

Nejat Newsletter

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Albania:
John Kerry brought MEK terrorists,
John Brennan warns of their risk
 Monday 02 Jan, 2017

Shqipëri: John Kerry sjell terroristët, John Brennan paralajmëron rrezikun e tyre



After the “gift” that John Kerry gave Albania, now CIA director John Brennan has warned Tirana of the possible huge risk that the Mojahedin Khalq (MEK) terrorist group poses to Albania through its presence in the capital.

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According to Fatos Klosi, former director of the National Intelligence Service, the American CIA chief has warned Albania that Donald Trump will renounce support for the MEK terrorists and it will be the Albanian Government itself which must deal with internal security and must confront a group trained militarily from the time of Saddam Hussein. Fatos Klos said, “The visit to Tirana of the head of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), John Brennan, has not gone unnoticed, as it could not have been intended that a state senior discuss only small and unimportant issues”. The former head of the National Intelligence Service, Fatos Klos, said in a statement to the newspaper Today, that he has listed three main issues for which the head of the CIA is believed to have arrived in Tirana. According to Klos, one of the issues that has been the subject of discussion between the head of the CIA and top state officials, it is the question of the Mojahedin. The former Albanian head of espionage argues that the new president of the United States, Donald Trump has said he will pursue a new policy, focusing on economic growth in the country and that every member of NATO should contribute financially toward its own security.

In these conditions, Klos explained that America will not protect Albania, nor will it finance the Mojahedin. According to Klos, a change of US policy on the issue of the Mojahedin will increase the risk to Albania from Iran after the Albanian government undertook to accommodate three thousand representatives of the Iranian opposition, that the country considers terrorists. On the other hand, there is a risk from the Mojahedin itself. A lot of these issues would have been discussed, including the Iranian issue. “The new American president will escalate tensions with the Iranians and the Iranians will raise complaints against us because Albania has undertaken to accommodate these terrorists. The head of the CIA comes to discuss such issues. His visit to Tirana is an assessment of Albania’s role and partnership with the US, “said Klos”.

Gazeta Impakt

Translated by Iran Interlink

If Trump Meets Iranian Mujahidin Group, it Could 'Hurt US Interests'

Saturday 21 Jan, 2017

Sputniknews

Washington's interests will be damaged if incoming US President Donald Trump decides to negotiate with The People's Mujahidin Organization of Iran (MEK), Sina Azodi, the US-based expert on Iran's foreign policy and US- Iranian relations, told Sputnik.

(MEK), it will ride roughshod over Washington's interests.

The interview came after a number of former US officials urged President-elect Donald Trump to start a dialogue with an exiled Iranian group – the National Council of Resistance.

The organization presents itself as an alternative to Iran's theocracy and seeks to

hurt the United States' interests," Sina Azodi said.

According to him, Trump's possible talks with MEK could be used by Iran's domestic hardline politicians as leverage in dealing with the country's moderate government.

Asked about how Iranian authorities feel about the Trump Administration's potential par-



AP Photo/ Brennan Linsley

In an interview with Sputnik, Sina Azodi, the US-based expert on Iran's foreign policy and US-Iranian relations, warned that if US President-elect Donald Trump decides to sit down with The People's Mujahidin Organization of Iran

change the regime in the Islamic Republic. One of the Council's components is a group known as MEK which was designated a terrorist organization by the US between 1997 and 2012.

"The Trump Administration should not talk to MEK because in the long run it can

leaves with MEK, Azodi said that "they [the Iranian government] might be bothered but I don't think they are concerned."

He remained cautiously optimistic about the development of relations between Washington and Tehran under Trump, and the situation

around the Iranian nuclear deal.

"I don't think that anything major would happen," Azodi said, adding that Iran typically develops better relations with Washington when a Republican administration is in power in the United States.

During the 1970s, MEK led a guerilla campaign against the US-backed Shah of Iran, and launched attacks on American targets. However, in a recent letter to Trump, former US officials claimed that the designation of MEK as a terrorist group was done at the request of Tehran.

The signatories of the letter also urged Trump to close the loopholes standing in the way of the Iranian nuclear deal and to refocus on US policy towards Tehran and on its human rights violations. Trump's transition officials did not immediately respond to a request to comment about this.

Meanwhile, analysts say that any talks with MEK would not be a radical departure from current US policy. However, they stress that any indication that the US backs the group's goal of regime change would increase hostility between Tehran and Washington.

