

ParsBrief

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Britain's Immoral Support of Terrorists

Iraninterlink - 2008/6/26

In response to the British Parliament's removal, on June 23, of the Iranian Communist MEK (MKO, PMOI, NCRI, Rajavi Cult, or Pol Pot of Iran) terrorists from the United Kingdom's list of banned terrorist organizations, Amir Taheri ("Iran's Troubling Opposition", Wall Street Journal, June 26, 2008, page A15) posed this question: "Does all of this mean that the British decision is morally wrong and perhaps politically counterproductive?" Taheri's answer was "an unequivocal yes" if this had happened in January 2003 but "not so sure" today. Taheri's change in position was based upon his questionable claim that the MEK has not committed any terrorist acts since it attacked an Iranian village in January 2003.

Taheri failed to explain that American and coalition military forces attacked Camp Ashraf , Iraq in 2003. Since April 2003, American and other military forces have protected Camp Ashraf , Iraq . The MEK terrorists could not continue terrorist activities from Camp Ashraf , Iraq without the approval of American military forces. There have been numerous reports in the American media of the use of the MEK terrorists by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and by the American Special Forces in Iran and in areas surrounding Iran for spying and for terrorist activities. There have been additional reports of MEK terrorist activities since 2003 in the Iranian media, such as:

<http://www.presstv.com/>

<http://www.irandidban.com/>

Taheri failed also to explain where the terrorist leader, Massoud Rajavi, is being held now. There have been media reports that the American military has been holding Massoud Rajavi in Iraq since 2003. Amazingly, Taheri has suggested that the MEK must hand over to the Iraqi prosecutors those in the MEK responsible for the atrocities committed against the Shiites and Kurds in Iraq to please Saddam Hussein. The American military is holding or protecting many of these terrorist criminals in Iraq . France provides a safe harbor for other MEK terrorists.

For different views, read Massoud Khodabandeh and Anne Singleton's views at <http://iran-interlink.org/?mod=view&id=4701>

Taheri noted that the British Parliament's action will enable the terrorists to recruit members and to raise money in Britain . Taheri failed to address the issue raised by Massoud Khodabandeh and by Anne Singleton about permitting MEK members at Camp Ashraf , Iraq to leave Iraq .

Anne Singleton has provided the following links for researchers who want to read the discussions in the British Parliament leading to this decision:

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080623/debtext/80623-0015.htm#08062346000001>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080623/debtext/80623-0016.htm>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080623/debtext/80623-0017.htm>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080623/debtext/80623-0018.htm>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80623-0013.htm#080623490000003>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80623-0014.htm>

Paul Sheldon Foote, June 26, 2008

<http://360.yahoo.com/paulsheldonfoote>

Link to the Article "Iran's Troubling Opposition " by Amir Taheri (WSJ)

<http://iran-interlink.org/?mod=view&id=4720>

Nejat Society Letter to the Head of Iraqi Government

Office of the Prime Minister
Baghdad
Republic of Iraq

Honorable Mr. Noori Al-Maliki the Head of Iraqi Government

We learned with outmost pleasure that the board of ministers of the Iraqi Government has passed a resolution base on the Iraqi constitutional law which indicates that the Mojahidin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) and their base called the Ashraf camp in Iraq must be put under the control of the Iraqi government. We praise this courageous and prudent decision which is most certainly to the best interests of the Iraqi people and its government. We do wish every success for the Iraqi people and government.

The Nejat Society in Iran is formed by former members of the Rajavi's terrorist cult (MKO) who have managed to free themselves from the captivity of this organization and returned home to their families. These people have experienced the process of brainwashing in this cult themselves and well know how their former colleagues in the Ashraf camp are mentally or even physically captivated and find no way out to the free world. The MKO under the protection of the allied forces in Iraq who have always guarded the Ashraf camp in the past five years has managed to find a safe heaven to carry out its cultic psychological techniques to achieve metal domination over its members and train terrorists in a remote place where unfortunately the Iraqi government has no control over.

