

ParsBrief

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Nejat Society Letter to the Court of First Instance of the European Communities

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Court of First Instance of the European Communities
Luxembourg

Dear Sir/Madam

With regards, we would like to require your consideration on a matter concerning your latest judgment to annul the EU Council's decision ordering the freezing of the funds of the Mojahedin-é Khalq Organisation (MKO) in the fight against terrorism. Initially it is worth mentioning that Nejat Society consists of those defected members of Mojahedin-é Khalq Organisation (MKO) who have managed to rescue themselves from the boundaries of the Organisation, and find themselves obliged to strive to help and rescue the members who are still mentally or even physically captive inside the Organisation .

Up to 500 ex-members of MKO have managed to return home to their families since the overthrow of the former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein. Nejat Society of course played a vital role with the help of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Iranian Red Crescent, and other international and domestic bodies as well as the families themselves to safeguard their homecoming .

Around 300 of those who have managed to flee the Organisation are kept in a nearby component under the supervision of "Temporary International Presence Facility (TIPF)". And evidently there are some 3000 members still left in Ashraf Camp inside Iraq. These people need to be rescued out urgently .

Several members of MKO have left their families and relatives many years ago to join the MKO ranks with the hope of bringing prosperity and welfare to the Iranians. But on the contrary they were themselves caught up with a dreadful cult that managed to control their minds and lives all together through the years in the boundaries of Ashraf Camp in Iraq .

They practically became part of Saddam Hussein's Army in the war against Iran. They were misused by the MKO leaders to risk their lives for terrorist activities against their own people for the interest of then ruling Iraqi dictator. Nejat Society is aiming to end these unfortunate people's misery .

The members and authorities of Nejat Society are well aware that they are facing a fierce tackle. The Mojahedin-é Khalq Organisation of course has adopted a hostile attitude against the Society and has never stopped its intense propaganda aggravation in order to stop the Society helping the MKO members .

All cults, typically try to intimidate their critics and opponents, particularly those who try to help the discontented members out. MKO is no exception. They have a long record of suppressing their despondent members and they have used all forms of mental and physical methods in order to make their followers yield .

Nejat Society has been the subject of all sorts of accusations by the MKO officials because it tries to make the contact of the members with their families possible, something the Organisation is truly terrified of. Nejat Society tries to help the defected members in Iraq who reside in "Temporary International Presence Facility (TIPF)". This of course is an unforgivable sin from the Organisation's point of view. Therefore they even try to subject TIPF into harassment. In one word Nejat Society is to save the elements caught up in the MKO and let them live .

We were therefore astonished to learn that the Court of First Instance of EC has annulled the EU Council's decision and has risked its status and have become the advocates of MKO in order to whitewash its dreadful deeds in the past and even at the present time. It has happened many times before that MKO has tried to misuse official and independent sources to gain credibility to counter its past accounts. This has evidently damaged the reputation of those establishments severely. We are well aware that the Organisation, like many cults of the same sort, is prepared to use enormous pressure and influence to reach its goals.

While an EU spokeswoman declined immediate comment on the ruling, saying legal experts were studying the judgment, the Mojahedin's TV suspended all its regular programs beating a jubilant tom-tom calling it a great victory. Nothing has changed. Its

funds being frozen or unfrozen, MKO remains a proscribed terrorist organization. Soon after the verdict was out the leader of MKO Massoud Rajavi gave out a statement declaring that MKO should be given a free hand in Iraq as well as Europe and America to do whatever they wish without being monitored.

You might be interested to know that MKO openly supports using violence and aggression as means to reach political objectives. One dreadful example was on the case of the most horrifying terrorist act of the century on September 11th 2001 incident which the Organisation celebrated the occasion in Ashraf Camp in Iraq just after the outbreak of the news.

Here we also wish to draw your attention to the latest report executed by the Human Rights Watch on MKO. The report which is called No Exit was issued on May 2005:

No Exit: Human Rights Abuses inside the Mojahedin Khalq Camps

Iran: Exiled Armed Group Abuses Dissident Members

Opposition Group Seeks Recognition and Support in Western Capitals

"Members who try to leave the MKO pay a very heavy price",

Finally we wish to call for your attention to the very fact that MKO is already interpreting the verdict as a political victory and is obviously encouraged to put more pressure on its discontented members who are captive in Ashraf Camp in Iraq. All cults need this sort of approvals to whitewash their misdeeds. They also use them to manipulate their members by showing them false victories .