Sputniknews.com

Donald Trump urged to work with terrorist organization NCRI

Saturday 28 Jan, 2017

While the Iranian government and people call the exiled opposition group National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI) 'terrorist', nearly two dozen former top U.S. government officials have urged President-elect Donald Trump to work with the group!



According to Fox News, a letter signed by 23 former officeholders calls on Trump to consult with the Paris-based group.

"Iran's rulers have directly targeted US strategic interests, policies and principles, and those of our allies and friends in the Middle East," the letter reads, in part. "To restore American influence and credibility in the world, the United States needs a revised policy."

The letter's signatories include former New York City mayor Rudolph Giuliani; former Sen. Joe Lieberman; and retired Army Gen. Hugh Shelton, a former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff under President Bill Clinton.

NCRI, the political arm of the Mujahideen-e-Khalq (MeK) and a political coalition of Iran's democratic opposition groups and figures, was founded in 1981 with the aim of overthrowing the Iranian regime.

In 2003, the United States listed NCRI as a terrorist organization and closed its Washington office. But in 2012, the US State Department formally removed MEK from its list of terrorist organizations in a decision made by then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

MEK's past acts of terrorism included its involvement in the killing of U.S. citizens in Iran in the 1970s and an attack on U.S. soil in 1992. While the group says it does not intentionally target civilians, it has often risked civilian casualties. It routinely aims its attacks at government buildings in crowded cities. MEK terrorism has declined since late 2001.

Last month, a group of Iranian dissidents wrote a letter to Trump, urging the president-elect to follow through on his campaign promise to revisit the nuclear deal between Iran and six global powers, including the U.S.

"During the presidential campaign, we and millions of Iranians followed your forthright objection to the nuclear agreement reached between the Obama administration and the Islamic Republic of Iran," the letter reads.

According to Fox news, the Trump transition team has not given any official response to the letter, and it's unclear whether Trump has any plans to take a meeting with Iran dissidents and groups.

Earlier Sunday, Iran's deputy foreign minister told reporters that "the new U.S. administration cannot abandon the deal." Abbas Araghchi added that the agreement "will not be renegotiated" and repeated an earlier warning by Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who publicly stated, "If they tear it up, we will burn it," without elaborating.

Realiran.org

MKO dissident members at Abu Quraib Prison!

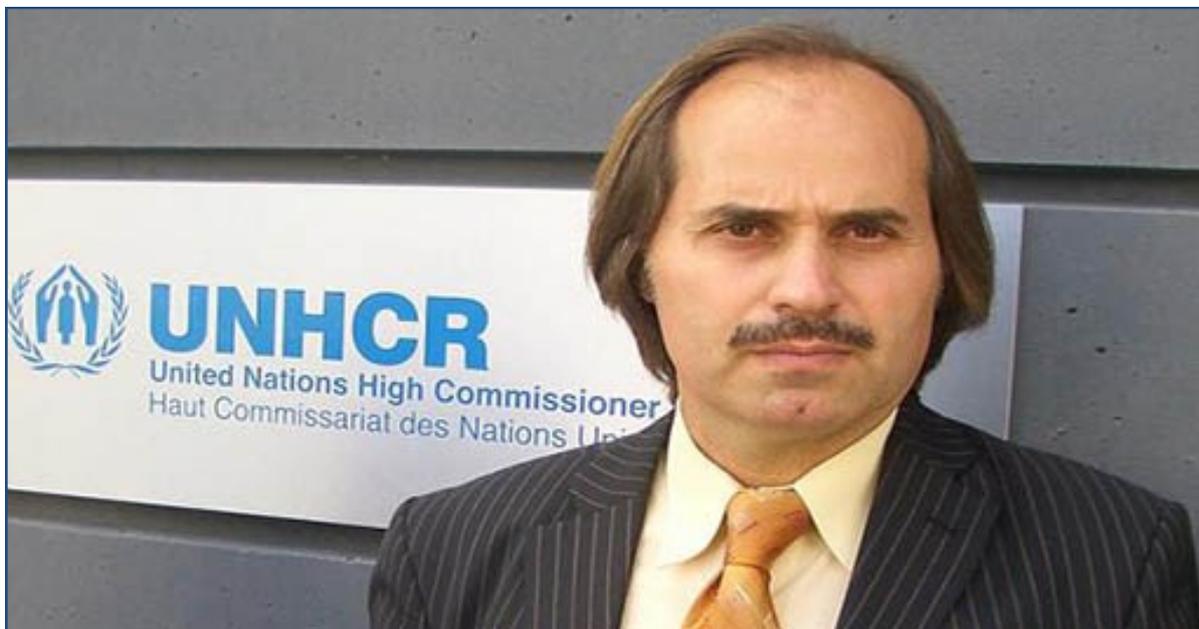
Tuesday 24 Jan, 2017

Mr. Mohammad Hossein Sobhani ; former high ranking member of the Mujahedin-e Khalq Cult wrote an enlightening article- *in persian* on the occasion of the release of 50 MKO dissident members from the Abu Quraib – the Iraqi Baath regime prison.