We believe that more the Iraqi government's control is imposed over the Ashraf camp, sooner would these people be freed, sooner would they be released from captivity and wasting their lives, and sooner would they be able to see their families whom in some cases have not seen for over 20 years. In this regards we along with the families of the

members of this organization would like to request the following enquiries and thank you in advance for your cooperation:

1. Arrangements are required to be made for the families of the members of the MKO in the Ashraf camp to visit their beloved ones directly, without the presence of the MKO officials, in a place out of the MKO facilities, freely and for sufficient duration as soon as possible.

2. Regarding that cultic relationship is governing the MKO and this organization utilizes a pyramid structure to impose the leadership's control over the followers, it is essential to dismantle such structure once the control over the Ashraf camp has been gained by the Iraqi government and the contact of leaders and the followers is disconnected. It is also necessary to give these people enough time and opportunity to think and study freely in order to be able to decide and choose their own upcomings.

3. Some mechanisms are requested to be adopted in order to let these people have free contact with the outside world after more than two decades. Past psychological experiences indicate that members involved in a cult need to be mentally recovered once they are rescued from the cult in order to be able to return to the normal life. Therefore it is essential to books and other public relations means be provided for them freely as much as possible. The Nejat society is willing to provide means such as books and films and so forth if desired.

4. Efforts are demanded to be made in order to abolish the thought scrutiny courts called the Current Operations Sessions which are practiced daily in the Ashraf camp for all members; and the free contact of the isolated Ashraf camp be made with the outside world in order to speed up the recovery process of the members. The Current Operation Sessions is the main technique used by the MKO to brainwash the individuals.

5. With the exception of a few leaders of the MKO, the body of the organization and the members must not be looked at as criminals but rather victims. The truth is that the members of a cult are the prime victims of that cult who have lost their life and need to be helped and rescued. The main objective of the Nejat Society is of course to rescue these individuals who are truly captives.

Nejat Society

Tehran

Islamic Republic of Iran

Copy to:

Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in Tehran

Speaker and deputies of the Iraqi parliament

Head of Iraq judiciary system

Mass media

List of recipients

Iran-Interlink welcomes UK de-proscription as Iraq moves to expel MKO terrorists

2008/6/24

Following a ruling by the Court of Appeal, the UK government has removed the Mojahedin-e Khalq organisation from the British list of terrorist entities.

Commenting on this move, Iran-Interlink representative Massoud Khodabandeh said, "Whether and why the Rajavi cult is listed as a terrorist entity or not, is the responsibility of national governments and is linked to the security concerns and political manoeuvring of the countries involved to suit their own national interests. For organisations like ours which are working to rescue the members of this destructive cult, this move makes our work that much easier and we welcome it. De-proscription of the MKO in the UK has opened a much needed window of opportunity for these people to reach safety in the west. It is vital now for the MKO's supporters in Britain, led by Lord Corbett of Castle Vale, to immediately undertake to remove the remaining 3,300+ uniformed militants from Camp Ashraf where they have been incarcerated for five years under American protection and bring them to safety in the UK. They can then continue what MKO second-in-command, Maryam Rajavi, describes as their 'peaceful' opposition to the Iranian regime in line with British interests."

Massoud Khodabandeh visited Iraq in February and June this year and reported that the Iraqi government is pushing hard for the removal of all foreign terrorist groups from Iraqi territory. Since introducing a law which specifically designates the MKO as a terrorist group, the Iraqi government is currently negotiating with the American military a timetable for the expulsion of all members of the group who are not to be prosecuted for war crimes and crimes against humanity. Previous attempts by Iraq and the UNHCR to have the group removed have been hampered by the terrorist label in western countries. No country could legally accept them. Now that Britain no longer believes the MKO is concerned with violence, the UK must become a place of safety for the group's remaining members to take refuge.

