

# ParsBrief

***Number 10***

***27. Dec.2004***

- Iran rejects exiled opposition group's allegations over nuclear activities
- Debate on Iran - UK Parliament
- Many MKO Members in Iraq Want to Return
- Who's financing Mojahedin-e khalq?
- November 19, 2004 -- Counter-Protest to Pro-War Iranians
- IRANIAN MOJAHEDIN'S HIDDEN AGENDA



No 10

[WWW.NEJATNGO.COM](http://WWW.NEJATNGO.COM)

27.Dec.2004

Nejat Society congratulate Christmas to all Christians from all over the world and would like to wish a happy new year for them especially those of Iran.

We would begin the year 2005 with the hope of the liberation of our dear ones, captured behind the bars of Rajavi`s cult, and we hope them to have a pleasant time among their families.

### **Iran rejects exiled opposition group's allegations over nuclear activities**

TEHRAN, Nov. 19 (Xinhua) -- Iran has rejected the recent allegations by an exiled opposition group Mujahedin Khalq Organization (MKO) on Tehran's nuclear activities, the official IRNA news agency reported Friday.

"Such fabrications are false, worthless and repetitive, and are aimed at destroying the existing positive atmosphere on the eve of the upcoming meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors," Foreign Ministry Spokesman Hamid-Reza Asefi was quoted as saying.

MKO is the Iranian government's largest opposition military group, with its main base at Camp Ashraf, Iraq. It is well-known for its responsibility in the 1981 bombing attack, which killed the then Iranian President Mohammad-Ali Rajaei and Premier Mohammad- Javad Bahonar.

The MKO, under the aliases of National Council of Resistance in Iran, recently claimed that Iran was hiding a uranium enrichment facility in Tehran and aimed at getting the atomic bomb next year.

Asefi denounced that the MKO allegations came after Iran and the European trio of France, Germany and Britain had signed a nuclear deal in Paris and the Director General of the IAEA Mohammed ELBaradei provided a "realistic report" over Tehran's nuclear activities.

"The discredited terrorist MKO had made such fabrications in the past in order to curry favor with the western governments which have long put it on the list of terrorist groups and organizations," Asefi added.

"Iran is not involved in any secret nuclear activity and the IAEA is clear about it," Asefi stressed.

The IAEA will hold its board of governors' meeting on Nov. 25 to discuss Iran's nuclear issue.

The United States has accused Iran of developing nuclear weapons secretly. But Tehran denied the allegation, saying its nuclear plan was completely peaceful.

© Nov 2004 Xinhua News Agency

## **Debate on Iran - UK Parliament**

November 24, 2004

An Early Day Motion raised by veteran anti-war MP, Alice Mahon, urges the British government `to resist any attempts at escalation or departure from dialogue and multilateral diplomacy`.

On Wednesday 24 November, a debate on Iran raised by former Conservative Minister Sir Teddy Taylor Wednesday called on the government to make a clear statement of the UK's position.

Sir Teddy Taylor was in the delegation which visited Ebrahim Khodabandeh, Jamil Bassam and several other MKO prisoners in Evin prison this June.

[Link to Sir Teddy Taylor's views on this visit in the debate \(Hansard\)](#)

Ebrahim Khodabandeh recently wrote a critical letter to Massoud Rajavi, head of the MKO-NCRI-NLA challenging him to answer basic questions about his strategy over the past twenty-five years.

A copy of his letter was forwarded to each of the people who visited him in Evin.

[Link to Ebrahim Khodabandeh's letter](#)

## **Many MKO Members in Iraq Want to Return**

BBC, world service television

October 25 2004

BBC World has broadcast a film about the returning of some MKO (Mojahedin-e khalq) members from Iraq to Iran.

Francis Harrison, BBC's correspondent, reported the event from Olympic Hotel in Tehran:

"With the opening up of Iraq, these families in Iran now have hope. Their sons and daughters joined the Mojahedin, an armed Iranian opposition group backed by Saddam Hussein. For years they had no news.

Suddenly, Farah Samarati got a phone call telling her to come to this hotel because her brother was back in Iran.

One by one the seven men are brought in. until a few years ago, members of the Mojahedin would have been treated as traitors and spies. Now, there are tearful reunions.

Those who have just come back say there are nearly 500 Iranians being held in a US military camp in Iraq, many of whom also want to return.

