

## PERIODICAL PUBLICATION OF NEJAT SOCIETY

# Nejat Newsletter

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### Mojahedin Khalq fugitive Mohamad Shariti inadvertently filmed at Maryam Rajavi's HQ

Tuesday 07 Mar, 2017



This short film by Michael Ware of National Geographic was taken at the headquarters of the Mojahedin Khalq Organisation (MEK) in Auvers-sur-Oise, France. In the film we hear four leading members of the Mojahedin Khalq discuss their aims with Ware and how they believe these can be achieved. They state both the 'public'

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stance of the MEK – they believe in peaceful change. At the same time they state the 'internal' ideological belief of the MEK – that regime change demands 'resistance' (MEK code for armed struggle).

Also at the meeting, although not taking an active part, is a man called Mohamad Sharifi. In 1986, Sharifi was Secretary-Treasurer of a charity called the Iran Relief Fund, Inc. After an investigation into the charity, Sharifi and others were summoned to court on charges of funding terrorism. According to the state prosecution service, the charity claimed the money it raised would "alleviate human suffering" among Iranian refugees. In reality all the money went to fund the MEK's military bases in Iraq. Prosecutors described the Iran Relief Fund as a "subsidiary of a violent pro-terrorist group" the MEK.

At the time Sharifi denied any involvement with the MEK, but left America before the case was brought to court and went to Iraq. He remains on the US's wanted list. It may be of interest to American law enforcement agencies that Sharifi is now resident in France and living in the MEK headquarters.

Charities such as this are part of an international network of money laundering entities which have been used for decades by the MEK to pass off money paid by sponsors. Money paid into the charities and associations is used to fund the speakers fees and trips of supporters such as Rudi Giuliani, John Bolton, Newt Gingrich and many others.

#### Related Links:

<http://www.nytimes.com/1986/01/05/nyregion/state-curbing-iranian-charity.html>

<https://businessprofiles.com/details/iran-relief-fund-inc/MA-133140201/mr-mohamad-sharifi>

<https://businessprofiles.com/details/iran-relief-fund-inc/MA-133140201>

<https://www.fundcompanies.org/iran-relief-fund-inc>

<https://www.bizapedia.com/people/new-jersey/bergenfield/mohamad-sharifi.html>

## Rajavi's "crocodile tears for oppressed Syrians"

**Monday 20 Feb, 2017**

The misleading, deceptive and false propaganda of the Mujahedin Khalq Organization (the MKO/the MEK/the Cult of Rajavi) is plainly clear to a large number of people regardless of their political viewpoint. Ben Davies is an analyst and writer, formerly filming in Syria in 2013 with the primary focus on the Middle East, with an emphasis on Syria, Iraq and Iran. He is an anti-Bashar Assad and so an anti-Iran journalist – although he introduces himself as independent in his website. His emphatic focus on Syria, Iraq and Iran has led him to the case of the MKO. In August 2014 he wrote a probed article on the group and its support for the Syrian opposition titled "Revolt Without Rajavi: Syria's Opposition Must Not Embrace the MEK".

Ben Davies describes the efforts of the MKO propaganda to voice its support for "Syrian people". "The support given to the MEK (or rather, the approval that some anti-Assad activists show in its general direction) is down to the fact that since the start of Syrian revolution against the Assad regime in 2011, the group has spiced up its usual monotonous, anti-Iranian regime rhetoric with anti-Assad rhetoric too," he writes. It was just a few months later, in December 2014 that Davies posted a perfectly investigated article on how the MKO propaganda system works.

This former writer of Radio Free Syria warns about Maryam Rajavi's hypocritical rhetoric for the Syrian opposition giving a brief of the MKO's violent past, its alliance with Saddam Hussein and combat against its own people. "The problem is not with the words", he writes about Maryam's "well-worded performance" for Syrian people. "The problem is with who is speaking them. Rajavi is able to so fluently describe the

horrors that a sadistic dictatorship puts people through because she runs one herself in the MEK's base."

