

ParsBrief

Number 33

May 2007

1. MEK A Banned Group on Canadian List
2. EU Provides Reasons for Designating the MKO
3. EU nations agree to notify groups, individuals why they are on terror list
4. MKO Rides Terror Boat
5. Open letter to Lord Corbett of Castle Vale
6. MKO hired actors for demonstration in Brussels: German news magazine
7. America's Covert Terror War Against Iran



Brief No.33

www.nejatngo.org

May,2007

MEK A Banned Group on Canadaian List

Cnews/Mojahedin.ws

2007/04/20

Reflecting Canada's decisiveness in war on terrorism, the Canadian Cnews reported that the government considers MEK a terrorist organization in spite of protesting rallies orchestrated by the group.

According to the report, several hundred chanting, flag-waving demonstrators paraded on Parliament Hill on Thursday, urging the government to drop an Iranian opposition group from the formal list of banned, terrorist organizations.

The protesters, many of them Iranian emigres, said the PMOI, the People's Mujahedeen Organization of Iran, offers secular opponents of the theocratic Iranian regime a political option for change .

The group is banned by the government as part of a larger terrorist organization called Mujahedeen-e-Khalq or MEK which was placed on the list of banned groups in May 2005 and its status was reviewed last November .

The Public Safety Department describes the group as "an Iranian terrorist organization that was based in Iraq until recently. It subscribes to an eclectic ideology that combines its own interpretation of Shiite Islamism with Marxist principles. The group aspires to overthrow the current regime in Iran and to establish a democratic, socialist, Islamic republic ".

The department also says MEK is believed to have had ties to Saddam Hussein, as well as a number of Palestinian factions and is suspected of working with the former Taliban regime in Afghanistan .

EU Provides Reasons for Designating the MKO

AFP, April 20, 2007

The European Union will send letters to groups and individuals on its terror register to explain why they are listed, EU diplomats said Friday.

The decision, to be adopted Monday by EU foreign ministers, was made in the wake of a ruling last year by Europe's second-highest court annulling a freeze on the assets of the main Iranian opposition group in exile.

The Court of First Instance ruled that the EU had not respected the right to a fair hearing of the People's Mujahedeen of Iran (OMPI), when it ordered the asset freeze in May 2002.

One diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that the EU's reasoning will be posted in its official journal for the groups and individuals for whom it has no address.

Those listed have 30 days "to present their arguments" against the decision.

The terror register lists more than 50 organisations and individuals, including the armed Basque separatist group ETA, Sri Lanka's Tamil Tigers and the Islamist group Hamas.

It is supposed to be revised every six months but this has not happened because of uncertainty caused by the court ruling.

An asset freeze is imposed on those who figure on the list.

The EU has already written to OMPI, recalling "the organisation's past, notably the attacks that it has been responsible for", the diplomat said.

EU nations agree to notify groups, individuals why they are on terror list

The Associated Press

April 23, 2007

LUXEMBOURG: European Union nations decided Monday they will inform groups and individuals when they are placed on the EU terror list.

The move came in the wake of last year's EU high court ruling which ordered the 27-nation bloc to give rights to all parties on the list.

Those listed will now be able to request the reasons why they are on the list and why their assets are frozen, officials said on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the issue.

Monday's changes did not scrap any names or groups from the list, officials said. The list includes 60 groups and individuals, with people like Osama bin Laden, Hamas and al-Qaida. The decision was taken without debate during a meeting of EU foreign ministers talks here.

A panel of EU experts reviews the list every six months behind closed doors, but its decision in 2002 to freeze all European assets of an exiled Iranian resistance movement led to a court case at the EU's Court of Justice filed by the group.

The EU court annulled the decision to freeze the assets of The People's Mujahadeen of Iran, also known by the acronyms PMOI and MEK, and ordered the EU to give all parties on the list a fair hearing.

It was the first time an appeal to the EU's terror list was successful at the EU court.

EU legal experts have argued that the court's ruling did not imply it had to remove the group from its list, an interpretation the PMOI has strongly opposed.

The group said in a statement Monday that the changes in the EU's procedures "are simply cosmetic changes to circumvent the court ruling." The U.S. also lists the group as a terrorist organization.

The EU governments had asked the group to submit a legal reply to the ruling to state why it should not be on the list.