Farah's brother alleges he was mistreated by the Americans whom he says are now hand in glove with the Mojahedin. That of course echoes the fear of the Iranian government that its two enemies, Mojahedin and the United States, might unite.

Hence, the decision's to do everything to welcome deserters back, as one of the organizers (Hora Shalchi) explains.

"My husband and my 3 sisters are in Iraq. I'm sure my husband's only scared that if he returns, Iran will torture him or imprison him. My sisters are ashamed of being seen to run away. They want the Red Cross and governments and the United Nations to support them and guarantee no body will harm them."

Many families are left disappointed. They were so sure they would see their sons and brothers. But there was a time when they were too scared to admit they had relatives in an armed opposition group.

The Iranian government official policy of encouraging defections from the Mojahedin has been given a boost by two things recently: the fall of Saddam Hussein in Iraq and events like this that reassure the members of the group they'll receive a warm welcome when they come home."

## **Who's Financing Mojahedin-e khalq?**

VOA

21 October 2004

Voice Of America has published the report of Mohammed Reza Shahid from Paris about the introduction of the book "Burned Alive, in the name of Marx and Mohammed".

Shahid, referring to the questions and answers of journalists and Mr. Chevalrias, says:

"Dominique Atajian, lawyer of an Iranian family asked that who's financing Mojahedin's expensive propagandistic programs? He also said that in his view, Moajhedin are terrorists." At the end of his report, Mr. Khodabandeh gave explanation about the film which shows the meeting of Rajavi and Major General Haboush (former head of Iraq's Estekhbarat) and cites part of the film in which they talk about receiving money from Iraq in return for performing terrorist acts."

## **November 19, 2004 -- Counter-Protest to Pro-War Iranians**

The Washington Post printed the Mujahedin-e Khalq Organization's (MEK or MKO) figure of 15,000 protesters calling for the US to support MEK terrorism against Iran \*and\* for State Department to take MEK off the terrorist list! But the top photo an hour into the protest clearly shows they filled up only about one third of Freedom Plaza and had no more than 800 - 900 participants. And a majority of them probably did not realize The Committee for Freedom and Democracy in Iran, like the National Council of Resistance of Iran, is just an MEK front group. PMO1 is another name for MEK (MKO); this group claims it does NOT want the US or Israel to bomb Iran's nuclear facilities.

What other US-declared terrorist group could run a "missile" on a truck around and around Pennsylvania Ave? Being friends with NEOCONS helps! One Anglo-Saxon looking fellow looked a lot like some infamous neocon.

"Hands Off Iran" was the Counter Protest Theme

The MEK is lead by husband-and-wife leaders of the People's Mujaheddin, Massoud and Maryam Rajavi, whose photos were featured on a dozen or more posters. Some of their followers burned themselves to death in London last spring to protest Iran's government, leading to claims MEK is a destructive cult.

## **IRANIAN MOJAHEDIN'S HIDDEN AGENDA**

"Anyone can use the rhetoric of democracy. Anyone can hide behind the flag of human rights...We must be careful not to support terrorism in the name of anti-terrorism."

--Senator John McCain, in a letter urging the FBI to investigate Mojahedin's US operations

It was said during the Cold War that if a cultural, labor or professional association's source of funds was described as "private," it was CIA money. In a similar Orwellian twist, some of the least democratic Iranian pressure groups in the US build their names around "freedom" and "democracy." The so-called Coalition for Freedom and Democracy in Iran (<http://www.cfdiran.com/> <<http://www.cfdiran.com/>>) is one of dozens with similar names that hide their sponsors' real identities and agendas. The group is bringing hundreds of Iranian Mojahedin activists – including dozens from Europe -- to Washington, DC on November 19 to rally between the White House and the Congress for an end to what they term Iran's terrorism and WMD.

Mojahedin need their "human rights" façade to hide their true agenda and violent history as a mercenary army, much like the CIA-backed Cuban extremists in Miami do. Fronting for their neocon mentors (the architects of the Iraq disaster), Mojahedin propagandists are rallying on November 19 to build support for a "get tough" policy against Iran. For over two decades Mojahedin's declared purpose has been to overthrow their former allies, Iran's government. A few thousand of them fled Iran in the 1980s and became what defectors called "Saddam's Private Army." That's when the organization lost all legitimacy in the eyes of most Iranians.