Davies explains the cult-like system ruling the MKO fairly:

"The ways in which the mujahideen work are almost identical to the very regimes they ostensibly despise. Yes, they claim to be strongly opposed to Khamenei's regime in Iran. Yes, they have a history of fighting against it (to the point of self sacrifice all too often), and yes, they claim to strongly support the Syrian revolution. Maryam Rajavi, the leader of the MEK, even met with former SNC leader Ahmed Jarba, and regularly condemns the Assad regime.

"Maryam and Massoud literally and metaphorically watch over the lives of their followers.

"While it is true that the MEK did indeed start out as an idealistic (and it still is, at the ground level, where many genuinely believe in fighting for Iran) organisation which helped to unseat the repressive regime of the Shah, it degenerated into a dystopic cult, ruled by the two-headed tyranny of the Rajavi couple. Members have been forced into self-criticism sessions in which they are forced to humiliate themselves if they get any thoughts about the opposite sex, men and women have been forced to divorce if they are married (although this didn't stop Maryam and Massoud from getting together of course), members are taught that they must give themselves over utterly to Maryam and Masoud, dissenting members are imprisoned and killed."

The journalist also refers to parts of an article written by the prominent journalist of the New York Times, Elizabeth Rubin who was first to label the MKO as "the Cult of Rajavi" in 2003. Rubin's first-hand account on the life of MKO members in Camp Ashraf was at the time a huge revelation on the oppressive cult-like system the Rajavis run.

Besides, Ben Davies quotes Rubin's second article on the MKO in 2011 after she got to know about paid speakers such Rudy Giuliani, Howard Dean and Michael B. Mukasey who spoke on behalf of the MKO in the group's rallies. "I thought I was watching The Onion News Network. Did Mr. Giuliani know whom he was talking about?", Writes Rubin who is stunned with the exaggerated compliments of Giuliani for Maryam Rajavi.

Davies blames the then US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton for ignoring the warnings of journalists and scholars, delisting the MKO from the list of Foreign Terrorist Organizations of the US State Department. Thus, he warns the leaders of Syrian opposition on the futile and even destructive fallouts of approaching the Cult of Rajavi:

"I would personally very much like to know what Ahmed Jarba, then head of the Syrian National Coalition, was thinking when he met with Rajavi in May 2014. What was he hoping to achieve? Did he think that such a meeting would give his unpopular, disorganised, and so far ineffective coalition some sort of clout? Did he imagine that he would gain access to their bottomless pits of pecuniary resources? Was he naively trying to establish some perverse form of solidarity with the Iranian people through this organisation? In short, was he as heartless or thoughtless as the group's western backers seemingly are?

"If he was seeking any of these things, he will be disappointed. Far from bringing him any clout, meeting with the MEK can only earn derision and disdain from the majority of well-informed, sane, non-fraudulent pro-democracy activists, Iranian and otherwise. As one US state department official frankly admitted about the group: "They are the best financed and organized, but they are so despised inside Iran that they have no traction." Such a meeting only lends ammunition to pro-

Khamenei propagandists, which they can use to smear the Syrian opposition by mere association with the Rajavi death cult.

“It isn’t like he could gain any form of useful resources or funding from such a meeting either. All the MEK’s money, when it isn’t being used to enable Maryam to live in luxury far from her suffering followers in the baked Iraqi desert, is used for endless lobbying in the west. Running a PR machine for a Middle Eastern 21st century Marxist cell cum Heaven’s Gate Sect takes up a lot of money, after all. He isn’t going to see a penny of it.

“If he was seeking to establish solidarity with the Iranian people, then he’d come to the wrong place altogether. Iranians despise the MEK; not only did it fight against their young men in the Iran-Iraq war and kill so many of its fellow Iranians, but it deliberately fed Saddam Hussein’s regime intelligence on Iranian targets to bomb, costing the lives of thousands more. The MEK has also teamed up with Israel to assassinate Iranian nuclear scientists.”

Although Davies announces his disdain for the Islamic Republic and Bashar Assad constantly, he is reasonable to denounce the MKO as a treasonous force. “Syrian revolution activists, freedom advocates and opposition members should think carefully when it comes to the MEK,” he writes. “Yes it claims to support you in its finely crafted words and rhetoric, yes it does fill its websites with news of the resistance fighters’ military successes, and yet it has a history of fighting the regime in Tehran... By killing and fighting against its own people.”