Massoud Khodabandeh commented: "In this respect de-proscription of the MKO in the U.K. will enable Britain to fulfil its obligations to the members of this group who have been engaged in engineering the violent overthrow of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in close alliance with western interests, for nearly three decades. We cannot expect Iran or Iraq to offer succour to people who have committed acts of violence against the people of those countries. It is clearly the responsibility of the MKO's western backers to now rescue them."

Anne Singleton, author of Saddam's Private Army, commented: "whether it is described as a terrorist entity or not, the Mojahedin-e Khalq is a destructive cult. As such its members are denied even their most basic human rights. They exist in a condition of modern slavery. They do not enjoy freedom of thought or belief. Out of this situation, MKO leader Massoud Rajavi's mercenary quest for power has cost many thousands of lives. Some western politicians are eager to exploit this group for their own interests, but cannot do so without taking full responsibility for the lives and wellbeing of those they seek to use, and any acts of violence they will perpetrate in future by adhering to Rajavi's ideology."

Iran Interlink, June 24, 2008

Iraqi Tribal Leaders Want Mojahedin Khalq (Rajavi cult) Expelled

Alalam, Iraq, June 29, 2008

<http://www.alalam.ir/english/en-NewsPage.asp?newsid=031030120080628225807>

BASRA, Iraq, June 28--Southern Iraq's tribal leaders held a session Saturday in which they called for a bid to expel the terrorist elements of Mujahedin-e-Khalq Organization (MKO) from Iraqi soil.

Speaking at the session, tribal committee chief at Iraq's parliament condemned the existence of any terrorist organization in Iraq naming the MKO which was considered as a tool in the hands of Iraq's former Baath regime to suppress Iraqi Shiites.

Listed as a terrorist organization by Iran, Iraq, the United States, Canada and the European Union, the MKO is believed to be in charge of several terrorist operations carried out especially in Iran and Iraq.

"Southern tribes condemn all terrorist organizations because their hands are stained with Iraqi people's blood," Daqer al-Mousavi told the session.

Iraqi lawmakers and political leaders have long insisted on a request to expel the anti-Iranian MKO from Iraq.

Earlier this month the United Iraqi alliance, which is the biggest bloc in the parliament, and the National Kurdistan Alliance, submitted a bill to the parliament demanding an end to the presence of MKO terrorists in Iraq which was approved later.

Iraqi officials say the group is playing a significant role in violence and insecurity in the country.

"MKO members are crossing freely in Diyala every day and enjoying the most facilities in the province while Iraqi people are struggling with starvation to survive," Salem al-Dorraji, one of the tribal leaders, told Alalam reporter.

"We have no place for those who slaughtered Iraqi people in 1991 and are still killing our people, they must leave our soil immediately," al-Dorraji added.

Supported by Saddam Hossein, the MKO committed widespread crimes in Iraq, killing many people, after the 1991 Persian Gulf War.

Iraqi MP: Mojahedin Khalq (Rajavi cult) must leave in 6 months

Press TV, June 30, 2008

<http://www.presstv.ir/Detail.aspx?id=62020§ionid=351020201>

Iraqi MP Sheikh Jalaleddin al-Saghir has said the government will expel MKO members if they fail to leave the country before their six-month deadline is reached.

"After the deadline passes, the Iraqi government will not tolerate any pressure, or interference aimed at keeping MKO members in the country," Arab media quoted Sheikh Jalaleddin al-Saghir as saying.

"The procedure will be carried out according to a government decision. MKO members will be handed over to the Red Cross so that they can leave for another country," said al-Saghir.

The Mujahedin Khalq Organization [MKO] is recognized as a terrorist group by Iran, Iraq, Canada, the United States, and the European Union.

The organization, closely allied with former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, has carried out numerous bombings, assassinations, and terrorist attacks in Iran and Iraq over the past 25 years.

