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Iranian Opposition Ex-Fighters ‘Transferred to Albania’

Sunday 25 Sep, 2016

Iranian media reported on Thursday that a plane has flown 155 members of the Mujahedin-e Khalq (People’s Mujahedin of Iran), an exiled opposition movement that advocates the overthrow of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to Tirana.

The Fars news agency claimed that a total of 676 of the organization’s members are scheduled to be transferred to Albania this month.

The Albanian Interior ministry didn’t deny the report, although it refused to specify the number of People’s Mujahedin of Iran members expected to be transferred to Albania during August.

“The Albanian government has an agreement signed in 2013 for the accommodation of the group so we are continuously expecting them to come to the country in accordance with it,” an interior ministry source.

The agreement is believed to have been signed with the US, and the People’s Mujahedin of Iran members are believed to have been transferred to Tirana from Camp Liberty in Iraq.

The interior ministry source said that it was not allowed under the agreement to give the numbers of those arriving as this was considered a sensitive information gave the risks involved.

In March 2013, former Prime Minister Sali Berisha disclosed part of the agreement in an official statement after meeting the US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Barbara Leaf, and the UN envoy to Iraq, Martin Kobler.

At the time, the government said it had offered asylum to 210 members of the People’s Mujahedin of Iran.

After that, no more information about the agreement or the opposition fighters’ arrival has been officially released.

Voice of America reported in February this year however that the number of People’s Mujahedin of Iran members coming to Albania might be as many as 3,000.

“In the last two years, Albania has accepted around 1,000 members of this group, and according to a high official of State Department, the country has promised that is going to accept also 2,000 others,” wrote journalist Pam Dockins in an article for Voice of America after she was part of the press entourage accompanying US Secretary of State John Kerry to Tirana on February 14.

Dockins’ article also said that during the visit, Kerry thanked the Albanian government for its effort in the taking the Iranians, although the issue was not publicly mentioned while he met the country’s political leaders.

The People’s Mujahedin of Iran is a controversial resistance group. Founded in 1965 as a left-leaning opposition to the Shah’s regime, it turned against the Islamic Republic following the 1979 Revolution.

The US listed it as a terrorist organisation in 1997 but it was removed from the blacklist in 2012 after it renounced violence.

Several thousand of its members left Iran for Iraq, where former dictator Saddam Hussein, used them as a tool against the Iranian regime.

After the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003, alliance forces offered the Iranians protection. Since then, about 3,000 have lived at Camp Ashraf while others were sheltered at Camp Liberty near Baghdad.

Fatjona Mejdini, Balkan Insight, Tirana (Albania),

Inside this issue:

Iranian Opposition Ex-Fighters ‘Transferred to Albania’	1
Desperate widow of Mas-soud Rajavi	2, 3
Maryam and Massoud Rajavi should be prosecuted	3
MKO hostages' mothers pen letter to the chief of UNHCR	4
Mojahedin khalq at war with each other, seek help from PM Edi Rama	5
Albanian citizens fearful of radicalised Mojahedin Khalq neighbours deserve more information	6, 7
Iran: Politics, Persian Gulf Security, and U.S. Policy	8, 9
America’s ironic two faced war on terror ignores US support for Mojahedin Khalq	10,11
About Nejat Society	12
Panel of Mujahedin-e Khalq Cult critics	12

Desperate widow of Massoud Rajavi

Mazda Parsi,

Wednesday 26 Oct, 2016

This year's October 21st marks the 23th anniversary of a fake election. Twenty three years ago, Massoud Rajavi, the leader of the Mujahedin Khalq Organization (the MKO), declared the selection –not election-- of his trusted sweet-heart as the “president-elect” of the so-called National Council of Resistance which has been the propaganda front of his organization. Although, Maryam was introduced as the president elect of the Council, none of the members of the Council voted for her.

She was just assigned by Massoud!

The title “President Elect” has been embraced by the MKO propaganda for nearly three decades while the original selection of Maryam Rajavi is on the first place contradictory to all values of democracy. Former member of the MKO, Mrs. Ann Singleton has ironically described the fake election inside the group in her Facebook status:

“On the subject of elections the American candidates could take lessons from the MEK. In order to elect Iran's next President (no, come on, stop laughing already), the Rajavis staged their own election among the MEK members. Voter turnout was compulsory of course, no member would dare not attend when command-

ed. Neither was it a secret ballot, it was decided by a public show of hands. As a result, Maryam Rajavi was voted with a 100% majority <ahem> as the President elect of Iran. (Where do they dream up such titles?) Oh, and by the way, there only was one candidate. Yes, you guessed it, Maryam Rajavi. And she received only one nomination. Yes, you guessed it - from her husband. That was two and a half decades ago and she's been Presi-

cannot confirm or deny it obviously.

