful information and the Iraqi government now has the required

evidence to shut down the camp.

In the press conference that was organized by the Iraqi defense ministry, the defected MKO members said since the US led invasion of Iraq in 2003, the leaders of the organization have changed their strategies and turned the camp into a prison and the residents of the camp are completely cut off from the outside world. **Cont. P8**

Nejat Society Announcement on Camp Ashraf Clashes

April 20 2011

The clashes between Iraqi security forces and Camp Ashraf residents on Friday April 8, can be analyzed from several points of view. Either the act of Iraqi forces was aimed to set up a new station or to put pressure on the cult leaders to leave Iraq, MKO leaders should take the responsibility of the incidents because:

1. The opposition of Iraqi people and government against MKO presence in their territory is legal and reasonable regarding the MKO's influential and active role in the massacre of Iraqi Kurds and Shiites in Saddam's era.
2. Considering the fact that Ashraf residents are neither considered political refugees nor forth Geneva Convention applies to them, their presence

in Iraq is definitely illegitimate.

3. Having morphed into a destructive cult, MKO is no more a political-military organization and Camp Ashraf has become one of its basic principles. Like many other cults, the camp is the container that keeps the cult members in and deprives them from all their basic human rights.

On April 8th before dawn, forcing two members to commit suicide, MKO leaders make two hundred of the Camp residents attack Iraqi forces with iron hook and rocks in order to pave the way for the presence of American forces in the Camp.

Outside the gates of Camp Ashraf, families of Ashraf residents are picketing waiting for their children who are not allowed by the cult leaders

to visit their parents. These families are eager to see their loved ones rather than getting the news of their death or injury.

Unfortunately, the cult leaders do not care about people's rights or freedom. They force some of the cult members to involve in clashes and some others who do not obey the cult leaders' slang are made scapegoats in bloody clashes. This way, dissident members are eliminated.

Families neither confirm nor deny the number of killed members published by the cult but they ask Iraqi government to remove labyrinth of bars in Camp Ashraf in order to make the cult leaders engaged in providing the residents the chance to visit their families and choose their own fate whether they want to leave or they stay in the cult.

Give the Mojahedin-e Khalq an amnesty

Al Arabiya News Channel

April 30 2011

As far as I can remember, Mojahedin-e Khalq or MEK, an armed opposition group, has never enjoyed national support in Iran. When the MEK'S leader left Iran for Iraq and set up a camp to launch operations against the Iranian regime from Iraq, people shied away from them.

Iran was at war with Iraq and this group stood by Saddam Hussein, helping Iraq in their struggle against Iran.

The MEK's operations were deadly. On one occasion they assassinated key revolutionary figure Ayatollah Mo-tahari; on another occasion, they bombed the Republic Party's headquarters in Tehran, killing about 70 people, including Prime Minister Masoud Rajai. I was at primary school at the time; the father of one of my classmates, Mr. Akbari, was one of those killed in the bombing.

After the Iran-Iraq War, the MEK faded from the scene, only to regain prominence when the US invaded Iraq. Thousands of MEK members, most of them middle-aged, were residing in the Ashraf camp when it was taken over by the Americans in 2003. Iran wondered what their fate might be. Eight years later, still nothing has happened to

them.

Iran won't have them back and they're struggling to stay in Iraq. Who's going to offer a safe haven to 3,500 MEK members, all on the US terrorist list?

Last Friday, Iraqi forces last Friday killed at least 10 of them and injured more than 100 more.



Nouri Al-Malki's spokesman said that they refused to let Iraqi soldiers enter the camp for a routine inspection.

On Tuesday April 11, the Iraqi government gave the residents of Ashraf camp an ultimatum: they must leave Iraq by the end of 2011.

But where they can go? What makes it more difficult is that the leadership refuses to let individual members leave.

Disarmed in Iraq by the Americans back in 2003, they blame the latter for not protecting them.

But the real problem is with

their leadership. At least one-third of the MEK members in Ashraf camp are from North America or other Western countries, but the leadership won't let them leave and go home.