With many regards and thankfulness

Nejat Society

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Al-Arabia's Detailed Report on MKO Cult

IranDidban

20/12/2006

Al-Arabia news channel broadcast a detailed report titled "MKO, Struggle for Survival". The program was hosted by Ahmed Abdulla, a powerful presenter of Al-Arabia. Contacting Ali Safavi, Alireza Jafarzadeh (MKO members) as well as Massoud Khodabandeh and Anne Singleton (former members of the group) and also Professor Gary Sick, Raymond Tanter and Dokhi Fasihian via telephone, the program discussed the status of the MKO, criticism about this terrorist group, its popular base and also its involvement in massacring Kurds in Iraq. Parts of the report are as follows:

Internal Criticism

Al-Arabia: Khodabandeh worked for the group in Iraq as the bodyguard of MKO leaders until he felt disappointed and now he is a strong opponent of the group.

Khodabandeh: "For a long time, there were sessions in the MKO known as "current operations", which served the promotion of sectarianism. Each person was required to take part in these sessions on daily basis to report what he had thought about during the day or what he wished or what he hated. He had to express them all for others. After confessions, the person was told to deny so-and-so and the purpose was to put the person under the pressure of others in order to clarify issues to him and shape him as they wanted".

Al-Arabia: Did all women wear scarves? Were they required to wear scarves?

Anne (Khodabandeh's wife): "Yes, wearing scarf was one of the conditions in the Camp."

Al-Arabia: Anne Singleton, the wife of Massoud Khodabandeh, was also MKO member for 7 years. One of his friends, an Iranian, was the reason for her interest in the group.

Anne: "In 1990, I officially became a member. I passed two weeks while being on hunger strike. I forced myself to accept that situation. I had prepared myself for that. In the early stages, I was told that I had to obey leader's orders totally. By leader, they mean Maryam Rajavi."

Al-Arabia: Massoud and Anne stress that the organization of Mojahedin tries to weaken family relations in order to absorb and keep members.

Anne: "The MKO claims that they are struggling for the freedom of women but the fact is quite opposite because the only thing they do is to force women to leave their children. Besides, they force women to divorce their husbands. They press women to quit thinking about forming a family, having a normal life and family relationships. The organization even prevents them from meeting their relatives who are also members of the group. Women can meet their relatives in the organization but the meeting should not be held as a family one since family relationships can affect relationship with "Sister Maryam"! In this cult, all should think about her and love her".

Al-Arabia: MKO leaders deny these, claiming that Massoud Khodabandeh is in touch with Iranian Intelligence Ministry. However, there's a more important accusation: MKO had special ties with Saddam Hussein's regime during 15 years of being in Iraq. Pictures released recently show Massoud Rajavi and MKO's number two man beside Saddam Hussein .

Ali Safavi (MKO member): "MKO had to change its position and settle in Iraq. Since 1986, when it was settled in Iraq, it has acted independent from the hosting government in issues like political, ideological, organizational and military issues".

Al-Arabia: You mean there has been no cooperation between the fighters of MKO and Saddam!?

Ali Safavi: "No".

Al-Arabia: Despite Mr. Safavi's answer, several sources including US State Department believe that Saddam Hussein has equipped the MKO and that the group received financial aid from Saddam's regime- apart from the financial aids from Iranian exiles. In this regard, Massoud Khodabandeh says: "After the first Gulf war in 1991, Taha Yassin Ramadhan, one of Saddam's senior deputies, asked the MKO to help Saddam in crushing the Kurds."

A Kurdish village destroyed totally by the MKO.

Massoud Khodabandeh: "What I remember is that Taha Yassin Ramadhan held a meeting with MKO members and that the MKO members expressed preparedness and praised his positions. Since Ramadhan lacked sufficient forces after the war, so he divided the forces. His own forces were only enough to suppress the uprising in the South. Therefore, Rajavi's forces were tasked with crushing the opponents in the North."

Al-Arabia: Since you eyewitnesses the destruction of a village by MKO forces, please tell us what happened.

Khodabandeh: "MKO forces leveled the village. Iraqi villages are small. Imaging what would happen to such village with 20 tanks. The village was intentionally devastated".

Al-Arabia: Was it done by MKO forces?

Khodabandeh: "Yes, it was done by MKO forces and their tanks and they were happy of this victory".

Al-Arabia: "According to some reports and news, during ideological and psychological sessions in Iraq, Massoud Rajavi taught anti-Imperialist and anti-American ideas to the members. Is the MKO capable of hiding its real face under a mask?

