

ParsBrief

Number 26
August 2006

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Brief No.26

www.nejatngo.org

August., 2006

Two more defected the Cult

Nejat Society reporter, July22, 2006

Following the separation of a large number of the Rajavi's cult members, two other members named Elham Motehamel and Sattar Sala zehi returned to Iran. These two who were two of the most professional members noted that Rajavi's cult is destroying and the leaders of the group do anything to prevent the demolition of the cult. Recently, they even have resorted the Zionist lobby. Therefore they, who know themselves as Abu Amar's children and were trained in Palestinian Camps, don't show any reaction to massacre of Palestinians by Israelis .

Iraq PM hints at expelling Iran opposition group,

AFP

Wed Jul 19

BAGHDAD (AFP) - Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki says he is looking for ways to end the presence in his country of the Iranian opposition group, the People's Mujahedeen of Iran .

"The presence in the country of this organization violates the constitution," he told a press conference on Wednesday, accusing the organization of interfering in Iran's internal affairs.

"This organization has been behaving as though it is an Iraqi organization," he added, emphasizing that it is labeled as a terrorist organization in the United States and the European Union.

Maliki said the cabinet decided at a meeting Wednesday to restrict the movements of PMOI members to their base at Camp Ashraf, near the Iranian border, and to prevent them from contacting government officials.

The government will also form a committee to decide whether to allow them to remain in Iraq or find a country to exile them to.

Iran has publicly complained about the continuing presence of the PMOI across its border. Under the former Iraqi regime of Saddam Hussein, the PMOI was supplied with weapons and tanks and periodically carried out armed incursions against Iran as well as helped Iraqi forces put down rebellious Shiites in 1991.

US forces confiscated the organization's weapons following the March 2003 US-led invasion, taking away some 300 tanks, many of which were subsequently given to the Iraqi armed forces.

The estimated 3,000 PMOI members are now under a kind of US-supervised house arrest at Camp Ashraf, which is mainly for their protection against hostile population on both sides of the border.

The group's activities are supported by its political wing, the National Council of Resistance in Iran (NCRI) which has offices in France and Germany and carries out lobbying efforts against the Iranian government.

While the PMOI is characterized as a terrorist group by the United States and EU, it has many supporters in the US Congress and British parliament.

Iraq Might Force Out Iranian Militants

Los Angeles Times

July 20, 2006

BAGHDAD — Prime Minister Nouri Maliki on Wednesday accused a militant Iranian opposition group of meddling in his country's affairs and suggested that it could face expulsion from Iraq, where it has been based for 20 years .

The Iraqi leader said the Mujahedin Khalq, which is dedicated to toppling Iran's Islamist government, had become too involved in Iraq's political and social issues .

"It is interfering as if it is an Iraqi organization, despite the fact that it is considered to be one of the terrorist organizations and its presence in the country contradicts the constitution," Maliki said at a news conference .

In response to a question, he said that government communications with the group had been banned and that a committee had been established "to find out the procedures related to their existence here" and to determine which countries would be ready to accept them as refugees.

The United States has listed the Mujahedin Khalq as a terrorist organization, although some U.S. officials have praised it as a tough opponent of the Iranian government.

The group was believed responsible for the slayings of several U.S. soldiers and civilians working on defense contracts in Iran in the 1970s, when Washington backed the shah. The Mujahedin Khalq also supported and may have aided the 1979 takeover of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, during which 52 Americans were held hostage for 444 days.

Tehran strongly opposes the group and has pressured Baghdad's Shiite-led government, dominated by parties with long-standing ties to Iran, to clamp down on its activities in Iraq . A Mujahedin Khalq statement Wednesday said that its members had a right to protection under the Geneva Convention and that their safety was the responsibility of U.S.-led forces .

"Any action against the [Mujahedin] represents nothing but the demands and wishes of the theocracy ruling Iran that have been conveyed to the Iraqi prime minister," the statement said .

A spokesman for the group said earlier that it had not been informed by Baghdad that it may have to leave Iraq, whose government has improved ties with non-Arab Shiite Iran .

The Mujahedin Khalq, which has carried out attacks in Iran, was believed to have received support from former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, whose troops fought the Islamic Republic in the 1980s. But the group's fortunes changed after a U.S.-led invasion toppled Hussein in 2003. It handed over its weapons after the U.S. bombed its bases .

Its estimated 4,000 members in Iraq are based at Camp Ashraf, north of Baghdad. It has many supporters in Europe and North America and operated openly in France until 2003 .

Iraq to Expel MKO

IRNA

July4, 2006

During a press conference in Tehran, government's spokesman Gholamhussein Elham, referring to the issue of extradition of MKO members, which has been requested by Iran from Iraq, said: "Iraq also has been a victim of terrorism and both countries seek to eradicate terrorism in the region."

He expressed hope that Iraqi government will take decisive and determined steps toward the issue and said: "supporting this terrorist group won't benefit any administration. If the

problems for the establishment of Iraqi government are resolved, there will be no problem in countering this terrorist movement."

Iran, Iraq discuss issues of mutual concern

IRNA

Baghdad, July 22,

Iran's Ambassador to Baghdad Hassan Kazemi Qomi conferred on Friday, July 29 with Iraq's Deputy Interior Minister for Security Affairs Shirvan Vaeli on issues of mutual concern .