Definitely, in any community, when the leader dies, the system seeks to replace the deceased leader with a new person. The appointment of the new leader can be based on elections otherwise the successor has been previously determined. As a matter of fact, Maryam Rajavi has never been appointed as the successor of Massoud because Massoud was not supposed to die at all.

As a cult-leader, Massoud Rajavi was considered in the MKO as an everlasting leader. In the opening speech of the so-called grand gathering on July 9th, Maryam Rajavi repeated the claim by praising her

disappeared husband as “the everlasting vigilant lion” – it was just a few minutes later that Turkey Feisal revealed Massoud's death.

Actually, Maryam Rajavi is the main victim of Massoud Rajavi's cult-like system. Being firstly brainwashed by Massoud's indoctrinations, Maryam turned into the relevant puppet of the leader. She was so horribly manipulated by Massoud that she not only didn't disagree with his greed for women and power, but also she aided him to achieve all his capricious ambitions in the cult. Maryam Rajavi was the leading person to persuade female members of the group's Elite Council to get naked in front of Massoud, to marry him and to have sex with him.

Considering the crucial situation of Maryam Rajavi as the widow of



dent elect ever since, unopposed. See, democracy in all its glory.”

By the way, Maryam Rajavi has been the “Queen of Propaganda” of the MKO during all the years of her illusory presidency. She has been the leading actress in the MKO's masquerade shows wearing luxurious suits and Hijab. This year's Paris gathering was going fine until Saudi Prince Turkie Feisal declared the death of Massoud Rajavi calling him Maryam Rajavi's “late husband”! This huge gaffe turned Maryam's smiling face to a shocked panicky one. Although the interpreter was careful enough to conceal the surprising news in the Persian translation, the group propaganda and its Queen were faced with a sever challenge wondering what position to take. However, the authorities of the group sounded to be so prudent on the issue that they

Massoud, she seems not to have the necessary capacities of an independent cult-leader. This might explain her recent eagerness to organize meetings with controversial figures. She is resorting to anyone who might aid her in the absence of Massoud's teachings. Thus, her companions can be found among the most anti-feminism states such as Saudi Arabia despite her long-life slogans for women's rights and women's equality.

Today Maryam Rajavi is ambiguously leading the cult of Rajavi. The cult propaganda has launched a huge propaganda to glorify her part as the "President Elect". The recent enthusiasm to highlight Maryam's role seems to be a futile effort to maintain the hegemony of Massoud but the new decline in the group regarding the acceleration of defection of members after the complete relocation in Albania indicates the extent of failure of the cult's propaganda.

Finally, it is worth to know Ann Singleton's account about Maryam Rajavi's personality and the current situation of her cult:

"I posted this two years ago. Since then we have been told that Massoud Rajavi has died - although the MEK/NCRI deny this. We know that the MEK have been expelled from Iraq and are now settled in a housing block on the outskirts of Tirana. We know that Saudi Arabia are not keen to promote the MEK because it is no longer useful for the Saudi agenda. The MEK is slowly disintegrating. It would behove Maryam Rajavi to allow people to leave more quickly on humanitarian grounds. A first step would be to allow family contact. But since Rajavi is a callous and jealous woman, we shouldn't expect much from her."

Mazda Parsi,

Former members:

Maryam and Massoud Rajavi should be prosecuted

Ex-members of the Majahein-e Khalq Cult held a meeting at Nejat Society office, Sari branch.

The former members reviewed the deteriorating condition of the MKO cult in Albania. They also shared their experiences while living within the Cult camps. Mr. Hadi Shabani, Mr. Iraj Salehi, Mr. Mohamamdreza Eskardi, Mr. Mohammad Farahi and Mr. Abolfazl Yahyaei participated the meeting.

At the end of the meeting they published a declaration. Referring to the complete transfer of the Cult members to Albania, the former members urged the UNAMI and all related bodies to facilitate the release of MKO members held hostages within the cult affairs.

The statement reads:"

We, the separated members of the Cult of Rajavi, spent the best years of our lives within the Cult camps under the rule of an authoritarian leader; Massoud



Rajavi. We are eyewitnesses of the Cult physical and mental pressures on members ...

Massoud and Maryam Rajavi wasted our time and energy on the way of their own interests... we were deprived of the most basic human rights within the Cult affairs. Anybody who would dared to criticize the organization or the leader would have been silenced ...

We had no access to the outside media, no contact to our families...