Khodabandeh: "Yes, particularly when they moved to Iraq they never thought that Saddam would fall someday. Therefore, they expressed their enmity towards west by relying on the regime of Saddam. This democratic face you see today is simply a fake".

Al-Arabia: MKO always denies this part of its history and those who talk about this are accused by the MKO of being involved with Iran's Intelligence Ministry!

Ali Safavi (MKO member): "This is only a propagandistic issue on which the Iranian regime spends hundred millions of dollars.

Al-Arabia: while the MKO and its supporters claim that there's no black or shameful point in the history of organization, experts believe that this claim is rejected by Iranians .

Professor Gary Sick: "There's no doubt that the MKO is rejected and renounced in Iran. There's no question on that. Iranians look at the group as traitor organization since it stood along with the enemy to overthrow the government".

Al-Arabia: Dokhi Fasihian was formerly the executive director of Iranian-American Council, a nonpartisan institution .

Al-Arabia: Ms. Fasihian, is it true that Iranians hate the MKO and reject it?

Dokhi Fasihian: "MKO claims that if elections were held in Iran, people would elect them but this is a sheer lie and an insult to Iranians".

Dokhi Fasihian: "Indeed, the MKO has no place among Iranians. They are rejected because of their cooperation with Iraqi forces during Iran-Iraq war. I believe that Iranians rather hate MKO than Americans. Iranian don't understand why some foreign governments and officials support such undemocratic groups that are known for violence and terrorism!

Terrorist listing not in question - Mojahedin-e Khalq is a terrorist entity

Associated Press, December 12, 2006

The European Court of Justice yesterday overturned an European Union (EU) decision to freeze the assets of an exiled Iranian resistance movement, that is on the bloc's terrorist blacklist .

The court's ruling annuls a 2002 decision to freeze all European assets of the Paris-based group, the People's Mujahadeen of Iran.

It was the first time an appeal to the EU's terrorist list has been successful at the Luxembourg-based EU court. EU legal officials stressed that EU governments would not immediately remove the exiled group from their terrorist list, saying they had to study the full 45-page ruling before any decisions would be made.

"For the time being, they are on the list," said Jean-Claude Piris, legal counsel to the 25 EU governments. "But we have to examine it as soon as possible ".

EU governments said in a statement that the court's ruling did not call into question the EU's antiterrorist list .

It said that the judgment also did not call into question a decision by EU governments that group was a terrorist organisation.

The US also lists the group as a terrorist organisation.

But the group, founded by students at Tehran University in the 1960s, insists it advocates the overthrow of Iran's hard-line clerical regime by peaceful means.

In its ruling, the court said the group was not given a fair hearing to defend itself against the move to blacklist it.

"Certain fundamental rights and safeguards, including the right to a fair hearing, the obligation to state reasons and the right to effective judicial protection are, as a matter of principle, fully applicable," the court said .

The court ruling said there was "a distinction" between Mujahadeen's appeal to the EU court and previous cases filed with the court to have names removed from the list.

The EU court last July dismissed requests by two terrorist suspects to annul the bloc's moves to freeze their assets under a United Nations (UN) antiterrorist order .

The court said the exiled Iranian group was added to the list under EU law, and not under a UN order, as with the others, so EU governments are "bound to observe" fundamental rights under EU law.

Piris said that the ruling would likely force a change in how European governments add groups or persons to the list, suggesting that rules include informing those suspects after they have been added to the list, so they could exercise their right to appeal the decision at the EU's high court.

The list, set up after the terrorist attacks on September 11 2001 and which was last updated in May, is done in secret by a special committee of security representatives from each member state.

The blacklist contains 45 people and 48 groups or entities believed to be involved in terrorist activities.

Iran dismisses European Court's ruling on MKO assets

Tehran, Dec 13, IRNA

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad- Ali Hosseini on Wednesday dismissed as "legally unjustified and unacceptable" a ruling by the European Court of First Instance which annulled an EU decision to freeze the assets of the terrorist Mujahideen Khalq Organization (MKO) .(

"The ruling runs counter to the spirit of the UN Security Council resolution 1373 which holds governments responsible for fighting terrorist groups," said Hosseini on Wednesday . Hosseini said such a measure will bring the credit and competency of authorities whose main responsibility is to defending people's interests and fundamental rights under question .