At the meeting, the Iraqi official said Mujahedin Khalq organization (MKO) who have hatched numerous plots against the Iraqi nation must be expelled from the country .

"We are now preparing a comprehensive plan which requires approval of the government to expel the MKO from the country by the year end," he said .

"We strongly follow up the case because the MKO seeks to hatch plots against the Iraqi nation which has angered the Iraqi people," he underlined .

Officials at International Committee of the Red Cross and the United States have been informed of the need to take action to drive MKO out of Iraq, he underlined .

MKO Trying to Divide Muslims in Iraq

Fars News

Iraqi MP: MKO trying to foment trouble between Iraqi Shiites and Sunnis

Fars News Agency: the representative of Dyala province in the Iraqi parliament, Taha Dor' Al-Saadi, said that Baathists and the terrorist group of MKO, which enjoy the support of America, try to make division between Sunnis and Shiites.

In an interview with Al-Alam news channel, Al-Saadi said: "The elements of the MKO has played a very destructive role in Dyala province and has tried to foment problems for Muslims here".

"In 90s, former regime used this group to massacre the Kurds in the north and Shiites in the south. After the former regime was toppled, they exploited the instability to boost their position in Iraq".

Stressing the fact that the presence of MKO in Iraq has a negative influence on Iran-Iraq relations, Al-Saadi referred to the order of transitional government on expelling the MKO from Iraq and said the order has not been executed so far.

"It's now time to execute this order and expel the members of this organization, which has shed the blood of Iraqis. We in the parliament will do our best to expel this group from Iraq although there are some MPs who support this group".

"Americans support this group and its activities in Iraq," Al-Saadi added.

Pointing to the death of Zargawi in Dyala province and the emergence of his successor, Al-Saadi said: "Shiites and Sunnis have family relations here in Dyala and tribes work to eradicate terrorism".

Terrorist Group Supporters Meet in Washington

Kenneth R. Timmerman

NewsMax.com

May26, 2006

WASHINGTON -- Dozens of self-avowed supporters of an Iranian group on the State Department's list of international terrorist organizations met in a public building in Washington, D.C., to call on the Bush administration to legalize the activities of their group . The Mujahedin-e Khalq, also known as the People's Mujahedin Organization of Iran, was first blacklisted by the State Department in June 1994. Various front organizations, including the National Council of the Iranian Resistance, were added to the U.S. blacklist in 1997 .

While the blacklisting has prohibited the group from openly lobbying Congress, a variety of like-minded organizations have championed its cause, claiming to have no operational ties to the banned terrorist group .

"We sympathize with them," one of the organizers of Thursday's event told NewsMax, when asked why people attending the rally had been given banners with photographs of MEK leaders Massoud and Maryam Rajavi .

He said the event had been organized and paid for by "Iranian-American organizations," but would not name any specific group .

The MEK and its front groups have distributed letters in Congress in support of its cause that have garnered as many as 226 signatures from members of the House of

Representatives. Many congressmen who signed later said they had no idea they were supporting a terrorist group .

Story Continues Below

The MEK calls itself the Iranian "resistance," but other organized Iranian opposition groups in the United States and inside Iran consider them traitors, because the MEK allied with Saddam Hussein during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war .

Called "Islamic-Marxists" by the former shah, today even the Marxist Organization of the People's Fedaii Guerillas of Iran (OPFGI) has rejected the group .

But some U.S. military officers who processed MEK members after their training camp in Iraq was seized during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003 believe the United States could use the MEK to lead an armed uprising against the Tehran regime .

Thursday's pro-MEK rally was sparsely attended compared to similar events in the past. Elaborately staged to resemble a U.S. presidential nominating convention in an elegant hall at 1301 Constitution Ave., barely 100 people attended the event .

Participants were given noisemakers and other props to make the event appear like a mass rally. Professional video crews were posted around the large ballroom and sent live footage to a satellite truck outside, which beamed it to Florida and then to Europe, technicians said .

Organizers said the only member of Congress who addressed the rally was Rep. Ted Poe, R-Texas. An officer from the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Protective Services said he had been assigned to assist the private security detail hired by the organizers .

When asked why the U.S. government was allowing sympathizers of a group on the State Department's terrorist list to gather in a government-owned building -- the Andrew Mellon auditorium -- he said the decision had been made by his superiors. "I'm here to ensure that people can express their First Amendment rights without threat or restriction," he said . Also addressing the group was professor Raymond Tanter, who chairs the Iran Policy Committee, a private group in Washington that is lobbying Congress and the Bush administration to remove the MEK and its front groups from the terrorist list .

Tanter had just returned from Paris, where he and other members of the Iran Policy Committee had been invited to address a similar event sponsored by pro-MEK groups. IPC does not disclose its source of funding, but invites donations over the Internet .

While the MEK today opposes the clerical regime in Tehran, it took part in the 1979 revolution against the Shah. In a 1994 report to Congress, the State Department explained that it had designated the group as a terrorist organization because it had taken part in the 1979 taking of the U.S. embassy in Tehran and had murdered Americans working in Iran under the shah .