This organization has a black history of violence and terror and crimes against humanity... it has no public support. Until recently it has been on the FTO list of Europe and USA ... the group allied with the collapsed dictator of Iraq; Saddam Hussein in suppressing the Iraqi Kurds and Shiites in 1991. The cult urged several members to commit self-immolation in different European states.

We ask the related authorities and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to prosecute Massoud and Maryam Rajavi for their crimes against Iranian and Iraqi people as well as their own cult members.

We ask you to facilitate the members who have transferred to Albania to visit their families without the interference of the cult elements. They also should have the opportunity to decide their own fate. "

Nejat Society,

MKO hostages' mothers pen letter to the chief of UNHCR

Sunday 30 Oct, 2016

The forgotten victims of the Rajavi Cult (MKO, MeK, NCR) demand information on their children.

With regards, as you are already aware, the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization does not allow its members any sort of contact with their families and this fact has imposed a great deal of suffer-

as near as about 100 meters to them in Iraq. But the MEK leader Massoud Rajavi has denied us from having any contact with or knowledge about our children.



Now that the MEK have all moved to Albania we urge you, as the head of the body responsible for them and their location in Tirana, to use your authority to arrange meetings

More than 350 suffering mothers of the members of the Rajavi Cult, who live in Iran and who have been deprived of contact with their children and are known as the forgotten victims, have collectively written a letter to Mr Filippo Grandi, Head of the UN High Commission for refugees in Geneva.

The text of the letter signed by more than 350 mothers is as follows:

Mr Filippo Grandi

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Geneva, Switzerland

Tehran, October 30, 2016

ing on us as their mothers.

Today in Europe, mothers whose children have been recruited by ISIL and been sent to Iraq and Syria and other parts of the world, are called 'the forgotten victims' since they have no means of contact with their loved ones and do not have any information about them.

If you look at our case, we are even more forgotten than those mothers, since unlike them we have not been able to attract any world attention because of political reasons. We do know the whereabouts of our children and have approached them many times and have even gone

with our loved ones and let us know about them and how we can contact them. Please do not leave us suffering the way it is at the moment and has been in the past.

We are certain that you can easily arrange this. Therefore, we ask you to respect ours and our loved ones' human rights and putting aside all the political and regional and international issues; please be brave and help us as mothers to have our rights.

Best Regards,

Signatures:

Mojahedin khalq at war with each other, seek help from PM Edi Rama

Saturday 01 Oct, 2016

Estranged families of Mojahedin Khalq members seek PM Rama's help to meet loved ones

The arrival of the Mojahedin-e Khalq in our country has exposed the divisions between the members and their leaders, and now it seems their only hope is to find help from Albania's Prime Minis-

ter Edi Rama. our loved ones are listed at the end of this letter. These are people who, some years ago, were deceived by the empty promises of MEK leaders Massoud and Maryam Rajavi. Our loved ones were thus sent to Iraq and each of them have, for over 20 years, been separated from their families and placed under physical and mental captivity and are living under severely restrictive measures.

Now we ask you, the honourable Prime Minister of Albania, to help us by creating opportunities to meet with our loved ones. We hope that this letter will be read personally by you, the Prime Minister of Albania and that you will enable us to rejoice with our children. It is in your power to help us and grant us our request.

We express our sincere appreciation.



ter Edi Rama.

Some family members of the members of the terrorist organization Mojahedin-e Khalq from the province of Ilam in western Iran have sent a letter to Prime Minister Rama. They have asked him to help them meet with their loved ones because the leaders of the MEK do not allow such meetings.

The text of the letter is as follows:

Dear Prime Minister, Mr Edi Rama

We are some families of Mojahedin-e Khalq members. We live in Ilam Province, Iran. The names of

They are also deprived of any contact with their families by telephone or through correspondence. Many times we went to Iraq to make contact with our loved ones. We faced all the difficulties of travelling to Iraq and the dangerous situation in that country and have gone to the gates of MEK camps Ashraf and Liberty. We asked that our loved ones could meet with us. But, unfortunately we were faced with insults, curses and abuse on the part of the Mojahedin-e Khalq leaders. Each time we returned to our homes disappointed, without meeting with our loved ones.