The world public opinion will never forget MKO's black record of inhumane crimes including their complicity in massacre of innocent Iranian and Iraqi people by former regime of Saddam Hussein, he added .

He said MKO has been recognized as a terrorist group by international organizations on the basis of the UN Security Council resolution 1373 and an European Union approval .

He added that any measure to unfreeze terrorists' assets could serve to revive terrorism and spread terrorist activities. It will also be contrary to the responsibilities of the European Union in campaign against terrorism, he added .

Iran calls for an appeal against the European Court of First Instance, urging a fair and just judgment .

Court decision leaves victims trapped in destructive Rajavi cult

Newsire, Washington, December 14, 2006

<http://releases.usnewswire.com/GetRelease.asp?id=77552>

A legal judgement of the Court of First Instance of the European Court of Justice on 12 December will have no substantial effect. According to various foreign office officials, the Mojahedin-e Khalq organisation (MKO) remains on Europe-wide terror lists. But the judgement has seriously undermined humanitarian efforts to help victims of the MKO, which is acknowledged by experts to be a destructive cult. Basic flaws in the basis for the judgement has left it open to misinterpretation and misuse by the opportunist Mojahedin-e Khalq, also known as the Rajavi cult. Critics say the Court ruling was politically motivated. Following announcement of its judgement, Iran-Interlink wrote to the Court expressing disappointment at the level of evidence on which the ruling was based.

The letter said in part: "The delicate and ongoing humanitarian effort of the UNHCR, ICRC, HRW, AI and many smaller organisations to rescue victims of the MKO headed by Massoud Rajavi and Maryam Rajavi in Iraq has been jeopardized by this decision.

Massoud Khodabandeh, spokesman for Iran-Interlink said, "This ruling contains glaringly obvious errors, which were simple to verify. Its main effect has been to further victimise the cult members and remove from them near hope for rescue".

In its press release No. 97/06, the Court, which is based in Luxembourg, states "In the past, it [MKO] has had an armed branch operating inside Iran." This is demonstrably erroneous. The Mojahedin operated all its armed personnel exclusively from inside Iraq as part of the Iraqi military apparatus and only made armed incursions into Iran with the

permission of the Saddam's military. The remains of this 'armed branch' are of course currently detained in Camp Ashraf 60 km north of Baghdad.

The court ruling also states "that it [MKO] has expressly renounced all military activity since June 2001". Massoud Khodabandeh explained 'this was a privately expressed statement by the MKO. The Court apparently took them at their word. Yet there is clear evidence to show that MKO military activity continued right up to the allied invasion of Iraq in March 2003. Even right now they are openly promoting terrorism and threatening their critics in the EU and US. These critics have been "condemned to death" by MKO's Revolutionary Court pending the execution of their sentences in Europe and the USA'.

The Iran-Interlink letter continues: "The day after your ruling, Massoud Rajavi who is wanted by Interpol for war crimes and crimes against humanity, emerged after three years of silence, to tell his commanders in Iraq they will soon get their arms back and they can resume their armed activity. How does this square with the claim to have renounced military activity"?

In the last few years Iran-Interlink and other agencies have been successful in helping people leave the Rajavi cult and re-integrate into normal society. Many of the survivors are resident in western countries including most of Europe and the UK, Scandinavia and Canada. Mojahedin military activity has resulted in the deaths of 16,000 Iranians, most of whom were civilians. The Mojahedin has also imprisoned and tortured hundreds of its own members resulting in several deaths.

Mr Khodabandeh stressed that the Court judgement reinforces the false image of the MKO as a political entity. "The main victims of this court ruling are the individual cult members interred in Camp Ashraf. They are now unable to leave the cult. Unable to make contact with their families and unable to return to their homes, the MKO will now tell those members trapped in Camp Ashraf that their armed struggle is being supported by western democracies. It gives them an open hand to increase psychological coercion on the remaining hostages in Camp Ashraf".

Iran-Interlink's letter to the Court of First Instance points out that the ruling "is a gift to the Islamic Republic of Iran which will use it to accuse the west of double standards."

Massoud Rajavi in his message to Camp Ashraf, a day after the court ruling, has openly announced that he wants the MKO to be financed by the west, but the only foreseeable use for the MKO is to be re-armed and help the insurgents in Iraq. For over two decades Massoud Rajavi and Maryam Rajavi have been promising to achieve victory through armed struggle. They are still promising the same. Yet, nothing they have achieved so far would lead anyone to believe they provide value for money.

ENDS

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