remind Massoud Rajavi and Mujahein-e Khalq that we do not let their treasons and crimes be forgotten....it is very bitter and regrettable to see an organization which claims to be after freedom, equality, justice, democracy and monotheistic classless society But imprisons dissent members and those who were no more willing to

In 1992, Mr. Sobhani declared his doubt and dissatisfaction with the group leader – Massoud Rajavi’s strategies. Since then he underwent a prolonged period of imprisonment .

Mr. Sobhani is one among hundreds of individuals who victimized by the MKO leaders.



The article reads:” January 21st reminds me and others - who were prisoners of Abu Quraib, of the bitter as well as sweet memoirs of our freedom from that gruesome prison. In January 21, 2002 a number of 50 MKO dissident members whom were handed over to the Iraqi former dictator; Saddam Hussein by Massoud Rajavi, got released by the help of international organizations.

Honoring this day, I want to

cooperate with the organization in solitary confinements for years and then hand them over to Saddam Hussein; the Iraqi former dictator. Saddam relatively imprisoned them at Abu Guraib prison under the name of “Mujahedin’s loan “[Amanat-e Mojahedin]. We, MKO dissident members, had committed no crime... “

Mr. Sobhani, went to Iraq as a member of the Mojahedin-e Khalq in the early 1980s.

The 28-page report, "No Exit: Human Rights Abuses Inside the MKO Camps," examines how dissatisfied MKO members were tortured and held in solitary confinement. The report is based on the direct testimonies of a dozen former MKO members, including five who were turned over to Iraqi security forces and held in Abu Ghraib prison under Saddam Hussein.

Mr. Sobhani is one of these five witnesses:

MKO dissident members at Abu Quraib Prison!

" Mohammad Hussein Sobhani spent eight-and-a-half years in solitary confinement inside the MKO's main camp in Iraq, Camp Ashraf, from September 1992 to January 2001. He was subsequently held in Abu Ghraib prison and left Iraq in 2002.

Sobhani first came in contact with the MKO in 1977, a year before the anti-monarchy revolution. By 1979, he was working "professionally and full time" with the organization. When the headquarters of the armed wing of the organization relocated inside Iraq, he followed suit. By 1991, he had risen in the ranks of the organization and had become a member of the Central Committee. However, ever since the "ideological revolution," when divorces were mandated, he became uncomfortable with the path pursued by the leadership. His differences with the leadership of Masoud and Maryam Rajavi and other members of the Central Committee reached a climax in 1992. Masoud Rajavi argued for remaining in Iraq regardless of the end of the Iran-Iraq war and Saddam Hussein's defeat in the first Gulf War in 1991, he said. Rajavi still hoped that fighting between Iran and Iraq would resume, and based the organization's strategy on such a develop-

ment. Sobhani says he found the possibility of a new war highly unlikely given the dismal state of Iraq's armed forces. Other members of the Central Committee saw his arguments as a challenge to the Rajavis' leadership:

As long as my criticisms were mild, I was left alone. But as soon as I persevered in my questioning, their behavior changed dramatically. In the beginning, I discussed my concerns personally with the leadership, Maryam and Masoud Rajavi. I also brought up my concerns with other members of the Central Committee. These discussions reached a dead-end. Once they became certain that I didn't share their views, on August 28, 1992, they convened a meeting (neshast taiin taklif) to determine my faith and to decide if I was staying with the organization or not. The process began with intimidation, verbal abuse, and beatings. Of course, since I was a high ranking official I was treated better than ordinary members. I was told that my criticisms and questions were just an excuse to quit the struggle. Their conclusion was that I was a quitter (borideh) and didn't have the strength to continue the struggle any longer.⁵⁰

On August 31, 1992, Sob-

hani was moved to a prison and kept under solitary confinement for the next eight-and-a-half years.