Families:

- Satar Khejri
- Hamid Khejri
- Ali Mahdavi
- Akbar Çaraghi
- Ali Asghar Barani
- Nasiri Irexh
- Jari Kuçeki
- Morad Xhalilian
- Zaher Gholamhuseini
- Nemat Pirani

Impact newspaper, Tirana (Albania), gazetaimpakt.com

Translated by Iran Interlink

Albanian citizens fearful of radicalised Mojahedin Khalq neighbours deserve more information

Monday 10 Oct, 2016

By Anne and Massoud Khodabandeh



When the MEK were finally expelled from Iraq in August 2016, the Iraqi Foreign Ministry voiced its “deep satisfaction” with the relocation of the MEK in Albania. International efforts to solve the crisis were met with “outstanding success,” a statement read.

Deep satisfaction’ is an understatement. Since 2003, the MEK – known as Saddam’s Private Army – has been linked to the insurrectionists which included former Saddamists and Al Qaida in Iraq and later Daesh whom the MEK called ‘revolutionary brothers’. In 2009 serious efforts began to expel the group. The MEK refused to cooperate, issuing credible mass suicide threats against any interference. In 2011, the government of Iraq signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the UN to facilitate this effort. The MEK still refused to cooperate.

Neither was it straightforward to relocate an entire terrorist group. In 2013 Romania refused to take them. Instead, a \$9m deal was struck by the US with the government of Albania to take an initial 210. In March 2013, the Obama Administration urged the MEK leadership to “accept the government of Albania’s humanitarian offer immediately, and urges the residents of Camp [Liberty] to resume participation in resettlement interviews to ensure that individuals avail themselves of safe and secure relocation opportunities outside Iraq”. The MEK rejected the offer. The transfer process slowed and often stalled over the next three years.

It was only over the summer of 2016 when it became clear that Daesh and the Saddamists would be flushed out

of Mosul and Daesh’s dream of establishing its abhorrent Caliphate in Iraq had been crushed, that the MEK finally accepted to leave. By this time the MEK had sustained 200 deaths and even more injuries as their camp was repeatedly attacked by enemies. For sure the Iraqis had good reason to be glad to see the back of them.

Now in Albania many questions surround the arrival of the MEK. Since 2013, when the government announced publicly that 210 MEK would be accepted in the country, there has been no official communication with

behaviour?

The first thing we can state is that there is no programme in Albania to de-radicalise these people. They were transferred as an intact group and there are no plans to disband them. Although international law forbids the UN from granting asylum to terrorists or even to a political group, this is what apparently has happened here.

Evidence that this group is not going to be de-radicalised is not difficult to obtain. Some members when interviewed have already said they only intend to stay in Albania “until the Iranian regime is toppled”. Journalists would only then need to ask why the members are denied any form of family life – marriage and children are banned in the MEK – to elicit the answer ‘so we can focus fully on our struggle’. It is an overt admission that they are not about to abandon their activities as a terrorist group. They are not willing to submit to de-radicalisation.

But how do we know they are radicalised at all? What threat, if any, do these people pose to Albanian society?

For the local citizens, mystery surrounds their arrival and their lifestyle. Should these secretive and covert



the citizenry about the numbers or the purpose of this influx, even though the government’s resettlement package has reached \$20m. With upward of 2500 terrorists now located in Tirana, what does this mean for Albania and Albanians? What is the missing backstory and where lies a credible explanation for the MEK’s deviant

neighbours be treated with suspicion or kindness? At a local level, the first thing neighbouring families need to be aware of is that among all MEK members, sexual relations have been banned for over 25 years. This means there are no marriages or children or young people in the organisation. More troubling are the obligatory confessional meetings in which members

Albanian citizens fearful of radicalised Mojahedin Khalq neighbours deserve more information

are required to admit any sexual thoughts or feelings and be punished for them. With this emphasis on sexual matters, it is not known how such people may react when they come in contact with ordinary people and their children.

Local people will notice that the behaviour, body language and appearance of the MEK are not normal. They will intuitively understand that there is something deviant in these people but will not, without further knowledge, have the means to explain it.

In short it is the result of radicalisation. This is a process of ongoing brainwashing which suppresses the authentic self and emotions and replaces them with the zealous ideological mindset of terrorists.

These people dress, walk and hold themselves differently. Their utilitarian, beggar-like clothes are easily identifiable as thinly disguised uniforms. They do not readily engage with outsiders. Most of them remain isolated behind closed doors and curtains. Those who do come outside are the trusted members who have been successfully recharged with fresh ideological zeal. They come outside for specific missions such as buying mobile phones, not for enjoyment or leisure. More senior members, travelling covertly in vehicles, will be involved in other more secretive and troubling activities.

In public, the MEK may appear friendly and confident, condescending even, since they feel themselves superior to outsiders. However, because they are very much focused on their own self-preservation and that of their group, this means they cannot engage on a more personal level or talk about everyday issues and will become agitated if pressed beyond their capacity and knowledge.