The mujahedeen were originally set up in the mid-1960s to oppose the U.S.-backed dictatorship of the late Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

At the time, a Marxist splinter group within the PMOI carried out several attacks on Iranian security forces in which six U.S. advisers died. This was cited by the U.S. State Department as justification for placing the mujahedeen on its terror list in the mid-1990s.

After the 1979 Islamic revolution toppled the shah, the group was exiled to Iraq, from where they carried out cross-border raids during the 1980-1988 war between the two countries. Several thousand of its members were disarmed by U.S. forces after Saddam's overthrow in 2003 and restricted to an army camp near Baghdad.

The list, set up after the terror attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, is done in secret by a special committee of security representatives from each member state.

MKO Rides Terror Boat

Salim Al-Ramisi/Burathanews

10/04/2007

<http://www.burathanews.com/index.php?show=news&action=article&id=18360>

As the MKO entered Iraq, it was like the full symbol of infidelity and blind hatred for Iraqis. They did everything and acted all crimes against Iraqis for the former Baathist regime.

Since it's a terrorist organization, MKO uses the same methods of Baathists against the people of Iraq. They obeyed ousted regime of Saddam Hussein and they did their best to serve as wanted. They were involved in suppressing the uprising of Sha'banieh and attacks on villages and town in southern and northern Iraq.

The elements of the group were actively involved in killing women and children and committed worse crimes against our people. They were aboard of the same boat which was controlled by Baathists and Saddam. However, as soon as the boat of Baathists sank, they reached al-Qaeda's boat without knowing that this boat is also sinking. They thought that Qaeda's boat will save them so they also took remnants of Saddam on board. It's regrettable that all this is happening before the eyes of Westerners. They thought that they could escape justice of people. I swear to God that Iraqi people and leaders are waiting to put you into the same hole where Saddam was thrown.

If you are seeking a way it's only the way of leaving Iraq. From the time you entered our country, we asked for your expulsion. Your fate is close- God willing- and neither Dulaimi nor Zari nor El-Elayan nor Americans would be able to help you. The boat of terrorism would sink in the end and you would have no way out. Our people are vigilant and watch you murderers closely.

As an Iraqi, I ask Iraqi parliament and coalition forces not to hesitate in surrendering these hypocrites to the Justice, or expel them as soon as possible because this group is still plotting against Iraqis. MKO also holds tribal conferences which should be paid attention by government.

**Open letter to Lord Corbett of Castle Vale
(second letter, April 2007)**

Ebrahim Khodabandeh, April 08, 2007

<http://www.banisadr.info/EbiToLordEnglish.htm>

Link to the first letter:

<http://www.iran-interlink.org/index.php?mod=view&id=1864>

Dear Lord Corbett,

With the greatest respect, I refer to my previous letter dated February 28, 2007 and many questions which were forwarded to you relating your interview with the BBC that remained

unanswered. I was expecting you to clarify at least some of the queries I mentioned in my letter in your next interview .

)link to Lord Corbett Interview with BBC(

<http://www.iran-interlink.org/index.php?mod=view&id=1822>

http://www.bbc.co.uk/persian/iran/story/_070223/02/2007mf_mko_uk.shtml#a

Nevertheless, now I wish to refer to your recent interview with the Sky News television which was reflected in the website of the Mojahedin-é Khalq Organisation (MKO) called “hambastegimeli”. In this interview you called upon the west to move the obstacles on the way of the MKO who wants to topple the Iranian regime and you demanded the UK to adopt tougher stances against the Islamic Republic of Iran. You have also repeated your previous comments that enlisting the MKO as a proscribed terrorist group was done for political purposes due to appease the Islamic State .

Initially I should emphasise that your comments in your interviews are the replicate of those of Mas’ud and Maryam Rajavi which are constantly repeated in their statements. You also – exactly like them – do not go into details and leave many unanswered questions behind. I do not object you to repeat the leaders of MKO as long as you are prepared to explain quarries .

First of all I wish to know in details that how MKO was stopped to restore peace and freedom in Iran by simply being listed as a terrorist group? What political limitations are they experiencing in the western countries at this very moment? Do you expect the western security services to leave a destructive cult completely unwatched in their countries particularly after the terrorist incident of 11th of September? The MKO today is enjoying satellite broadcasting towards Iran from London; their weekly publication “Mojahed” is published in London and distributed round the world; they have access to parliamentarians and do get supportive press coverage; they have an open hand to raise money in the western countries and guide their activities inside Iran from Paris and other western capitals; they have no limitation on holding demonstrations, press conferences, and public meetings as well as travelling round the world and openly meeting people and they spend huge sums of money on this and have access to excessive funds. So I would be grateful if you could mention some facts relating to the limitations the MKO is enduring

in the west to restore peace and democracy in Iran which has come from the direct result of being listed as a terrorist group .

