

# ParsBrief

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## **Britain Keeps MKO on Black List**

### **IRNA - 2007/03/01**

A number of British MPs in the House of Commons discussed the issue of Iran's nuclear program.

In the meeting, the report of which was published by British Parliament's website, UK Foreign Office minister Kim Howells responded to some MPs' request for lifting MKO from terror list: "On the proscription of Mojahedin-e Khalq, the Home Office rejected an application for de-proscription last year and that is, strictly speaking, a matter for the Home Office."

"The MEK is proscribed under the Terrorism Act 2000 and its involvement in violence means that it has little support in Iran. The MEK claims to support human rights and democracy, but it is hard to square that with its authoritarian structure and claims by respected human rights non-governmental organisations of serious violations of the rights of its own members," he added. In response to protests on terrorist designation of MKO, Mark Pritchard said:

"All solutions on Iran, whether by the international community or Iranian exiles, should be peaceful. They shouldn't be aimed at weakening the position of current regime."

"I believe that we should respect Foreign Office's decision to band the MKO".

### **Mujahedin-e-Khalq Organization remains on EU's terror list**

#### **Press TV**

**01 Mar 2007**

France says the anti-Iranian terrorist outfit "Mojahedin e Khalq" Organization (MKO) is on the European Union's list of "terror organizations".

French Foreign Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy made the remark on Wednesday, adding that, "In France, this organization (MKO) is still under prosecution."

"The judicial prosecution was instituted in 2000 and it has led to the arrest of 165 members of the MKO. Some key figures of the Organization, including Maryam Rajavi, have also been tried," said Douste-Blazy, who is also a French presidential candidate.

He asserted that his country's officials were carrying out their duties according to the law and would never show any tolerance or flexibility towards the terrorist gang.

Asked if France assumed the Lebanese Hezbollah as a terrorist group and if the group was ever listed by the EU as a terrorist organization, the French foreign minister replied, "No. Hezbollah is not on EU's list of terrorist organizations."

"In our point of view, Hezbollah has representatives in the Lebanese parliament, he said, however adding that France would like to see Hezbollah active only on the political front.

### **Commemoration of 8th of March, The International Women's Day**

Paying tribute to the women's roll in the society, and examining the situation of women in Rajavi's cult

The former women members of Mojehedin-e Khalq Organisation (MKO) participated in a commemorative meeting which was organised by the Nejat Society in Isfahan on the anniversary of the International Women's Day. They presented a conclusion about their experiences from the cultic relationships within the MKO to the concerned families of the MKO members. The atmosphere dominating the cult was also explained and they described how women, even more than men, are mentally abused in the organisation.

The meeting was opened by Ms Rabii. She explained how women have been victims of various cults including the MKO particularly as mothers. The meeting was followed by a panel to discuss the situation of women in cults and two vital questions about women in MKO were discussed. The two queries are as follows:

1. Why women have been given higher positions in the MKO?
2. Why less women defect from the MKO compared to the men?

In this panel Ms Shalchi, Ms Qorsi, and Ms Sadri spoke about their experiences within the

MKO. They discussed that despite Rajavi as the leader of the MKO is a man but he has given all key responsibilities to women. This is of course due to the fact that he does not trust men and finds women more reliant. They illustrated how Rajavi suppressed the natural emotions, passions and feelings of women and forced them to divorce their husbands and abandon their children. Rajavi knows well that this suppression would absorb them to his cause and make them all dependent on him. The ladies provided many examples and facts about the misdeeds occurring inside the organisation. For instance Ms Sadri explained how she was suggested to give her one year old child a bottle of milk containing cyanide and how she was made to slap her husband into his face. Ms Qorsi declared that she was threatened that she would be sent to Abu-Ghuraib Prison if she would not submit to the demands of the organisation. Ms Shalchi testified that the organisation believes family is the nest of corruption and made the followers to have the same thought. The conclusion at the end of the panel was the answer to the above mentioned questions that although men and women are equal by creation, but the society has imposed them certain eminent roles. Women, particularly in eastern societies like Iran are more reluctant and dependent to someone else than men. They generally feel the need of being supported. On the other hand women are the core of the family and very dependant to them, therefore the organisation, like many cults, tries to turn their love to the family into hatred. Women would be totally vulnerable to be dependent to the cult and its leader once a woman is made to hate her family and would be much harder for her to break ties with the cult and leave the organisation. Finally the families who had participated in the meeting raised their questions to be answered by the panel. They mainly wanted to know that how they can help their beloved ones out of the terrorist cult of Rajavi.