As a result of radicalisation they have a black and white world view, operate with a very narrow range of emotions and are reluctant to question or be

questioned. They display a phobic response to the outside world. Indeed, the MEK do not have an 'outside' to which they want to return. Their whole lives revolve around obedience to their group and its leaders.

Radicalisation makes them obedient to orders. The MEK know themselves as 'living martyrs' which means they accept death at any time if ordered by their leaders to kill or perform a suicide mission.

What the Albanian authorities are dealing with is not only radicalised combatants but combatants who have

modern role is not military. While in Iraq, the group fulfilled vital facilitating functions for Saddam Hussein, mostly in Europe, doing what he couldn't do under international sanctions: selling oil under the UN oil-for-food programme; procuring weapons and military equipment; purchasing chemical components for WMDs; money laundry; people trafficking; intimidation and murder of opponents; and undertaking public relations work in the West, including corrupting politicians.

It is anticipated that the MEK will perform a similar facilitating function in Albania, but this time serving modern

terrorist groups like Daesh and smaller groups. (The MEK is in part funded by Saudi Arabia.) Albania's location and historic problems with organised crime and corruption still render the country vulnerable to exploitation by groups like the MEK. It is known that over the past three years, the MEK have already developed relations with criminal gangs and corrupt government officials.

The danger lies in the MEK's sophisticated

capacity to propagandise and deceive political and public opinion, while at the same time performing outrageously damaging activities for the host country. Not only are the MEK fully trained by Saddam's Intelligence service, but radicalisation means they have no moral, social or religious boundaries whatsoever. For them, all criminal activity is justified by their ideological belief that they can and must do anything for their cause.

Just as the MEK hosted Al Qaida and other insurgents in Iraq, the group is now fully placed to act as a hideout and training provider for the jihadist and terrorists who currently threaten the security of the whole Middle East.

If Albania fails to de-radicalise these people, the consequences could be severe. It is up to the Albanian people to demand a satisfactory explanation from their government. Is this really the humanitarian mission that Albania signed up for?



been fully trained in terrorism and security tactics by Saddam Hussein's Republican Guard and Mokhabarat (secret services). They may be old and some may be sick, but they remain programmed to obey orders and are prepared to die or kill for their beliefs. They are trained to dissemble. They can operate easily using two or three false identities. (Complicated by the fact many arrived in Albania using false identities.) They can set people up, obscure their tracks and hide in plain sight. Transferring these people from Iraq to Albania is the equivalent of moving terrorists from Syria to Europe. The challenges posed by these facts cannot be ignored or minimised.

So, if the MEK are not going to be disbanded and de-radicalised, what will they be doing in Albania?

The MEK has a long history of terrorist activity, and its belief system is rooted in violence, but the MEK's

Iran: Politics, Persian Gulf Security, and U.S. Policy

Iran: Politics, Persian Gulf Security, and U.S. Policy (Congressional Research Service)

[CRS - Congressional Research Service](#)

Thursday 06 Oct, 2016

Iran: Politics, (Persian) Gulf Security, and U.S. Policy

Kenneth Katzman

Specialist in Middle Eastern Affairs

August 19, 2016

Congressional Research Service

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Extract:

[...]

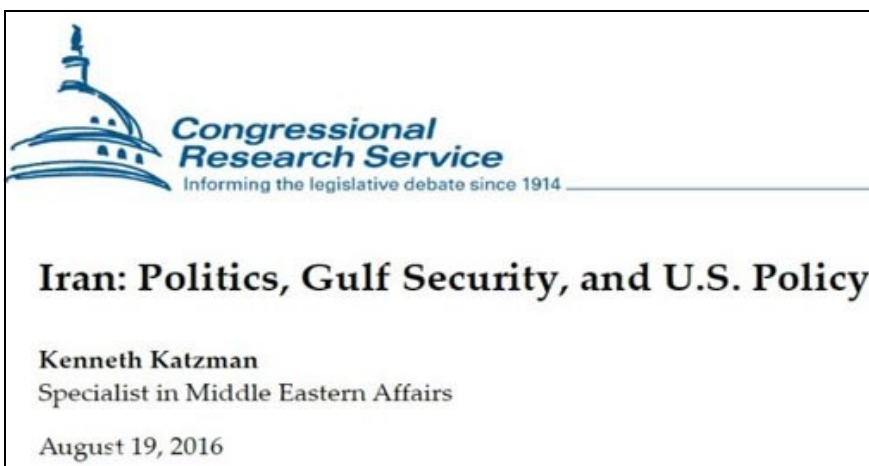
Opposition Group: People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (MEK, PMOI)