Secondly I would like to ask you that how come the organisation was listed in one instance for political reasons but now its name would not be removed from the list for similar political reasons. I do not believe that the deal – according to you - which was once held between the west and the Islamic Republic of Iran, still applies. On the contrary the relationship between the two sides has deteriorated day by day. I really want to know that what the entire American and European countries, particularly the US and the UK, are gaining politically by keeping the name of the organisation in the various international terrorist lists .

I am anxiously waiting to get the answers of the two above mentioned questioned either from you or any person who is claiming the same as you do. I also do wish that the name of the organisation be removed from any terrorist list round the world and every supposedly limitations imposed on them be lifted as soon as possible in order to take any excuse from them .

With many thanks.

Yours faithfully,

Ebrahim Khodabandeh

Ebrahim_khodabandeh_2006@hotmail.com

April 8, 2007

MKO hired actors for demonstration in Brussels: German news magazine

Iran-interlink, cologne, April 2, 2007

The MKO (Mojahedin Khalq Organisation) terrorist group (Rajavi cult) hired extras for a demonstration in Brussels on March 8 in a bid to cover up the small number of protestors, the weekly Focus news magazine reported Monday.

(A typical demonstration by Mojahedin Khalq Terrorists- aka: Rajavi cult)

Around 60 Iranian actors and actresses, who were not informed beforehand about the action, were paid the usual 50 euros per day fee to take part in the recent demonstration in Brussels where the MKO was protesting its continued blacklisting as a terror group by the European Union.

The extras were hired by a German casting agency, named 'House of Extras', which transferred them via two busses from Cologne to Brussels.

According to Focus, most of the side actors and actresses were duped into believing that the MKO demonstration was part of a movie and not a real event.

Once the extras arrived at the scene of a demonstration they were shocked and most of them broke away from the other demonstrators.

Meanwhile a representative of the German casting agency said that extras were also hired for another MKO demonstration in New York in fall 2005.

Jochen Cerff confirmed that 50 actors and actresses were hired in Hamburg and Leipzig to take part in a New York rally in front of the UN building.

The extras received reportedly a one-week complimentary trip to New York.

The MKO had also paid poor European-based immigrants from Africa and the Middle East, most of them social welfare recipients, to attend demonstrations in Berlin.

Several of the paid African demonstrators were told by the MKO that they would go on a sightseeing trip to Berlin.

The MKO was earlier found guilty of massive social welfare fraud in Germany throughout the 1990s.

Link to the original article by Focus.de

http://www.focus.de/politik/deutschland/gekaufter-protest_aid_51864.html

America's Covert Terror War Against Iran

ed strong

The Best That's Left

8 April 2007

The Bush Regime is sponsoring terrorist attacks as a means of ratcheting up its campaign of aggression against Iran. A US-backed militant Pakistani Islamist group has carried out a string of terrorist attacks against Iranian targets. The group known as Jundullah (Army of God), a Sunni militant organization made up of members of the Baluchi tribe, "has been secretly encouraged and advised by American officials since 2005" as it has carried out its deadly operations inside Iran. This US-backed terrorist group has close ties to both Al Qaeda and the Taliban, supposedly the principal enemies in Washington's "global war on terrorism"

A leading government official in Teheran charged Thursday that the Bush Regime is sponsoring terrorist attacks as a means of ratcheting up its campaign of aggression against Iran.

The charge by the speaker of the Iranian parliament, Gholamali Haddadadel, followed a report by ABC News in the US that Washington has been covertly aiding and advising a militant Pakistani Islamist group that has carried out a string of terrorist attacks against Iranian targets.

“There is no doubt in our minds that the United States spares no efforts to put pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iraq,” Haddadadel told reporters following a meeting with Pakistani officials in Islamabad.

“The best indication of United States support to a particular terrorist group is that one of the leaders of his terrorist group was given the opportunity to speak on VoA [Voice of America] after committing the crime.”