### **Iraqi MP Asks for MKO Expulsion**

**IRNA**

**2007/03/11**

IRNA quoted Al-Edaleh newspaper writing: "Kamal Saedi, Iraqi member of parliament from the list of Unity Coalition asked the Iraqi government to discuss the dangers of MKO's presence in Iraq seriously."

"This organization is a terrorist group and those who oppose its expulsion should take care of the group themselves," he added.

### **Iraqi S.Criminal Court to hold trial against Mojahedin Khalq (Rajavi cult)**

#### **Iran mania, March 12, 2007**

<http://www.iranmania.com/News/ArticleView/Default.asp?NewsCode=50287&NewsKind=Ccurrent%20Affairs>

LONDON, March 12 (IranMania) - Iraqi Supreme Criminal Court will conduct trial of the ringleaders of Mujahedin Khalq Organization (MKO), Iraqi chief prosecutor of the supreme criminal court Jaafar al-Mousavi said, IRNA reported. The court has evidence of war crimes and involvement in the crackdown on Iraqi people during rule of Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein by Mujahedin Khalq Organization, al-Mousavi said. He said that the Iraqi Supreme Criminal Court has compiled documents about the killing of Iraqi people in the context of Saddam's crackdown against the people in return for huge amount of money from Iraqi public fund. "The MKO had been involved in a crackdown operation against Shia Muslims in 1991 in Southern Iraq and Iraqi Kurds in Northern Iraq. Currently 4,000 MKO members are at Ashraf camp under protection of the US troops

### **MKO's Ties with Jordanian Intelligence Service**

#### **Sotaliraq**

**2007/03/04**

<http://www.sotaliraq.com/iraq-news.php?id=47181>

Jordan expands its ties with the MKO and King Bandar of Saudi has decided to support this group and Jondallah in Baluchistan. Security guards of Amman international airport have received an order by Jordanian interior ministry to offer facilities to those MKO members who have passports from Iraq or other countries. This decision was made during last months, after there were cooperation and close ties between this organization and Jordanian security services on Iran-Iraq issues. According to sources close to Accord Front

in Jordanian capital, MKO has opened an official base in Amman after CIA advised Jordanians to increase their cooperation with the group. There's no doubt that most of meetings and ties between the MKO leaders and members of Accord Front are being held in Amman. These very meetings led to the recent visit of Sunni delegation (headed by Accord Front and Al-Hiwar Al-Watani Front) to Brussels. Adnan Al-Dulaimi, Zafer Alaani, Khalf Al-Ayan and Sale Al-Motlaq were among the 12 who comprised the delegation. Eight of them stayed in Germany and Netherlands to seek political asylum. Sources close to Accord Front in Amman say that the Jordanian officials pay equal attention to the MKO and Iraqi government opponents. Some diplomats of Persian Gulf in Amman stressed that this cooperation with the MKO is not limited to Jordan and that Saudi Arabia has also decided to support all Iranian opposition groups in order to be able to decrease Iran's political and military influence in the region. The MKO and Jondallah are of these groups. The latter is the one active in the Iranian Baluchistan region. According to these diplomats, King Bandar Bin Soltan from Saudi Arabia has been personally involved in making such decision. In this regard, Riyadh received a high delegation of MKO in December. Diplomats say that Americans have encouraged Riyadh to establish more ties with the MKO and that they are lobbying for similar purposes in Europe. Recently, Washington has convinced Norwegians to allow the group to open an office in Oslo and Maryam Rajavi, the leader of group, visited Oslo last year. The opponents of Iraqi government based in Amman say that Saudi embassy in Amman is giving more time to the MKO and it seems that they have a better chance to be supported by Saudis. "Saudi embassy in Jordan is considered one of the most important Saudi embassies in the region and it is in charge of security and intelligence operations," they said.