In fact, no-one has heard anything about their leader, Masoud Rajavi, since 2003. His wife Maryam, who lives in France, is now running the show and she's reluctant to hand over power to any of the members in the camp in Iraq.

Many Iranians think that the MEK are finished. Most of them feel sorry for these stranded MEK members. They regret that Rajavi trapped them and are also upset to see them being killed like animals in Iraq by Iraqis.

Some Iranians want the government to show the residents of Ashraf camp a little mercy, allowing them to come home to Iran and their families.

"These people have been wasting away for many years. It's wrong. They are getting old and ought to come home. No-one knows who they were and what they did. An amnesty would save them from this nasty situation," a journalist in Tehran told me.

Camelia Entekhabifard,

Al Arabiya

Published in the Egyptian Gazette on April 27

MKO Ringleaders Kill Dissidents to Control Iraq Base

By: [Fars News Agency](#)

April 26 2011

A defected member of the anti-Iran terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization unveiled that MKO ringleaders are using every means within their reach to control their dissident members, including life threats, to keep members in the group's main stronghold in Northern Iraq.

"Massoud Rajavi (the main ringleader of the MKO) has announced many times that if anybody wants to escape from (the camp) Ashraf (in Iraq), he/she will be killed or executed," Abdollatif Shadvari said.

He reiterated that the ringleaders of the MKO also prevent the members who are residing in Camp Ashraf from taking refuge in other countries, saying, "Ashraf is the only place you have." Asked why MKO ringleaders force the dissident members to remain in the stronghold in Iraq, Shadvari said, "It is clear, if people leave (the camp), the Organization will collapse and there will be no MKO anymore."

Also in March, another defected member of the MKO revealed that the female members of the group have been living under captivity for more than 25 years and are not even allowed to appear in public places alone.

"It can be firmly said that 95% of the women in Ashraf Camp (the terrorist group's resort in Iraq) have not even been allowed to step in Iraq's public and recreational places alone all throughout the last 25 years," the defected member said.

The former member of the MKO also revealed that nearly 70% of the female members of the terrorist group are single and have not been allowed to marry anyone in or outside the group.

And only a total 10% of the married

members have been allowed to have children, he added. The MKO has been in Iraq's Diyala province since the 1980s.

Iraqi security forces took control of the training base of the MKO at Camp Ashraf - about 60km (37 miles) north of Baghdad - in 2009 and detained dozens of the members of the terrorist group.

The Iraqi authority also changed the name of the military center from Camp Ashraf to the Camp of New Iraq.



Many of the MKO members abandoned the terrorist organization while most of those still remaining in the camp are said to be willing to quit but are under pressure and torture not to do so.

A May 2005 Human Rights Watch report accused the MKO of running prison camps in Iraq and committing human rights violations.

According to the Human Rights Watch report, the outlawed group puts defectors under torture and jail terms.

Numerous articles and letters posted on the Internet by family members of MKO recruits confirm reports of the horrific abuse that the group inflicts on its own members and the alluring recruitment methods it uses.

The most shocking of such stories includes accounts given by former British MKO member Ann Singleton and Mustafa Mohammadi -- the father of an Iranian-Canadian girl who was drawn into the group during an MKO recruitment campaign in Canada.

Mohammadi recounts his desperate efforts to contact his daughter, who disappeared several years ago - a result of what the MKO called a 'two-month tour' of Camp Ashraf for teenagers.

He also explains how the group forces the families of its recruits to take part in pro-MKO demonstrations in Western countries by threatening to kill their loved ones.

Lacking a foothold in Iran, the terrorist group recruits ill-informed teens from Iranian immigrant communities in Western states and blocks their departure afterwards.

The MKO, whose main stronghold is in Iraq, is black-listed by much of the international community, including the United States.

Before an overture by the EU, the MKO was on the European Union's list of terrorist organizations subject to an EU-wide assets freeze. Yet, the MKO puppet leader, Maryam Rajavi, who has residency in France, regularly visited Brussels and despite the ban enjoyed full freedom in Europe.