The best-known exiled opposition group is the Mojahedin-e-Khalq Organization (MEK), also known as the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI). Secular and left-leaning, it was formed in the 1960s to try to overthrow the Shah of Iran and has been characterized by U.S. reports as attempting to blend several ideologies, including Marxism, feminism, and Islam, although

the organization denies that it ever advocated Marxism. It allied with pro-Khomeini forces during the Islamic revolution and, according to State Department reports, supported the November 1979 takeover of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran. The group was driven into exile after it unsuccessfully rose up against the Khomeini regime in September 1981. It has been led for decades by spouses Maryam and Massoud Rajavi but in 2011 Ms. Zohreh Akhyani was elected as MEK Secretary-General. Maryam Rajavi is based in France but the whereabouts of Massoud Rajavi are unknown.

ed that the members of the organization were responsible for: the alleged killing of seven American military personnel and contract advisers to the former Shah during 1973-1976; bombings at U.S. government facilities in Tehran in 1972 as a protest of the visit to Iran of then-President Richard Nixon; and bombings of U.S. corporate offices in Iran to protest the visit of then Secretary of State Kissinger.

The reports also listed as terrorism several attacks by the group against regime targets (including 1981 bombings that killed high ranking officials), attacks on Iranian government



The State Department designated the PMOI as an FTO in October 1997—during the presidency of the relatively moderate Mohammad Khatemi. The NCR was named as an alias of the PMOI in October 1999, and in August 2003, the Department of the Treasury ordered the groups' offices in the United States closed. State Department reports on international terrorism for the years until 2011 assert-

facilities, and attacks on Iranian security officials. However, the reports did not assert that any of these attacks purposely targeted civilians. The group's alliance with Saddam Hussein's regime in contributed to the designation, even though Saddam was a U.S. ally during 1980-90.

The PMOI challenged the FTO listing in the U.S. court system and, in June 2012, the Appeals Court gave the State Depart-

Iran: Politics, Persian Gulf Security, and U.S. Policy

ment until October 1, 2012, to decide on the FTO designation, without prescribing an outcome. On September 28, 2012, maintaining there had not been confirmed acts of PMOI terrorism for more than a decade and that it had cooperated on the Camp Ashraf issue (below), the group was removed from the FTO list as well as from the designation as a terrorism supporter under Executive Order 13224. However, State Department officials, in a background briefing that day, said “We do not see the [PMOI] as a viable or democratic opposition movement.... “

The NCR-I reopened its offices in Washington, DC, in April 2013. The State Department has been meeting with the MEK since its removal from the FTO list, including in Iraq.

Camp Ashraf Issue

The de-listing of the group has not resolved the situation of PMOI members in Iraq. U.S. forces attacked PMOI military installations in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom (March 2003) and negotiated a ceasefire with PMOI elements in Iraq, according to which the approximately 3,400 PMOI members consolidated at Camp Ashraf, near the border with Iran. Its weaponry was placed in storage, guarded first by U.S. and now by Iraqi personnel. In July 2004, the United States granted the Ashraf detainees “protected persons” status under the 4th Geneva Convention, although that designation lapsed when Iraq resumed full sovereignty in June

2004. The Iraqi government’s pledges to adhere to all international obligations with respect to the PMOI in Iraq has come into question on several occasions: on July 28, 2009, Iraq used force to overcome resident resistance to setting up a police post in the camp, killing 13 residents of the camp. On April 8, 2011, Iraq Security Forces killed 36 Ashraf residents; the State Department issued a statement attributing the deaths to the actions of Iraq and its military.

In December 2011, the Iraqi government and the United Nations agreed to relocate Ashraf residents to the former U.S. military base Camp Liberty, near Baghdad’s main airport. The relocation was completed by September 17, 2012, leaving a residual group of 101 PMOI persons at Ashraf. The group asserted that conditions at Liberty are poor and the facility is unsafe. On February 9, 2013, the camp was attacked by rockets, killing eight PMOI members; the Shiite militia group Kata’ib Hezbollah (KAH) claimed responsibility. A rocket attack on the camp took place on June 15, 2013. On September 1, 2013, 52 of the residual Ashraf residents were killed by gunmen that appeared to have assistance from Iraqi forces. Seven went missing. All survivors of

the attack were moved to Camp Liberty, and Ashraf has been taken over by Iran-backed Shiite militias. An October 29, 2015, rocket attack on the Camp killed 24 residents and a rocket attack on July 4, 2016, did not kill any residents, but wounded some. The FY2016 National Defense Authorization Act (P.L. 114-92) calls for “prompt and appropriate steps” to promote the protection of Camp residents.