After the first two months in prison, all of my beliefs in the organization fell apart. Up to that point I considered my differences with them as a matter of divergent political views; I wasn't questioning the MKO's underlying essence. I used to mark my prison walls each time I was subjected to severe beatings. There were many occasions of lesser beatings, but on eleven occasions I was beaten mercilessly using wooden sticks and thick leather belts.⁵¹

Sobhani was handed over to Iraqi officials in January 2001. He spent one month in mukhabarat prison and then transferred to Abu Ghraib. He was held in Abu Ghraib until January 21, 2002, when he was repatriated to Iran in exchange for Iraqi POWs. In Iran, he was detained and interrogated by the Iranian government. After three days, he escaped from a low security detention center and fled Iran. He is currently living in Europe.

Joe Stork, HRW's Washington director said: "Members who try to leave the MKO pay a very heavy price,"... These testimonies paint a grim picture of what happened to members who criticized the group's leaders."

Trump threatens N-deal

Monday 30 Jan, 2017

It is time to reboot Hands Off the People of Iran, argues Yassamine Mather

Iran in his sights?



You would have thought that the peoples of the Middle East, who have suffered so much this millennium under the Bush and Obama administrations, might be spared more destruction and devastation, but unfortunately things do not look good. With the new Trump administration it is very likely that, in addition to the existing war zones - Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Bahrain ... - we will see new areas of conflict and new attempts at regime change from above.

Millions of civilians throughout the Middle East, but especially in Iran, are wary of the dangers ahead, and anxious about the close relationship between the US president and the Israeli prime minister. A number of events in the last few weeks have given rise to this anxiety.

A week before Trump's inauguration, two of his closest allies - former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani and former US representative to UN John Bolton - joined two dozen ex-officials in signing a letter to Trump urging him to start talks with the Iranian opposition group, Mujahedin-e Khalq (MEK), and its front

organisation, the National Council of Resistance.

For those who do not know much about the MEK, let me assure you it is one of the most discredited exile groups - nowadays more a religious cult, with practices similar to the Moonies (in recent years

we have seen enforced mass divorce, enforced mass remarriage, worship of the married couple who are the cult's leaders, a switch from supporting Saddam Hussein to becoming paid lackeys of Saudi Arabia ...). The very fact that these close allies of Donald Trump could envisage such talks is proof once more that the US has learnt nothing from the Iraq war or attempts at regime change in Syria. If there is one way of making sure the Islamic rulers of Iran stay in power in Tehran, it would be to start a dialogue with the Mujahedin as a possible replacement. The Iranian people hate the MEK and their lunatic practices so much, one can envisage Iran's rulers hoping the Giuliani-Bolton letter succeeds in its aim.

After this came Trump's comments two days before his inauguration: the US should have seized Iraq's oil in 2003. Now, anyone with even limited knowledge of the matter knows there were good reasons why Bush did not contemplate such lunacy. Had the administration done so, it would have been violating decades of

international practice, including the Geneva conventions. But maybe we should not expect anything else from the man who supports waterboarding prisoners of war.

So, if the signs were ominous before the inauguration, what has happened since is even more worrying.

On January 21, Binyamin Netanyahu sent a 'message to the Iranian people'. The Jerusalem Post published the entire text of Netanyahu's letter, including the following:

I hope this message reaches every Iranian - young and old, religious and secular, man and woman ...

I know you'd prefer to live without fear. I know you'd want to be able to speak freely, to love who you want without the fear of being tortured or hung from a crane. I know you'd like to surf the web freely and not have to see videos like this one using a virtual private network to circumvent censorship ...

By calling daily for Israel's destruction, the regime hopes to instil hostility between us. This is wrong. We are your friend, not your enemy. We've always distinguished between the Iranian people and the Iranian regime.

The regime is cruel - the people are not; the regime is aggressive - the people are warm. I yearn for the day when Israelis and Iranians can once again visit each other freely in Tehran and Esfahan, in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

Trump threatens N-deal

Both in Tehran and throughout the Middle East the message was interpreted as a threat - an attempt to justify imminent plans for air attacks, now that the restraints imposed by the Obama administration on the more adventurous policies of the Zionist regime have been lifted. This message was followed by a phone conversation with the US president, where by all accounts the Iran nuclear deal was discussed.

The Israeli premier will be amongst the first world leaders to visit Washington and the Iranian people are justifiably worried about what the combination of neoconservative, pro-MEK advisors and Trump's pro-Zionist stance will bring for the region.