Political analysts believe that Saudi Arabia's approach to the MKO is not new but what's new is King Bandar's relationship with the group to interfere in Iraq-Iran affairs. Despite the opposition of Iraq's public opinion and this country's officials, this organization is still present in Iraq as an opposition organization and American occupiers support it. Meanwhile, despite Iraqi MPs decision the group should be expelled from Iraq, Americans support the group and like Saudis believe that the group is a threat to the security of Islamic Republic.

## **The EU-wide asset freeze against MeK is therefore still in force**

**Britain, House of Lords, March 13, 2007**

**Lord Avebury (Liberal Democrat) | Hansard source**

asked Her Majesty's Government:

What action they have taken to comply with the ruling of the European Court of First Instance in the case *Organization des Modjahedines du Peuple d'Iran v Council of the European Union*, annulling Council Decision 2005/930/EC of 21 December 2005 freezing the funds of the organization; and in what manner they will now provide for the full hearing of the case against the organization.

**Lord Triesman (Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Foreign & Commonwealth Office) | Hansard source**

On 12 December 2006, the Court of First Instance (CFI) of the European Community annulled the Council of the European Union's decision to add the Mujaheddin e Khalq (MeK, also known as OMPI or PMOI) to its list of terrorist organizations subject to an EU-wide asset freeze. The CFI judgment focused on issues of EU procedure; the Court did not rule on the substantive question as to whether the MeK is a terrorist group.

The specific Council decision of December 2005 annulled by the Court has been replaced by a subsequent Council decision of May 2006. The EU-wide asset freeze against MeK is therefore still in force. The EU keeps its terrorist asset freezing decisions under regular review.

Following the CFI decision on the MeK case in December, the EU has reviewed the listing, using improved procedures, and on 30 January reaffirmed its decision to include the MeK on its list of terrorist organisations. In line with the Court's requirements, it has written to the group setting out the reasons for the decision, and explaining how the group can exercise its right to provide further information relevant to the case and/or petition for delisting.

**I am a trained Islamic terrorist**

## **The Sun**

**By SAMANTHA WOSTEAR**

**March 02, 2007**

<http://www.thesun.co.uk/article/0,,11000-2007100090,00.html>

IN her neat home nestling in a quiet suburban street, mum Anne Singleton peers out from her cottage-style windows.

Her Audi sits in the driveway and beyond it she sees a neat row of cedar trees leading to a church in an open field.

It is a typical English scene . . . and a lifetime away from the hostile deserts of Iraq and the military training camps of the People's Mujahidin of Iran. Though Anne also once called these home.

She was in the clutches of the terrorist organisation and ready to give her life — and sacrifice the lives of the innocent — in the name of a bloodthirsty war

Little more than a decade ago, Anne was learning how to fire rifles and gearing up to fight for the group backed by Saddam Hussein.

Then, she believed her comrades were fighting for freedom in Iran — and that the deaths of innocent people were a justifiable means to an end.

But now the 48-year-old recognizes the group for what it is — a deadly, extremist terrorist organisation.

With growing numbers of British youngsters being recruited into terror cells, Anne hopes her story will act as a warning.

At her home in Leeds, she tells The Sun: "What happened to me could happen to anyone. "These groups entice concerned activists then persuade them to commit terrorist atrocities.

"They convinced me to give up my life to follow them. Now I see their methods were identical to the ones cults use to brainwash people."

Anne became involved with the extremists while studying English at Manchester University in 1979.

Her boyfriend at the time, an Iranian called Ali, was interested in the Mujahidin — a group formed in 1965 to free Iran from "capitalism, imperialism, reactionary Islamic forces and despotism".

Anne says: "I went along to Mujahidin meetings held in Manchester. In truth, I could not understand what the leader was saying in the videos we saw but I was transfixed.

"It all seemed so exciting. I thought, 'I want to help them and do some good' so I decided



to convert to being Muslim.”

Anne did not realise she was being psychologically manipulated.