Ben Davies

## MKO former members met the EUP in Brussels

**Sunday 12 Feb, 2017**

A delegation of Aawa Association and Peyvand-e Rahaei Association [consisting of former members of the Mujahedin-e Khalq cult in Germany and France] met Ms. Ana Maria Gomes; Member of the European Parliament (Portuguese Socialist Party) on Tuesday February 7th, 2017.

The delegation consisted of Mr. Ali Akbar Rastgoo, Ghorbanali Hosseinejad, Isa Azadeh and Reza Jebelli who once had been of veteran, high ranking members of the MKO Cult.

The meeting took place at Ms. Gomes office in the EU Parliament, Brussels.

MKO ex-members iterated the situation of some 2000 members of the cult in Albania who have no access to the outside world, esp. their families. Mr. Hosseinejad as an example described the situation of her daughter within the cult who is prevented by the cult leaders to visit her father and her only sister (The two sisters have not been able to see or have any contact with each other during their lifetime due to the enforced separation of families within the Cult of Mujahedin-e Khalq.).

The former members also defined: the financial sources of the Cult during Saddam Hussein era and afterwards, the oppressive and repressive affairs within the cult Camps in Iraq and now in Albania, ban of marriage, the cult leaders’ efforts for lobbying in the EU parliament and to white-wash their history and nature of violence and terror.

Ms. Gomes welcomed the MKO ex-member’s delegation. The MEP expressed regret over the appalling situation under which the cult members live. She also announced her readiness for the next visits.

The MEP emphasized she will inform the President of the European Parliament and other MEPs, of the MKO Cult members situation.



## MEK fits well into definition of cult

**Wednesday 15 Feb, 2017**

A deprogramming scholar believes MEK organization had been close to a cult, an adjective fitting their conduct within the organization and the manipulation of members. Rick Alan Ross is an American deprogrammer, cult specialist, and founder and executive director of the nonprofit Cult Education Institute. He believes the lack of transparency and accountability makes the leaders of cults such as MEK

Big Brother mentality who control their thought and action. As such, members of such organizations are prone to extreme mental states edging psychopathy and usually display unconventional belief systems:

**In response to the charge of being a cult, the MEK claims that it is actively engaged in political action. In your opinion, can political action alone be a discriminator between cults and other groups?**

ing seminars, UFOs, pseudo-sciences or martial arts. There are three core characteristics that form the nucleus for a definition of a destructive cult, which I point out in my book “Cults Inside Out” in the chapter “Defining a Destructive Cult.” These three criteria were first identified by psychiatrist Robert Jay Lifton, who wrote the definitive book about thought reform (often called “brainwashing”) and a paper titled “Cult Formation” that



(Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization aka MKO) and ISIL almost insurmountable in their shameful acts of sexual exploitation of members; in such cults, he contend, the personality of the member is dissolved to a greater entity, i.e., the collective spirit which is imbued by the

What the group believes does not define it as a destructive cult, this is instead determined by how the group behaves, its dynamics and structure. The group could be based upon philosophy, politics, religion, therapy, personal growth train-

was published by Harvard. Lifton defined a cult as having the following three primary characteristics:

1. A charismatic leader, who increasingly becomes an object of worship as the general principles that may have originally sustained the

## MEK fits well into definition of cult

group lose power.

2. A process [is in use] is 'coercive persuasion' or 'thought reform.'

3. Economic, sexual, and other exploitation of group members by the leader and the ruling coterie.

In my opinion, the MEK fits well within the three core criteria often used to define a destructive cult based upon the structure, dynamics and behavior of the group. MEK also uses thought reform and coercive persuasion to gain undue influence over its members.

**Are there other criteria to identify cults? Do these features exist in the MEK?**

MEK practices conform to all of Lifton's eight criteria used to identify a thought reform program: Milieu Control, Mystical Manipulation, the Demand for Purity, the Cult of Confession, the "Sacred Science," Loading the Language, Doctrine over Person, and the Dispensing of Existence.