Since 2011, the U.N. High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) has sought to resettle PMOI members outside Iraq. About 600 have been resettled so far: 450 to Albania; 95 to Germany; 95 to Italy; 15 to Norway; and 2 to Finland. The United States reportedly might resettle 100 or more, but the U.S. requirement that those resettled disavow the group has apparently held up implementation of that program. About 200 have returned to Iran; a few of them reportedly have been imprisoned and/or mistreated.

[...]



America's ironic two faced war on terror ignores US support for Mojahedin

Saturday 29 Oct, 2016

America's Ironic "Two-Faced" War on Terror



NEO

New Eastern Outlook

Rarely ever does hypocrisy align so succinctly as it does within the pages of American policy and media coverage. US policy think tank, the Brookings Institution, recently provided an extreme example of this in a paper titled, "A convenient terrorism threat," penned by Daniel Byman.

The paper starts by claiming:

Not all countries that suffer from terrorism are innocent victims doing their best to fight back. Many governments, including several important U.S. allies, simultaneously fight and encourage the terrorist groups on their soil. President George W. Bush famously asked governments world-wide after 9/11 whether they were with us or with the terrorists; these rulers answer, "Yes."

Some governments—including at times Russia, Egypt, Turkey, and Pakistan among others—hope to have it both ways. They use the presence of terrorists to win sympathy abroad and discredit peaceful foes at home, even while fighting back vigorously enough to look plausible but not forcefully enough to solve the problem. This two-faced approach holds considerable appeal for some governments, but it hugely complicates U.S. counter-terrorism efforts—and the U.S. shouldn't just live with it.

Byman then begins labelling various nations; Somalia as a "basket-case," Iran as a "straightforward state sponsors of

terrorism" and attempts to frame Russia's struggle against terrorism in Chechnya as somehow disingenuous or politically motivated.

Byman also attempts to claim Syrian President Bashar Al Assad intentionally released terrorists from prison to help escalate violence around the country and justify a violent crackdown, this despite reports from Western journalists as early as 2007 revealing US intentions to use these very terrorists to overthrow the governments of Syria and Iran specifically, the New Yorker would reveal.

The US is as Much a Sponsor of Terrorism in Reality as Byman Claims Others are in Fiction

But worse than Byman's intentional mischaracterisations and lies of omission regarding US allies like Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Israel's overt, global-spanning sponsorship of terrorism, is the fact that not only is the US itself engaged in sponsoring terrorism as it poses as fighting against it globally, the Brookings Institution and Byman have specifically and publicly called for the funding, training and arming of designated foreign terrorist groups in pursuit of self-serving geopolitical objectives.

Indeed, Daniel Byman is one of

several signatories of the 2009 Brookings Institution report, "Which Path to Persia? Options for a New American Strategy toward Iran."

The report not only reveals the blueprints of using supposedly "peaceful" and "democratic" protests as cover for violent, US sponsored subversion (as was precisely done in Syria beginning in 2011), it specifically lists a US State Department-designated foreign terrorist organisation as a potential US proxy in violently rising up against, and eventually overthrowing the government in Tehran.

The report would explicitly state (our emphasis):

Perhaps the most prominent (and certainly the most controversial) opposition group that has attracted attention as a potential U.S. proxy is the NCRI (National Council of Resistance of Iran), the political movement established by the MEK (Mujahedin-e Khalq). Critics believe the group to be undemocratic and unpopular, and indeed anti-American.

In contrast, the group's champions contend that the movement's long-standing opposition to the Iranian regime and record of successful attacks on and intelligence-gathering operations against the regime make it worthy of U.S. support. They also argue that the group is no longer anti-American and question the merit of earlier accusations. Raymond Tanter, one of the group's supporters in the United States, contends that the MEK and the NCRI are allies for regime change in Tehran and also act as a useful proxy for gathering intelligence. The MEK's greatest intelligence coup was the provision of intelligence in 2002 that led to the discovery of a secret site in Iran for enriching uranium.

The report then admits MEK's status as a designated foreign terrorist organisation and that it has targeted and killed both American officers and civilians in the past (our empha-

America's ironic two faced war on terror ignores US support for Mojahedin

sis):

Despite its defenders' claims, the MEK remains on the U.S. government list of foreign terrorist organizations. In the 1970s, the group killed three U.S. officers and three civilian contractors in Iran. During the 1979-1980 hostage crisis, the group praised the decision to take America hostages and Elaine Sciolino reported that while group leaders publicly condemned the 9/11 attacks, within the group celebrations were widespread.