The MKO is behind a slew of assassinations and bombings inside Iran, a number of EU parliamentarians said in a recent letter in which they slammed a British court decision to remove the MKO from the British terror list. The EU officials also added that the group has no public support within Iran because of their role in helping Saddam Hussein in the Iraqi imposed war on Iran (1980-1988).

Iraq had announced earlier this month that members of the terrorist group must leave by the end of 2011.

The Chameleon-like Mujahedin-e Khalq

By: [Nejat Bloggers](#)

April 28 2011

The Mujahedin Khalq (MEK) is a cult which has a long history of terrorism; the leaders, with their chameleon like-nature have targeted and captivated various audiences throughout their existence as a group. They run diplomacy of deception and their opportunistic tactics are now fooling naïve Western sympathizers—so much that some sympathizers will lay down their political reputations for them, in the belief that they are supporting a legitimate alternative to the current regime in Iran. With an impressive ability to transform its image, the Mujahedin-e Khalq has managed to court potential allies. They have tailored their principles to obtain sympathy from and stir the attention of neoconservative warmongers who would like to see Iran acted upon with a major political operation. This is dangerous because any type of political operation against Iran, especially one that would result in the use of force would be catastrophic. Notwithstanding what the Iranian people think, an operation which includes the MKO would also include a goal of ending the current Iranian regime—and placing it with the MKO. The Iranian people would not, in any way, stand for it because Iranians have no room for a principle-bending cult who is out of touch with reality and who has not stepped foot in Iran for decades.

Development of Change During the 1960's when many Iranian youth were interested in Marxism, influenced by the USSR, founders of MEK based their ideology on a Marxist version of Islam. According to the US State Department report, the “MEK sought to counter what it perceived as excessive western influence in the Shah's regime. Following a philosophy that mixes Marxism and Islam the MEK has developed into the largest and most active armed Iranian dissident group.”[1]

When in the 1970's, anti-western attitudes came to be shared by most guerilla groups around the world and also among Iranians who supported Ayatollah Khomeini as an Islamic anti-western leader, the MEK found it beneficial to develop an anti-imperialism dimension to their activities. They launched several attacks against American interests in Iran that killed seven American military personnel and civilians. The State Department reports that “its history is studded with anti-western activity.” [2]

During the Islamic Revolution in 1978, the MEK took part in anti Shah protests and supported the Islamic Republic. But soon after the revolution they clashed with the newly-settled government because they couldn't find any position in the newly formed power structure. The group's leader, Massoud Rajavi fled to Paris together with the Iranian former President, Abulhassan

Banisadr (who now denounces the group and refers to it as a terrorist cult). In Paris, they found it advantageous to change their image and their name; they started the National Council of Resistance which is now the MKO's political tribune in the West. Kathryn Spellman, a British Professor of sociology writes in her book *Religion and Nation: Iranian Local and Transnational Networks in London*, that “the NCR was founded in October 1981 as a provisional government of the Islamic Democratic Republic.”[3]

The NCR was first headed by Massoud Rajavi and included 235 members of whom 90% were Mujahedin members. In response to the female impression on the Iranian government, the NCR cleverly decided to elect a woman, Maryam Rajavi as “President elect” of the Democratic Islamic Republic of Iran. The title “Democratic Islamic Republic” for the MEK's dream government of Iran was not surprising because at the time Iranian public were seriously interested in Islam and most people wanted Islamic laws to be obeyed in their country. Knowing this, Rajavi adopted the majority “Islamic” view. He felt that it was important to change his group's principles in order to be accepted as a viable alternative to the regime. In 1985 the MEK made another transformation and moved to Iraq where Rajavi gradually transformed the MEK into a full blown military cult, appointing himself as the

The Chameleon-like Mujahedin-e Khalq

absolute leader.* *Antoine Gessler author of *Autopsy of Anti Ideological Drift*: *Analysis and Background on the* *MKO* describes the group:

"Operating as a political-military sect, based on a cult of personality, the people's Mojahedin of Iran requires total obedience from their true believers. The hierarchy is very structured and very strict, demanding blind obedience to the leadership. Their methods are reminiscent of Stalin's. They include the notorious model of the Moscow show trials overwhelming their internal critics with insults, mudslinging lies, accusations of treason, selling out or being enemy agents." "Yet, after almost thirty years of struggle, the PMOI and its National Liberation army have little to show for their efforts. They have squandered all their achievements of the Seventies and Eighties largely through their alliance with Saddam Hussein.

During the last two decades, Mr. Rajavi and his friends have only succeeded in cutting themselves off from the very people who want change in Iran, but will not follow the PMOI. They have never been able to lay the foundations of that 'Islamic, Democratic Republic of Iran' which is their principal aim." [4]

In 2003, after the fall of Saddam Hussein when the MEK's Camp Ashraf was bombed by the American Air Force, Masoud Rajavi found a practical

solution—he shifted with the wind and signed an agreement with US Forces, which required him to relinquish arms (to US Forces). This strategic move helped him draw the West's attention towards his organization which has been listed as a terrorist group since the 1990's. As the MEK increased its propaganda campaign in Western countries they intentionally distinguished themselves as a non-terrorist group and delivered an agenda which portrayed them merely as an opposition group which was rational, a friend of the West, but more importantly, secular, non-violent, and democratic. By the end of 2004, Rajavi's democratic Islamic Republic militant group had apparently morphed into a "democratic, independent and secular regime."

In 2010, the group made a huge effort to purify its image even more in response to the bad press it had been getting regarding its long history of terrorist activities. Ali Safavi, the group's main lobbyist attempted to clear all religious associations from the MEK's image and reintroduced them as a purely secular organization. Safavi re-wrote the group's history in a series of articles which were published by the *Huffington Post*. According to Safavi, *now* the "MEK was founded in 1965 as a Muslim organization. It saw the society divided between tyranny and liberation forces, and not believers and non-believers. Like most Iranians, its founders sought a secular

republic and the establishment of a democracy in Iran. MEK has never endeavored towards an ideological government, be it Islamic or otherwise." [5] For naïve politicians who do not know the real history, this is successful deceit, and will no doubt, help buy support.

Rajavi would like us all to somehow believe that he can fulfill a promise that will take care of every one--a secular government which offers a foundation for a Democratic Islamic Republic. According to Dr. Ahmad Sadri, an Iranian-American university professor of Islamic World Studies and Sociology at Lake Forest College in Illinois, the MEK wears a mask and is basically telling the world that as long as it is beneficial, "we are whatever you want us to be." [7]

By Mazda Parsi

References:

- [1] United States. *Terrorist Designation Lists*. Washington DC: First published in 1999, updated every two years. Web
- [2] ibid
- [3] Spellman, Kathryn . *Religion and Nation: Iranian Local and Transnational Networks in London*. 1st ed. London, New York: Berghahn Books, 2004. Print. p.28
- [4] Gessler, Antoine. *Autopsy of an ideological Drift*. Translated by Thomas R. Forstenzer 2004 Publishing Information is unknown: 13. Print
- [5] Safavi, Ali. "Reality Check: Understanding the Mujahedin-e Khalq." *Huffington Post*. March 3, 2010: Web.
- [6] Lach, Eric. "Iranian Prof: U.S. Support For MEK Would Anger Ordinary Iranians." *Talking Points Memo TPMuckraker* (07 FEB 2011): Web. 23 Apr 2011

MKO defectors offered suicide option

By: [Press TV](#)

April 21 2011

A Mujahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) defector says any member of the terrorist group who wishes to leave has no choice but to commit suicide with a cyanide pill.

Speaking at a press conference at the Iraqi Defense Ministry in Baghdad on Tuesday, former MKO member Maryam Sanjabi said, "When I was appointed as a senior member of the MKO leadership council, I was told that I could never leave the organization. Otherwise, I had to kill myself by taking a cyanide pill.