People's Mujahedeen (Rajavi cult) of Iran seek to be rid of terrorist label

France 24, 28 June 2008

<http://www.france24.com/en/20080628-big-get-together-people%E2%80%99-mujahedeen-iran-france-iran&navi=MONDE>

The controversial People's Mujahedeen of Iran (PMOI) held a grand assembly in the Paris suburbs Saturday. It used the opportunity to call for removal from the European list of terrorist organizations. (Report: C.Westerheide)

Since Monday, the People's Mujahedeen of Iran (PMOI) is no longer considered a terrorist organization in Great Britain. The group would like the European Union to do the same. That is the message they hoped to get across at their annual assembly, held Saturday in the city of Villepinte, in the Paris region.

"The Iranians, who will be coming from across France, Europe and North America will call on Europe to adopt a new and decisive policy towards the Iranian regime", explains Afchine Alavi of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), the public face of the PMOI.

The movement, which claims to have welcomed 50,000 people last year, had some 60,000 guests this year. Figures which journalist Alain Chevalerias doubts. The author of *Brûlé Vif (Burned Alive)* spent one year observing the Mujahedeen and their leaders Maryam and Massoud Radjavi.

"In their meetings, there are usually more chairs than guests. They boost their numbers by recruiting Afghani extras who are paid for the day." This was confirmed by Karim Hakiki, a FRANCE 24 journalist who was on the scene and noticed the presence of 3,000 Polish people.

The PMOI is a very controversial organization in France and in the world. The movement, also known as Mujahedeen-e-Khalq (MeK), started in 1969 in Iran. According to one of its former members, it was originally founded on "an eclectic mixture of Shiism and Marxism", to fight against the politics of Shah.

Saddam Hussein's Support

In 1979, the organization took part in the overthrowing of the monarchy but ended up being pushed aside by the Ayatollah Khomeini in the upheaval. In 1981, the movement was considered outlaw and its members were forced to leave the territory. Their leader, Massoud Radjavi, moved to Auvers-sur-Oise, in France, where he was able to obtain political refugee status.

During the war between Iran and Iraq, PMOI forces, financially supported by Saddam Hussein, attacked from France and Iraq Iranian troops along the border. "At this time, the Mujahedeen took refuge in Iraq" explains Alain Chevalérias.

In 1997, after the election of President Mohammad Khatami in Iran, the countries of the European Union opted for a policy of moderate reconciliation with Iran in economic and political areas.

At Tehran's demand, PMOI is placed on the United State's list of terrorist organizations. Great Britain and the EU follow suit in 2002.

After the fall of Saddam Hussein in 2003, the American army signed a cease-fire with the PMOI, who maintained bases on Iraqi soil, the most famous of which was the Achraf, north of Bagdad.

Suspicion of cult practices

The same year, in France as Nicolas Sarkozy became Interior minister, the French authorities search the headquarters of the PMOI in Auvers-sur-Oise, suspected of cult practices. Maryam Radjavi is arrested. As a protest, several members of the PMOI set themselves on fire.

"They are using psychological manipulation, the same method used in cults," said Alain Chevalérias. The PMOI defends itself with weighty support: Alain Vivien, Minister of state of Foreign Affairs, known for having directed the inter-ministerial mission fighting against cults.

In 2005, a new document against them further burdens the PMOI. A report published by Human Rights Watch denounces poor treatment by the organization of dissident members in its camps in Iraq. This report is later strongly criticized several months later by an investigatory mission composed of European parliament deputies who traveled to the Iraqi base in Ashraf. "HRW made the mistake of not questioning people directly," Chevalérias acknowledged. A new report would be published one year later to repair these errors.

The PMOI continually tries to improve its image and in particular remove this terrorist organization label that has been hung around its neck. "To do that, it's knocking on a lot of doors, particularly at the National Assembly," says Chevalérias. The association boasts about the number of supporters it has, people like Daniel Mitterrand [former French first lady], but also many parliamentary deputies in Europe.

"We are waiting for an evolution in relations with France"

The British decision to remove it from their blacklist followed seven years of legal battles between the PMOI and the EU. This act was undertaken by 15 English lords, sympathizers of the cause.

