

# ParsBrief

***Number: 16***

***July, 2005***

- 14 MKO Defectors Return Home
- Ex-members to sue Iran opposition MKO leaders
- International Arrest Warrant for MKO Members
- MKO in Saddam's Plan for Assassinating Bush
- Faded hopes for Iranian exiles

## **14 MKO Defectors Return Home**

June 27,2005

Nejatngo.org

After the return of a number of former MKO members from Iraq to Iran during past few months, another group of 14 former MKO veterans- who had been under the supervision and protection of US forces- have returned to their countries with the cooperation of International Red Cross.

When anti-Iranian propagandas of terrorist MKO and other opposition groups faded and these people found the truth, they returned by their own will.

At the time being, Islamic Republic has issued pardon for them and the best and safest way for saving them is Iran.

It's notable that 250 former members have returned to Iran since February.

## **Ex-members to sue Iran opposition MKO leaders**

Monday, June 20, 2005

IranMania.com

LONDON, June 20 (IranMania) - A French daily wrote four former members of the banned Mujahideen Khalq Organization have filed a lawsuit against MKO leaders with France's Justice Department, IRNA reported.

'Le Parisian' added that Massoud Khodabandeh, Karim Haji Mouni, Massoud Tayyebi and Johnsheed Tahmasbi have asked the French judiciary to charge MKO leaders with violation of freedom, torturing ex-MKO members and threatening the lives of others.

They noted that Maryam Rajavi interferes in the private lives of other people and ruins the marital status of MKO members.

Noting that these ex-MKO members wish to quit MKO, 'Le Parisian' pointed out that MKO leaders wanted to kill Tayyebi and Haji Mouni, but they managed to seek political asylum at the Netherlands' Embassy on time.

Tahmasbi told the daily that when he wanted to leave MKO, he was mentally tortured.

Le Parisian noted that MKO did not allow its members to even open bank accounts.

The European Union and the United States have branded MKO a terrorist group.

## **International Arrest Warrant for MKO Members**

June 23, 2005

source: Irandidban.com

Swiss-based newspaper of "Le Temp" revealed in a report that six MKO members who commuted in UN Commissions were banned according to an international arrest warrant which was issued by Interpol.

Le Temp wrote: "It's about six opponents of regime in Tehran, who lobbied in the UN Commissions. A year ago, they were banned from entering UN buildings due to prosecution by Iranian officials. In March 2003, Libyan head of Human Rights Commission at that time, replied to Iranian

officials' letter that for preventing people from entering these buildings there should be convincing reasons, such as an international arrest warrant. In the next year, 2004, the warrant had been issued by Interpol. So, the doors of the UN were automatically closed on these dangerous terrorists."

## **MKO in Saddam's Plan for Assassinating Bush**

James M. Lutz, author of "Global Terrorism", has discussed Iraq and its terrorist activities in part of his book. He also reveals that Mojahedin-e khalq was supposed to cooperate with Saddam in assassinating former president George Bush.

Lutz says in his book:

" In the war with Iran, Iraq supported dissident groups in that country, particularly the leftist Mojahedin-e khalq (MKO). This group had fought to overthrow the shah in conjunction with other groups, including the supporters of Ayatollah Khomeini. The MKO resorted to terrorist attacks against the new Islamic Republic, scoring some spectacular successes. The new

Iranian regime, however, was able to defeat this campaign and eliminate many of the members [Rathmell 1997b]. During the long war with Iran, the MKO cooperated with Iraq in the hope of establishing itself in power in Iran. When Iran and Iraq agreed to end their war on the basis of the boundaries before the Iraqi invasion, Saddam Hussein abandoned the MKO to its fate, one the clearest examples of a government only using a dissident group in another country as long as it proved useful to foreign policy goals. Iraq also equipped, supplied and trained the National Liberation Army (NLA) which was seeking to establish a leftist, non-Islamic government in Iran...

... The most daring plan was an effort (that was discovered in time) to assassinate former president George Bush with the help of MKO operatives in 1993 (Myloie 2000: 114). Apparently Saddam Hussein was seeking revenge for US attempts to kill him with smart bombs during the war to liberate Kuwait (Richelson 2002: 252)...."

## **Faded hopes for Iranian exiles**

Mahan Abedin

June 29, 2005

Terrorism Monitor (The complete version of the article is available at .....)

Engulfed by various crises, and reeling from a Human Rights Watch report that branded it a serious abuser of human rights, the Mujahideen-e-Khalq (MEK) still insists on touting itself as a credible alternative to the ruling political system in Iran. Its relentless propaganda notwithstanding, there is now every sign that the MEK will disintegrate some time in the next five years.[...]

The 'third' way

[...]The MEK's "third" way is refreshingly simple to the point of bewilderment. The only effective way of forcing change in Iran, according to the organization's spokesmen, is neither through war and an American invasion, nor compromising with the Islamic republic, but in empowering the Iranian opposition (ie, the MEK).

There are several fundamental problems with this reductive argument, not least because an American "war" against Iran is unlikely, and what the MEK terms "compromise" with the ruling regime is mired in ambiguity. Aside from this basic observation, the whole notion that the MEK can affect anything in Iran (let alone overthrow the Islamic republic) is no longer taken

seriously by anyone. MEK spokesmen claim that if the organization was removed from US State

Department and European Union terrorism lists, it would be in a position to effectively challenge the ruling regime. The

problem with this argument is that before 1997 the MEK was not only not on any terrorist lists, but it also enjoyed the whole-hearted support of Saddam and could use Iraqi territory as it wished, and even in those highly favorable circumstances it could not advance its agenda even by a millimeter.

To advance this latest "third" way approach, the MEK has made some minor and cosmetic changes to its organization and tactics. Most importantly, the organization has resorted to establishing pressure groups and consultancies in North America. These organizations are run by veteran MEK members, and their primary function is to establish and manage relations with neo-conservative organizations and interests in the US. [...]

An organization in crisis

The MEK knows better than anyone else that the "third" way is a non-starter. Firstly, the organization has no presence inside Iran and little credibility with Iranians outside the country. At best, the organization is simply dismissed as decrepit and irrelevant, while a majority of Iranians regard its members as eccentric traitors who fought alongside their enemies in the Iran-Iraq war. The MEK also knows better than anyone else that it cannot gain recognition from the US government. It is not just because the MEK is the only Iranian organization that has murdered Americans and publicly boasted about it, but also because the US government is well aware of the checkered history, authoritarianism, limitations and hopeless future of this quixotic organization. [...]