Now, hated in post-Saddam Iraq as war criminals, the panicked Mojahedin are out to offer themselves to a new sponsor, Washington warlords. By ingratiating themselves to the American Enterprise Institute and White House empire builders, the November 19 rally organizers hope to have their official designation as a "terrorist organization" lifted by the State Department. Mojahedin's pattern of hiding their intentions behind beautiful terminology like "freedom" and "democracy" is identical to the AEI likudniks' PR.

While it is not illegal to attempt to influence US policy or for an Iranian group to want to change Iran's government, what we are protesting is Mojahedin's deceptive tactics, including the claim that they enjoy widespread support in Iran. They would not be holding an English-language rally on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington two weeks after the US elections if they had a following in Iran. We bring you this information so you can judge for yourself.

\*Q: Are we countering Mojahedin's propaganda because we approve of **Iran's** current government ?\*

A: Some of Iran's Muslim clergy have what the Christian Right hopes to achieve in the US, but Iranians are making progress toward establishing a more inclusive government. Foreign interference would only arrest that process and splinter the democratic opposition in Iran.

\*Q: Why shouldn't Mojahedin take over in **Iran** ?\*

A; Mojahedin have displayed anti-democratic and ends-justify-the-means tendencies at every opportunity. They have appointed Maryam Rajavi as the "president" of Iran, without explaining why a popular vote is unnecessary. Defectors from their Camp Ashraf in Iraq describe a

secretive cult that dictates everything and tolerates no dissent. Ervand Abrahamian, author of the most authoritative account of the organization, told the /New York Times/, "If Massoud Rajavi [Maryam's husband] got up tomorrow and said the world is flat, his members would accept it." The chief of counterintelligence of France, where Maryam and hundreds of her devotees reside now, is quoted in the same report: "They are complete fanatics ... with a total absence of democracy."

\*Q: Why haven't most otherwise well-informed Americans heard of this organization ?\*

A: Mojahedin (also known as MEK, MKO, PMOI, and the National Liberation Army) operate in many guises so they can fundraise and lobby in this country without explaining their military service to Saddam Hussein. Here are just a few of their front organizations, according to published US Government sources:

US Alliance for Democratic Iran

Iranian American Society of Northern Virginia

National Council of Resistance

Association of Iranian Women USA

National Committee of Women for a Democratic Iran

Iranian Society of South Florida

Society of Iranian American Medical Professionals

Association of Iranian Scholars and Professionals

Muslim Iranian Student Society

\*Q: Do conservative Americans generally support Mojahedin ?\*

A: Cold War hawks see Mojahedin as a bargaining chip in their quest to contain Iran's so-called state terrorism (Tehran's support for the Lebanese and Palestinian resistance). Fox News Channel promotes Mojahedin's chief Washington lobbyist Alireza Jafarzadeh as an international security expert. In 2000, then Senator John Ashcroft lent his name to a Mojahedin rally against Iran outside the UN headquarters.

/Newsweek /revealed that Ashcroft also succeeded in stopping the deportation of a named Mojahed activist even after her military training at Camp Ashraf was confirmed. Richard Perle was a keynote speaker, along with Maryam Rajavi, at Mojahedin's "charitable" fundraiser in January 2004 at the DC Convention Center. Old-fashioned conservatives (critics of empire building), on the other hand, generally condemn Mojahedin as "terrorists." The split mirrors the rift between Defense and State Departments during Bush's first term.

\*Q: How do mainstream American NGOs and universities view Mojahedin ?\*

A: In her 2003 book, /Saddam's Private Army, /former Mojahedin activist Anne Singleton often refers to Mojahedin's sophisticated persuasion tactics, including the "charm offensive". Posing

as women's advocates ("empowering" women as Iran's first "President" and 40% of her army), US-based Mojahedin activists like Behjat Dehghan and Ramesh Sepehrrad pretend to speak for Iranian women in respectable forums. Official gender bias in Iran, and the collapse of progressive Iranian immigrant groups since 1979, have helped Mojahedin fill the void as the "enlightened" alternative. Currently, their National Committee of Women for a Democratic Iran website claims to be "working with" these institutions "to introduce the new feminist theory by [Rajavi]" :

George Mason university; Eckerd College; University of Rhode Island; York University; Riverside University; University of North Dakota; Brandeis University; and the "Human Rights Programs" at Harvard Law School, Columbia University, and American University, as well as Amnesty International, the Red Cross, and the National Lawyers Guild. NCWDI also claims to be "affiliated" with the National Association of Women Studies (presumably the latter refers to the National Women's Studies Association).