She says now: “They flatter you in a way that you don’t even realise they are doing it.

“They really put themselves on a pedestal so that when they want you to join them, you feel special.

“I thought I was a saviour of the world and would have done anything for the Mujahidin.”

In 1989 Anne moved to London to become more involved in Mujahidin activities, working in computing and PR for them.

The computer programmer says: “They told me I should dedicate myself totally to them and that they needed me.

“The following year, during a hunger strike, I succumbed fully.

“I took two weeks off work and by day three of not eating I felt like I was on a complete high.

“We were given tea and sugar to keep us going and I had entered a completely different state of mind.

“I was adamant that this was what I should do for the rest of my life.”

Anne has since discovered that hunger and sleep deprivation are classic cult recruiting techniques.

She says: “I didn’t question anything. I was shown a film of a female suicide bomber blowing up an ayatollah in Iran. It was horrific and very shocking at first.

“But they showed me the film so many times that I got less and less distressed. Eventually I didn’t bat an eyelid. Of course, I heard politicians and journalists describing the group as extreme but I dismissed it and assumed they didn’t understand.

“There were 30 or 40 of us living in a safe house and I was the only white person. I never left unless it was for fund-raising or a demo.

“We had no possessions and any money we earned or benefits we received had to be handed straight over to the group.

“We were discouraged from keeping in contact with any family or friends.”

Anne’s parents, an office administrator and a painter and decorator, insisted she gave them her address and they wrote to her regularly, but letters were often confiscated.

In 1992 Anne was asked to go to the Iraqi desert for military training.

She says: “I loved the camp. It felt liberating to obey orders because then you lose all responsibility for yourself. I had a uniform, did assault courses, learned how to drive trucks and did firearms training.

“When I signed up to the Mujahidin I never imagined I would do that, but once I was there

it seemed totally normal.”

After three months Anne was sent to Sweden to carry on with the PR work. But she became depressed after the group introduced a new rule banning marriages and families. Anne says: “That rule seemed too final. I knew a family was the one other thing I wanted from life.

“To try to make me pull myself together they demoted me, sent me back to London and gave me less responsibility.

“It was reverse psychology, but I was so depressed that even that didn’t work.

“I’d lost all motivation. They tried to make me feel guilty, saying I was letting them and God down.

“By 1993 I knew I wanted to distance myself from the group so I began to work part-time again as a college administrator.”

Anne was finally ready to leave — but the Mujahidin wouldn’t let her go easily. She says: “They tried to make me frightened of the outside world, saying it was dangerous. They said I’d end up living an immoral life or get sucked into drugs or crime if I abandoned the values of the Mujahidin.”

Around this time Anne met Massoud Khodabandeh, a senior and disillusioned member of the group who had also decided to leave.

They went their separate ways but met again and married in 1997. Three years later they had a son.

Anne says: “We are both Muslim but after we left the Mujahidin we would go out and get drunk just to be ‘normal’. Being able to think for yourself was amazing.

“We were like little kids doing things like going to the supermarket and choosing our own food. We discussed what we’d been through and I had no doubt we were psychologically manipulated. We’re fortunate we have each other to lean on.”

Anne feels it is only since the birth of son Babak, now six, that she truly feels like her old self.

“His birth made me pull myself together and we moved to Leeds shortly afterwards,” she says. “My family live there and after years apart it was great to be close again.”

The couple are now in a group called Iran Interlink, which campaigns AGAINST terrorist cells.

Anne says: “When I joined the Mujahidin I never had any intention of fighting. But by the end I thought it was OK to kill and assassinate.

“I thought it was right that people would die on suicide missions. I’m appalled at that now.

“France and Germany have ministers for cults and I think we need the same here.

“People are free to do what they like virtually until they reach the point of blowing someone up.

“The Government needs to look at terrorism from the angle of recruitment. People have a civilian mind where they know it is wrong to fire a gun and hurt someone. You have to be trained to kill and that is what’s happening in these groups.

“Psychological manipulation can happen to anyone at any time.

“If you’re lucky, you end up with a timeshare. If you’re unlucky you end up blowing yourself and innocent people up on the Tube.”