The Brookings Institution also admits in its report that undoubtedly MEK continues to carry out undeniable terrorist activity against political and civilian targets within Iran, and notes that if MEK is to be successfully used as a US proxy against Iran, it would need to be delisted as a foreign terrorist organisation (our emphasis):

Undeniably, the group has conducted terrorist attacks—often excused by the MEK's advocates because they are directed against the Iranian government. For example, in 1981, the group bombed the headquarters of the Islamic Republic Party, which was then the clerical leadership's main political organization, killing an estimated 70 senior officials. More recently, the group has claimed credit for over a dozen mortar attacks, assassinations, and other assaults on Iranian civilian and military targets between 1998 and 2001. At the very least, to work more closely with the group (at least in an overt manner), Washington would need to remove it from the list of foreign terrorist organizations.

And eventually, that is precisely what was done. MEK would be delisted by the US State Department in 2012, announced in a US State Department statement titled, "Delisting of the Mujahedin-e Khalq," which noted:

With today's actions, the Depart-

ment does not overlook or forget the MEK's past acts of terrorism, including its involvement in the killing of U.S. citizens in Iran in the 1970s and an attack on U.S. soil in 1992.

The Department also has serious concerns about the MEK as an organization, particularly with regard to allegations of abuse committed against its own members. The Secretary's decision today took into account the MEK's public renunciation of violence, the absence of confirmed acts of terrorism by the MEK for more than a decade, and their cooperation in the peaceful closure of Camp Ashraf, their historic paramilitary base.

MEK's inability to conduct violence in the decade preceding the US State Department's decision was not because of an ideological commitment to nonviolence, but a matter of strategic limitations placed on the terrorist organization by Iraqi and Iranian security forces who were determined to liquidate it and who forcibly disarmed the group.

And even if the 2012 US State Department decision was based on an alleged decade of nonviolence, the policymakers at the Brookings Institution who signed their names to "Which Path to Persia?" including Daniel Byman, certainly did not apply the same criteria in suggesting its use as an armed proxy.

In all likelihood, had Iraq and Iran not successfully cornered and disarmed the group, it would be fighting America's proxy war against Tehran on both sides of the Iran-Iraq border. MEK fighters would be carrying out US-backed armed violence against Iran and Iraq side-by-side other US-backed terrorist groups operating across the region as part of America's current proxy war

against Syria, Russia and Iran.

Daniel Byman of the Brookings Institution's latest paper even at face value is disingenuous, full of intentional mischaracterisations meant to direct attention away from the US and its closest allies' own sponsorship of terrorism amid a very much feigned "War on Terror." Understanding that Byman quite literally signed his name to a policy paper promoting the arming and backing of a US State Department designated foreign terrorist organisation makes his recent paper all that more outrageous.

What is also as troubling as it is ironic, is that Byman not only signed his name to calls for arming a listed terrorist organisation, he was also a staff member of the 9/11 Commission, according to his Georgetown University biography. A man involved in sorting out a terrorist attack who is also advocating closer cooperation with listed terrorist organisations is truly disturbing.

The political and ethical bankruptcy of American foreign policy can be traced back to its policy establishment, populated by unprincipled hypocrites like Byman and co-signatories of Brookings' "Which Path to Persia?" The US certainly cannot convince other nations to abandon an alleged "two-faced" policy of promoting and fighting terrorism simultaneously when it stands as a global leader in this very practise.

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About Nejat Society

Nejat Society was founded by some former members of the Rajavi cult to release their friends who are still mentally and physically captive inside the Cult, and assisting their suffering families waiting for them in Iran.



Panel of Mujahedin-e Khalq Cult critics

On Saturday September 17th, the Rajavis' Cult critics gathered together in Cologne, Germany to review the 30 - year life of MKO in Iraq and eventually its expelling from the Iraqi soil, Iran-Zanan Website reported.



Ms. Batoul soltani, Ms. Zahra Moeini, Mr. Ali Akbar Rastgoo, Mr. Davoud Baghervand and Mr. Nader Keshtkar participated the panel.

The participants who had all spent many years within the Cult affairs, shared their experiences.

They analyzed Massoud Rajavi's three decade of wrong policies and analysis in Iraq.

They also reviewed the MKO Cult's expulsion from Iraq, relocation in Albania and its consequences and how the Cult leaders deal with this issue.

The MKO critics denounced the Cult's efforts to deceive the public opinion into considering this strategic "great defeat" as a "great victory".

The participants also examined the bright horizons ahead of MKO dissatisfied members in Albania who are awaiting an opportunity to leave the group.