In its report aired first on Tuesday night, ABC charged that a group known as Jundullah (Army of God), a Sunni militant organization made up of members of the Baluchi tribe, “has been secretly encouraged and advised by American officials since 2005” as it has carried out its deadly operations inside Iran.

According to numerous published reports, this US-backed terrorist group has close ties to both Al Qaeda and the Taliban, supposedly the principal enemies in Washington’s “global war on terrorism.”

The organization is also believed to be involved in narcotics trafficking across the porous Iranian-Pakistani border.

Jundullah’s attacks have centered on the Iranian province of Sistan-Baluchestan, which borders both Afghanistan and Pakistan. In February, Jundullah terrorists carried out a car bomb attack on a bus in the Iranian city of Zehedan, killing at least 11 Iranians, most of them apparently members of Iran’s Revolutionary Guard. Another 31 people were wounded in the blast.

Other bloody attacks included a May 2006 bombing of a motorcade, which claimed the lives of at least 20. The group has also filmed the beheadings of captured Iranian soldiers and officials.

According to the ABC report, Pakistani intelligence sources said that the covert terror campaign was a central topic of discussion when US Vice President Dick Cheney met Pakistan’s dictator, President Pervez Musharraf, in February.

When asked by the Reuters news agency about this account, a spokeswoman for Cheney replied, “We don’t discuss conversations between the vice president and foreign leaders.”

Haddadadel, who was in Islamabad in part to seek Pakistani cooperation in stemming the cross-border attacks, dismissed this aspect of the ABC report.

“Some of the militants...are active in our border areas and we should work with Pakistan in order to increase security cooperation,” he said.

“There is no news, no evidence, and we don’t have any reason to believe that the military establishment in Pakistan is also supporting such militant groups.”

ABC indicated that the US-sponsored terrorism is an “off-the-books” operation, which some officials told the network was reminiscent of the illegal covert US “contra” war against Nicaragua under the Reagan administration in the 1980s.

Money, according to ABC’s sources, is funneled through Iranian exile groups in Europe and elsewhere to Jundullah’s leader, Abd el Malik Regi. Counterterrorism expert Alexis Debat told ABC that Regi “used to fight with the Taliban. He’s part drug smuggler, part Taliban, part Sunni activist.”

The purpose of this arrangement, US officials told the network is to avoid the necessity of “an official presidential order or ‘finding’ as well as congressional oversight.”

It is evident that the covert US links with Jundullah are only part of a broader destabilization campaign being waged by Washington with the aim of fomenting conflict between Iran’s Shia majority and a Sunni minority that accounts for nearly 12 percent of the country’s 70 million people.

The largest component of this Sunni population is made up of Kurds, followed by the Baluch and then the Turkoman, based in the northeast.

The CIA is also reportedly funding the Iran-based Kurdistan Free Life party to destabilize the Iranian government.

And Washington has come into conflict with the Iraqi regime over the presence in Iraq of some 3,800 expatriate Iranian members of the Mujahedin-e Khalq, or MEK, which has claimed responsibility for numerous terrorist attacks against Iran.

Even though the State Department has classified the MEK as a foreign terrorist organization, and the Iraqi regime accuses it of acting as an arm of the Saddam Hussein regime security forces, the Pentagon and CIA have provided it with protection at a base outside Baghdad and have reportedly sponsored its operations inside Iran.

Washington’s covert terror war against Iran is aimed at furthering a goal of “regime change” in Teheran. It is likewise designed to pave the way for a far more direct US military intervention.

As ABC aired its report of US-sponsored terrorism, a third US nuclear aircraft carrier battle group set sail for the Persian Gulf.

The USS Nimitz and its accompanying warships left San Diego on Monday, supposedly to relieve the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower.

The John C. Stennis Strike Group is also in the Gulf. Obviously, the Pentagon has the option of reversing the order to withdraw the Eisenhower, thereby concentrating unprecedented firepower against Iran.

The preparations for a US war against Iran are being carried out—with support from both Democrats and Republicans in Washington—under the same propaganda slogans used to justify the attack on Iraq: the threat from a supposed drive to build “weapons of mass destruction” and terrorist ties.

But, as the ABC report indicates, Washington itself appears to be pursuing its militarist policy by funding and advising a terrorist group connected to Al Qaeda, the organization blamed for the September 11, 2001, attacks.

<http://www.wsws.org/articles/2007/apr2007/iran-a06.shtml>