**The MEK members are obliged to attend some meetings, in which they should talk about their thoughts and apologize for their so-called mental deviations. Is this practice common in other cults?**

What you describe is detailed again by Lifton in his

book "Thought Reform and Psychology of Totalism" in Chapter 22 and in my book within the chapter titled "Cult Brainwashing." Lifton calls this type of exchange the "Cult of Confession" and I explain within my book how this becomes a device to gain control over and manipulate the follower. It provides intimate information, which can then be used as leverage to break down, manipulate and control the group member.

**There are credible reports – including statements by Ms. Soltani, a former member of the MEK leadership who was close to Rajavi- that Rajavi has a variety of scenarios for sexual relationship with the cult's women. The question is that how Rajvi could do these acts despite being under political pressure and involved in covert actions. How can this behavior be analyzed?**

Leaders of authoritarian groups such as MEK or ISIS often sexually exploit members or followers. Leaders have no meaningful accountability. No one can effectively hold them responsible and stop them.

**There are some rules within the MEK such as degrading of men and putting women in top of organizational positions,**

**e.g. appointing Maryam Ghajar Azdanlou (later Maryam Rajavi) as President-elect of Iran, pretended as progressives and feminist acts. Do you accept that those acts are progressive? Are these rules exclusive to the MEK?**

Whatever the rules are within MEK is not the point. What is relevant is that the Rajavis can make new rules, change rules and do whatever they want. Their rules are typically used to manipulate and control their followers. They like what they control and don't like what they don't control. The Rajavis then use that undue influence to exploit and manipulate MEK members for their own benefit and financial gain.

**Would you please speak more about Rajavis?**

Rajavi and his wife are the defining role of authoritarian charismatic leadership that has become the focus, defining element and driving force of MEK. There are no checks and balances to their power, meaningful accountability or transparency.

**Mehr News**

and

**Habilain Association,**

## Open letter to the Minister of Interior of Albania, Saimir Tahiri

Saturday 04 Feb, 2017

Mr. Saimir Tahiri,

Greetings,

We are the members of women association in Germany and we are activists against sectarianism and each one of us has the experience of being deceived by Rajavi cult which is known as national council of resistance and they are trying their best to infiltrate and impose themselves in human rights organizations.

Since the improvement of relations between Iran and Albania and the opening of your embassy in Iran and vice versa , there has been lots of incidents for the members of the Rajavi cult, in their internal affairs ,who have entered in your country as refugee . The members who are willing to separate from this notorious cult, are confronted with lots of psychological pressure and false propaganda just to be forced to stay in this inhumane cult. Recently we have been informed that the leader of this notorious cult, Mr. Massoud Rajavi, which his death news was announced by the Saudi Arabia prince and the former minister of intelligence, has sent a message to the members of this cult in your country which shows that the internal situation in this notorious cult is very critical and chaotic. According to the news from Albania , the next day after the wave of happiness among the members of this notorious cult because of new relations between Iran and Albania , the leader of this cult

, Massoud Rajavi has sent a message to the members of this cult in Albania and in this message he said what has happened to each one of you?..... nothing has happened ....., this is just a regime political game , but for Albania it is just financial subject .....we are trying our best with our political friends in Albania not to allow such a political agreement happen between these two country..... In this message, the leader of this cult has mentioned that if your families come to visit you , you should not go to see them by no means ..... Whereas each one of us , has a loved-one in that notorious cult , Mrs . Zahra Moeini has three cousin in that notorious cult who one of them is very sick , Mr. Akbar Moeini is suffering from cancer and there is no way to get in touch with him . Mrs. Homeyra Mohammad Nejad has a cousin in that inhumane cult and she does not have any news about his well being whatsoever, she just knows that his cousin is very sick . Mrs. Batul Soltani , her husband is in this cult and she has been informed that her husband is suffer-

ing from his heart and she does not have any news regarding his well being whatsoever . We would like to visit our loved-ones in this cult in your country and we urge you not to allow the leaders and operatives of this cult to use your country for repression and suppression of those stranded and stuck members like they did in Ashraf and liberty garrisons in Iraq and take away tranquility and peace from your people and your country. We have urged you many times not to allow the leaders and the operatives of this notorious cult to speak for those stuck and stranded members , we are urging you to accommodate them as individual figures in your country . We are ready to inform you more about the exploitation and slavery methods in this notorious cult

All The Best

Women Association in Germany

**Ms . Zahra Moeini, Ms. Homeyra Mohammad Nejad, Ms. Batul Soltani**



## Keeping Iran a bogeyman to further destabilize the region

**Thursday 16 Feb, 2017**

During his presidential election campaign, Donald Trump proclaimed long and loudly that he sees Iran as Washington's regional enemy.