"It is a custom within the organization to exterminate its defectors. Such a measure on occasions has been emphasized by [MKO leader] Masoud Rajavi. Two members of the MKO leadership council were killed some 2 years ago when they wanted to desert the organization."

"Even some members of MKO leadership council are currently held in captivity in Camp Ashraf because they have sought to defect. MKO members are afraid to disclose what is happening to them for fear of their lives."

Having lived in misery and under pressure for many years, Sanjabi surrendered herself to the Iraqi forces deployed near the camp last week.

"None of the residents of Camp Ashraf have the right to contact their families... The only thing that can separate a member from

the MKO is death," she said.

"The leaders of the camp have spent millions of dollars to train the residents of the camp on how to launch attacks and even encounter the Iraqi security forces," Sanjabi added.

On Tuesday, three MKO defectors gave an account of their ordeals during their stay at Camp Ashraf in Iraq.



The spokesperson of the Iraqi Defense Ministry, General Mohammed al-Askari, said in a Tuesday press conference in Baghdad that the three former MKO members had escaped from Camp Ashraf and surrendered to the Iraqi security forces, a Press TV correspondent reported.

The official said that the defectors have provided the Iraqi government with the evidence required to shut down the camp according to international law.

The former members of the terrorist group say the residents of Camp Ashraf are totally cut off from the outside world and are often tortured and traumatized for any show of dissent. Consequently, they are afraid to escape.

Abdullatif Shadvvari, a former MKO member, who escaped from the camp two months ago, earlier said, "The punishment of those who try to escape from Camp Ashraf... is execution."

On April 8, at least 34 people were reportedly killed in clashes between Iraqi security forces and MKO members residing in Camp Ashraf.

Iraqi forces say there is evidence that the people have been killed by the organization itself. On April 11, Iraqi government spokesman Ali al-Dabbagh said the cabinet is determined to shut down the camp.

The group fled to Iraq in 1986, where it enjoyed the support of former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, and set up Camp Ashraf in Diyala Province near the Iranian border.

More than 3,000 MKO members are residing at the camp. In addition, the MKO sends elements to Iran on spy and terrorist missions.

The organization is also known to have cooperated with Saddam in suppressing the 1991 uprisings in southern Iraq and the massacre of Iraqi Kurds.

The MKO is listed as a terrorist organization by much of the international community, and is responsible for numerous terrorist acts against both Iranians and Iraqis.

Iran has repeatedly called on the Iraqi government to expel the group, but the US has been blocking the group's expulsion by pressuring Baghdad against such a move.

Singleton visits Camp Ashraf in wake of violence by Rajavi cult loyalists

By: [Iran Interlink](#)

April 18 2011

Anne Singleton from Iran-Interlink visited Camp New Iraq (Formerly Ashraf) in the wake of violent clashes between MEK loyalists and Iraqi security forces. The Iraqi commander in charge of the camp showed some of the pre-manufactured missiles used by the MEK as they attacked Iraqi soldiers at the base.

It is thought that up to 200 MEK members loyal to Massoud Rajavi took part in the violence. It is not known how many of the 3400 residents at the camp continue as members of the



terrorist group.

Human Rights organisations have called for an independent investigation into events at the camp.

Singleton visited the camp at the start of a week of meetings with Iraqi officials to demand that the organisational infrastructure of the group be dismantled, and that the leaders are prosecuted under Iraqi and international law. The remaining residents should be enabled to determine their own futures without pressure from the MEK leaders. Their families should be involved to help in this process. Over 1000 Camp New Iraq (Formerly Ashraf) residents have residency or citizenship rights in Europe and North America. The embassies of these countries can facilitate their return.

MEK Terrorists Interfering in Iraq Democratisation

By: [Iran Interlink](#)

April 23 2011

Baladiyah Foundation, a Baghdad based human rights NGO, invited Anne Singleton of Iran-Interlink in the UK to present a paper at the Mostanserieh University in Baghdad.