Iran's rulers have mixed feeling about the new administration. On the one hand, they are happy he is not a fan of Saudi Arabia and Trump's comments about Russia have received positive coverage in Tehran. On the other hand, with allies and advisors such as Giuliani and Bolton, it is likely that Trump would not act to stop an Israeli attack on Iran, even if his declared priority is to defeat Iran's main enemies in the region, Islamic State and Al Nusra.

As for the reformist faction of the Iranian regime, it is concerned about the impact of Trump's presidency on the nuclear agreement signed last year. Trump has said on many occasions that he considers this to be "one of the worst deals ever made". The more conservative factions of the regime, just like the 'regime change from above' opposition groups, are hoping Trump will tear it up.

Left

With all the controversy over the new president's racist, sexist and anti-gay remarks, amongst other things, sections of pro-west Iranian opposition in exile have been forced to change their tune. For

most of the last two or three decades they have told us that Iran's rulers were backward because they had failed to promote anti-sexist, pro-LGBT policies. But now those rulers are no longer the only misogynists in town. No doubt the supreme leader, ayatollah Ali Khamenei, approved of one of Trump's first initiatives - taking down references to LGBT equality from the White House website on his first day as president.

And by January 23 Trump was trying to outdo Khamenei on abortion. He signed an executive order blocking foreign aid and federal budget funding for international non-governmental organisations that provide or "promote" abortions. The new vice-president, Mike Pence, is of like mind: he facilitated the passage of several laws restricting abortions, when he was governor of Indiana.

As I write, Trump is expected to announce restrictions on US entry for citizens of seven predominantly Muslim countries, including Iran. Unlike the Israeli premier, Trump is not after winning hearts and minds in Iran (or elsewhere in the Middle East), yet he has fans amongst deluded sections of the Iranian opposition, including the MEK, who are convinced that sooner rather than later he will go for a full-scale military attack on Iran, or else give Netanyahu the nod to knock out its military and nuclear installations (while the US concentrates on 'fighting al Qa'eda' in Iraq and Syria!). Both scenarios are clearly frightening, yet in these uncertain times they cannot be ruled out.

All this coincides with a time when Iran's rulers are facing considerable internal opposition from the working class. Strikes and protests in and around some of the country's major industrial sites are occurring daily, while retired teachers and civil servants,

whose real income is falling daily because of inflation and the fall in the value of the Iranian currency, have organised demonstrations. While Iranians are using every opportunity to protest, the left is not only weak and divided, but have mostly lost all credibility - having, for example, accepted funds from US neoconservatives. Many former left-wing groups are now nothing more than single-issue campaigns (for women's or LGBT rights, supporting Kurdish or Arab nationalism ...), because it was easier to get funding from the west that way. Gradually that funding affected their politics. It was no longer fashionable to talk of imperialism and capitalism. Now they were against 'backward Islamists' and for 'progress'.

Many such groups have had a hard time of it after the nuclear deal and so they were hoping a Clinton presidency would revive their fortunes. Unfortunately for them, it looks like under Trump their financial situation will not improve.

In the absence of a principled organised left, the voice of the Iranian working class - a class whose struggles continue, day in, day out, a class destined to play a significant role in the struggles ahead - is not being heard. Outside Iran we are not in a position to do much, but we must become the voice of our own class in Iran, the working class. We must publicise the struggles against the Islamic government and its corrupt, capitalist backers, while remaining vigilant about the danger of new imperialist wars and aggression in the region.

That is why we will need to reboot Hands Off the People of Iran.

Weeklyworker.co.uk

Yassamine Mather

Trump threatens N-deal

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Nejat Society: Campaign to save victims trapped inside the Mojahedin-e khalq Organization – The Rajavi Cult (MKO, MEK, NCR, NLA, ...)



Mr. Majid Rajabi Shahrestani defects MEK in Albania

Sunday 29 Jan, 2017

Mr. Rajabi was in Turkey when the Mujahedin-e Khalq agents deceived him into joining the group under the false promises of better life and work opportunities in Europe.

Mr. Rajabi was then transferred to MKO Camps in Iraq. He lost 15 years of his life within the Mujahedin-e Khalq Cult camps. In 2016 he was relocated to Albania along with other MKO members.

In Tirana, Mr. Rajabi managed to liberate himself from the clutches of the Rajavis Cult.

Majid's brother who is an active member of Nejat Society and tried a lot to save Majid says:

"We haven't seen our younger brother in more than a decade due to the manipulation practices of a criminal cult. Majid is now 41. I am really happy for my brother. He finally managed to find his way and released himself from the anti-Iranian Cult of MKO ..."