He pledged to "tear up" the agreement providing for the dismantling of Iran's nuclear programme in exchange for the lifting of sanctions, reached in 2015 by Iran and six world powers.

Aware that the other five signatories of the deal would not accept a unilateral US abrogation, he has since retreated by saying he would actively "police" the deal, to force Iran to abide by its commitments.

Ironically, it is the US, rather than Iran, that failed to honour its obligations by obstructing sanctions relief, particularly in the banking sector.

Last weekend, US House of Representatives Speaker Paul Ryan, a Republican, admitted that the US is in no position to roll back the nuclear agreement.

He said it is not possible to "reconstitute the multilateral sanctions that were put in place" to compel Iran to confine its nuclear programme to providing fuel for power plants and medical isotopes.

Iran ended research on bomb making without making any device in 2003, and there is no evidence that it has resumed this effort.

Trump needlessly and heedlessly included Iran in the group of seven Muslim countries when imposing his hasty, poorly prepared and ill-conceived ban on US entry on citizens from these countries holding visas.

The largest number of people excluded are Iranians, as they are citizens of the largest and most populous country of the seven, the others being Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Libya, Somalia and Sudan.

Although federal judges issued restraining orders, temporarily rescinding Trump's ban, Iranians are upset and confused by this measure, as it is meant to apply to citizens of countries involved in "terrorist" incidents in the US.

There have, in fact, been no attacks by Iranians on US citizens in the US and only one in Iran itself.

This took place in 1975, when two air force officers were killed en route to an air base. This was before the 1979 overthrow of Washington's ally, the shah, by the Islamic Revolution.

The family of Lt. Col. Jack Turner, one of the victims, filed a lawsuit, arguing his death was in revenge for the killing by the shah's intelligence agency, Savak, which was supported by the US and Israel, of nine

anti-shah elements fleeing arrest.

The commander and members of this group, the Mujahedin e-Khalq, were executed in 1976.

It does not make sense that the Turner family is suing Savak, which is long gone, or the Mujahedin, an enemy of the current Iranian regime and the friend of some senior members of the Trump administration.

The administration threatened to put Iran "on notice" for test firing a medium-range ballistic missile at a time US, British, French and Australian naval manoeuvres were taking place in the Gulf, just off the Iranian coast.

Both the missile launch and the exercises were provocative, intended to generate a verbal response.

Tehran contended the test did not violate the nuclear deal or US Security Council Resolution 2231, which endorses the nuclear accord and calls on Iran not to launch ballistic missiles "capable of delivering nuclear weapons".

Prior to the Trump-era test, Iran had carried out 11 tests since the signing of the deal. The US and other sponsors did not respond.

Trump ordered sanctions to be imposed on 25 individuals and entities said to be identified with the missile programme, a slap on the wrist for propaganda purposes.

Trump keeps beating the war drums to maintain the myth that Iran is the major destabilising force in this region and the world's "biggest state sponsor of terrorism", although neither allegation is true.

This region is being threatened and destabilised by Sunni takfiris associated with Daesh and Al Qaeda, who are the main instigators of terrorism here and abroad, rather than by Shiite Iran.

The US also contends that the Houthis tribal rebels fighting Saudi-sponsored forces in Yemen are "proxies" of Iran.

This is a blatant lie. Iran has given verbal support to the rebels, but is not financing, arming or advising their forces as it is doing for the Syrian army in its fight against an array of mainly takfiri insurgent groups, including Daesh and Al Qaeda.