The meeting focused on the democratisation process in Iraq after the fall of the former regime.

Anne Singleton, a leading expert in the Mojahedin-e Khalq terrorist group, exposed the involvement of the MEK in disrupting this process. Since 2003, Iraq has held three free and fair democratic elections said Singleton, but the MEK is

backed by elements in the US and Israel which want to impose their

regime, has been active in training terrorist groups such as Al Qaida at its base in Diyala province, Camp New Iraq (formerly Ashraf). The MEK has also groomed and facilitated loyalists of the former Saddam regime to take part in the democratisation process in order to promote their interests.

Several prominent Iraqi personalities attended the meeting, including human rights promoters, sheikhs and members of the media.



own agenda on Iraq. For this reason, the MEK, which occupies the only remaining untouched infrastructure of the former Saddam

Al Mostanserieh University, Baghdad

**PERIODICAL PUBLICATION
OF NEJAT SOCIETY**

**Address
POBox 14145/119
Tehran, Iran**

Fax: 88 96 10 31

**Nejat Society**

info@nejatngo.org

www.nejatngo.org

Cont. Page 1

They also said since 2003, the leaders of the camp have trained the members to encounter the Iraqi forces if they tried to enter the camp. The said MKO ringleaders are using torture and pressure on their own members, barring them from leaving the organization and joining their families.

The former MKO members said many residents of Camp Ashraf, who are under immense pressure, want to escape but are afraid and unsure of the future. The said scores of MKO members have been killed by the organization recently.

On April 8, 34 people were reportedly killed in clashes between Iraqi security forces and MKO members residing in the camp north of the capital Baghdad. Iraqi forces claim that according to evidence, these people have been killed by the organization itself.

The group fled Iran to Iraq in 1986, and set up Camp Ashraf in Diyala near the Iranian border. The MKO has carried out many acts of terror against Iranians and cooperated with Saddam in suppressing the 1991 uprisings in southern Iraq.

The MKO is listed as a terrorist organization by much of the international community. Iran has repeatedly called on the Iraqi government to expel the group, but the US has been blocking the expulsion by pressuring the Iraqi government.

Wisam al-Bayati

Iraqi people want MEK terrorists out of Iraq

Al-Masar television

April 26 2011

Al-Masar television presented a one hour live discussion on the topic 'people want Monafeqin Khalq terrorists out of Iraq'. (The term Monafeqin is a religious term meaning hypocrites and is the preferred name among Muslims for the Iranian Mojahedin-e Khalq cult.)

Guests, Mrs Ahlam al-Maliki, head of the Baghdad based humanitarian NGO Baladiyah Foundation and Anne Singleton, leading expert on the Mojahedin-e Khalq terrorist cult from Iran-Interlink in the UK, took part in the one hour live programme.

Presenter Dr. Qeis al-Atwani described the problems caused by having this foreign terrorist group left in Iraq after the removal of

the group's former mentor Saddam Hussein in 2003..



The programme focused on the efforts of the Iraqi government to effect the removal of the group from Iraq. The Mojahedin-e Khaq was clearly responsible for thousands upon thousands of deaths among the Iraqi population, including the Anfal and the suppression of the Kurdish and Shiite uprisings following the 1991 First Gulf War. Iraqis across the political, religious and tribal spectrum

bitterly resent that the Americans failed to deal properly with the group and that it was allowed to attempt to interfere in the democratisation process which has produced three freely elected governments since 2003.

Anne Singleton replied to viewers' concerns that the group must be removed immediately. She told viewers they must step aside from their understandable anger and allow their government to take actions which will reflect well on their new democratic government. Rather than looking for quick political solutions which would inevitably involve more bloodshed – because this is what Mojahedin leader Massoud Rajavi wants – the government should involve groups like Iran-Interlink and the Baladiyah Foundation to provide an effective and humanitarian outcome for the problem.