"It must be pointed out that there was never any proof to justify the accusation of terrorism," says Alain Vivien. For his part, Chevalérias notes that « the movement used terrorist methods, in particular using mortars in Iran. This was information that the People's Mujahedeen claimed in its publications."

"This inscription on the British blacklist formed the legal base for the inscription of the PMOI on the European list. Today, keeping the PMOI on this list has no place," notes Afchine Alavi. Unless another member state decided to put it on its blacklist.

The responsibility of this choice will come back to France, which will take over the rotating presidency of the EU beginning July 1st. Relations between the government and the association have been cut since the events of 2003. "We expect an evolution of our contacts with France, hopes Alavi.

UK deproscription offers lifeline to cult victims in Camp Ashraf

Omid Pouya, Mogahedin.ws, July 4, 2008

The Consequence of the Terrorist Tag Removed

Regardless of MKO's hysteric propaganda reactions following the UK Court of Appeal's ruling to remove its terrorist tag, the issue can be viewed from a different angle. Some opponents may condemn the move by the UK while advocates appraise it praiseworthy but there is a third view as well. It has to be pointed out that nothing changes MKO's natural inclination towards terrorism; still it is of significance that what might be the consequences of the move by the UK and its impacts on the structure of the organization and the captivated members in Camp Ashraf.

Against all baseless claims made by the organization, there exist obstacles that deter the process of transferring the detached members of Camp Ashraf to other countries or deprive them of benefiting asylum-seeking rights. Many countries, including the UK, disallow the entry of these members on the grounds of terrorism and especially because of the terrorist tag the organization carries. Removal of the group from the UK terrorist list at least implies that these members will face no more obstacles in future to cross the borders of this country. Furthermore, the British advocates of the organization claim to be the most enthusiastic supporters of it for humanitarian causes; the words are so promising for the members now facing an uncertain destiny.

In other words, the terrorist tag the group considers to have discouraged the struggle is now benefiting dissatisfied members if removed since all limitations they would face when seeking asylum are eliminated. The removal of the terror tag is one of those supposed solutions that, as once said, can decide the destiny of the Camp Ashraf residents and grant them the opportunity of leaving the organization on free-will and start a new life in whatever country they desire. They will be no wanderers in Iraqi soil if they leave Camp Ashraf because the main problem following the release from the bonds of the high walls is falling into the pit of eternal wandering which is even worse than their earlier condition.

In the past MKO has done its best to deprive the dissident members taking advantage of the given opportunities. In many cases the organization has utilized legal levers to impede the process of these members' asylum-seeking in Western countries and in England in particular. Incredible as it may seem, once MKO claimed that Iranian refugees in Western countries held any recognition of legitimacy because of MKO and that, no country would grant them asylum if it was not for the group. And some came to surrender to MKO and submitted to be at its service far from home since they thought they had no other choice if they preferred living in exile to expulsion.

After the relocation of its HQ from France to Iraq, MKO kept on with the tactic but in more aggressive and harsh manner. Now, no dissident was allowed to leave the organization

unless he dared to experience the horrible Abu-Ghuraib prison for a few years; hardly anybody could leave the notorious prison alive or preserving a healthy body to live on. Anybody who announced separation from the organization had to face the consequences of his decision personally, that is to say, he had to face allegations of illegal entry into Iraqi territories because he was no more under the protection of the organization that was granted a legal stay in Iraq. However, the evidences indicate that MKO has the potentiality of erecting a variety of obstacles, being familiar with the gaps in laws and security measures, in the way of its dissident members to be granted a place of safety in western countries.

Being removed from the terror list of England, and other lists as well, leads the organization, concerning the condition of dissident members, to a self-destruction abyss. MKO insists not to let any dissident and detached member enter the UK and will do anything to stop any attempt. Its future reaction depends on the support it will receive from its parliamentarian advocates following its removal from the list and the degree of granted freedom activities. It has to be noted that the ruling will impose heavy costs on the UK government as well. But the truth is that, in spite of all these costs, not MKO but the dissidents are the real winners who will benefit the most.