Dan De Luce and Paul Mcleary, writing in Foreign Policy, say: "Trump's aides see Yemen as an important battleground to signal US resolve against Iran and to break with what they consider the previous administration's failure to confront Tehran's growing power in the region."

They argue that this approach could trigger Iranian retaliation against the US in Iraq and Syria or, fancifully, war with Iran.

Tehran is not committed to the Houthis as it is to the survival of the Assad government in Syria and to the Shiite fundamentalist-dominated government in Iraq.

The Republicans have simply refused to come to terms with the fact that George W. Bush installed the current pro-Iranian regime in Baghdad.

By handing over secular Iraq to this regime, the US provoked the Sunni takfiri backlash that the US is now trying to contain.

Russia and Iran have shouldered this responsibility by deploying forces in both Syria and Iraq. Consequently, Washington should consider joining Moscow and Tehran in this endeavour, instead of suggesting cooperation with Russia and whipping up tensions with Iran.

To stiffen Trump's resolve to deal harshly with Iran, the Republican-majority Congress has begun drawing up legislation empowering him to wage "pre-emptive war" on Iran, at any time he chooses, without seeking authorisation from the legislature.

The stated aim of such a war would be to prevent Iran from manufacturing nuclear weapon, although, under the nuclear deal, Tehran has dismantled most of its nuclear programme and would need many months to build nuclear devices.

Therefore, the declared objective of such a bill would be to mount a war based on lies, like the disastrous 2003 war waged against Iraq by the previous Republican president.

Make no mistake. A war on Iran would not be limited to strikes against the country's well-protected nuclear facilities. The US would have to destroy Iranian Revolutionary Guard bases and naval installations to prevent retaliation against US forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as against Israel and Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

The flow of oil from the Gulf to Europe and Asia would stop. Iran's Lebanese partner Hizbollah could strike Israel. Russia could supply Iran with high-tech weaponry and munitions, turning a US war on Iran into a regional and international conflagration, and plunging the fragile world economy into a fresh recession or even a major depression.

*By Michael Jansen,*

*Jordantimes.com*

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**To Contact Nejat Society**

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If you would like to contact the executive manager of the Nejat Society directly, to comment about our activities or if you have any query, please write to:

[ceo@nejatngo.org](mailto:ceo@nejatngo.org)

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



**Iranian Mojahedin member punished for stealing food cans in a Babrru market**

**Wednesday 01 Mar, 2017**

MEK member arrested in Tirana Albania. An Iranian citizen, one of the Mojahedin refugees hosted in Albania, ended up as a defendant in the Court of Tirana, reports Panorama.

He was tried for committing theft, an offense which he committed while living at the Mojahedin asylum seekers refuge in Babrru village.

The trial of 47-year-old Mohsen S. ended a few days ago. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 6 months in prison.

He was tried under 'obligatory appearance' as a security measure and will not end up in cells. The court suspended his prison sentence for 18 months during which he must not commit any further offence.

The Tirana Court decision clarified that the defendant, Mohsen S., was currently based at the asylum seekers centre located in the capital's province of Babrru. On August 31, 2016, around 13:30, he was caught by the owner of a market stealing food goods in his shop.

The market in question is a short distance from the center where Mojahedin asylum seekers have been placed. According to the Court decision, the defendant Mohsen S. placed some food stuff into the bag he had with him and tried to leave without paying. His actions were observed by the owner of the supermarket.

The owner prevented the 47-year-old from leaving his shop. In the refugee's bag he found three cans of fish, a bottle of a carbonated soft drink and a bottle of ketchup. The supermarket owner informed the police.

After his arrest, criminal proceedings on the charge of theft were brought against the Iranian. The defendant admitted to the theft. At the same time, he admitted that he had also stolen goods the day before in the same market but stressed he was unable to pay because he had not yet received any payment from the Mojahedin organization.

Before and during the trial the defendant admitted the offense and showed deep repentance, asking forgiveness from the Court with the promise that he will not commit such an act again. In justification of the suspension of sentence for the defendant, the court emphasized that he posed little social danger, had no previous convictions and the fact that the defendant is seeking asylum in Albania.

**Opinion Website (translated by Iran-interlink)**