

ParsBrief

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Swiss judges examine the funding of a group linked to PMOI

Reuters News, Sep 29, 2008

About 10 people close to a banned Iranian opposition group were arrested last week in France and Switzerland in connection with a money-laundering investigation, judicial sources and the group's lawyer said.

Several of the people close to the People's Mujahideen Organisation of Iran (PMOI) -- listed as a terrorist group in the European Union and United States -- were in police custody on both sides of the border on Monday, the sources said.

The police swoop was coordinated between French and Swiss officials who were acting at the request of Swiss judges examining the funding of a group linked to the PMOI.

One of the PMOI's lawyers, William Bourdon, said the investigation was unfounded and was aimed at covering up what he said was the failure of an existing French probe.

"The Swiss case file is empty, and there is every reason to believe that the same is true in France and that this second judicial front has been opened to try to hide the first file's certain collapse," he said.

In June 2003, police arrested 167 people in the Paris suburb of Auvers-sur-Oise where the PMOI is based.

Of those arrested, 17 were placed under formal investigation, including Maryam Rajavi, the leader of the PMOI's political wing, the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), on suspicion of "associating with wrongdoers in relation with a terrorist undertaking".

That judicial probe has lost momentum and many of the restrictions on the suspects' movement were lifted in 2006.

Earlier this year the PMOI called on the EU to remove it from its list of banned terrorist organisations after the British parliament upheld in June a court ruling that its inclusion on a list of banned groups in Britain was wrong.

But the EU said in July it was keeping the PMOI on its blacklist, adding it saw no grounds for amending the listing of 48 groups subject to asset freezes and other sanctions in Europe.

A French source said then that Paris -- a major player in diplomatic negotiations over Iran's nuclear programme and the current holder of the EU's rotating presidency -- came forward with grounds for the group to remain on the list. (Reporting by Thierry Leveque; writing by Francois Murphy; editing by Janet Lawrence)

Iran Protest Letter Circulated at UN

Irna - Oct 2, 2008

The United Nations published Iran's protest letter to the secretary general concerning the removal of the terrorist Mujahedin Khalq Organization (MKO) from the British government's terror list.

Iran's representative to the UN, Mohammad Khazaei, in a letter to Ban Ki-moon and the Security Council, had condemned a decision by London to remove the MKO from its list of terrorist organizations.

In the document, which was circulated in the General Assembly and the Security Council on Thursday, Khazaei asserted that there is clear evidence that the group, which is guilty of many bloody terrorist attacks in Iran for 30 years, was (also) involved in a series of terrorist activities since 2003, IRIB reported.

The MKO claims it relinquished its military hardware to coalition forces in Iraq and denounced violence and terrorism in 2003.

Despite the terrorist nature of the group, the UK's Court of Appeals and Brown's government turned a blind eye to the hostile activities of the group, the envoy told the world body.

British lawmakers removed the MKO from the UK's list of banned terror groups on June 22. Legislators then approved the decision of the Court of Appeals, which had ruled in May that the MKO should no longer be listed as a proscribed group. The MKO has committed acts of aggression against both Iranian and Iraqi nationals and remains banned by the European Union and the United States.

According to Iran's Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki, the group has killed over 16,000 people in and outside Iran, including one president, a prime minister, four ministers, dozens of parliamentarians, and senior officials.

Mottaki suggested that Britain has become a partner in MKO crime by lifting the ban. "[We will consider] any country that removes the Mujahedin Khalq Organization from its blacklist of terrorist groups as a partner in its terrorist activities," he warned.

He urged all countries to condemn terrorism in all forms and without discrimination, adding that in the eyes of Iranians the MKO is the most disreputable group.

Political Verdict

On Thursday a European court, in a politically-motivated move, overturned an EU decision to freeze the assets of the group notorious for its terrorist acts against Iranians and Iraqis.

The MKO is blacklisted as a terrorist organization by many countries, and has claimed responsibility for various terror attacks inside Iran.

The Luxembourg-based Court of First Instance, however, delivered a controversial verdict on Thursday that dealt a fresh blow to EU efforts against the group by rejecting the bloc's decision to freeze MKO assets.

It was the latest in a series of anti-Iran verdicts in support of MKO demands that they be removed from the list.

EU's second-highest court held that "the EU had failed to give sufficient reasons to keep the Mujahedin Khalq Organization on the list, following a British court decision to remove them from the national list".

Renewed support for the organization came after the UK Proscribed Organizations Appeal Commission (POAC) ordered the MKO be removed from Britain's list of terrorist organizations. The group remains on the bloc's blacklist as a result of a review in July.

The EU decision to keep the group on the list was based on measures implemented in respect of a UN Security Council resolution requiring countries to crack down on terror funding in the wake of the September 11, 2001 attacks against America.

Soon after the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979, the group launched terrorist operations against Iran. The attacks intensified during the Iraqi-imposed war (1980-88) in which almost a million people died on both sides. The organization that was armed and funded by Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, later assisted the deposed Baath regime in the massacre of Iraqis in 1991.

The secretary of US embassy exposed PMOI leadership

Fars News Agency – Oct 22,2008

Translation: Nejat Society

The Second secretary of US embassy report on the horrible crimes of MKO leader

The second secretary of the American embassy in Baghdad, published a documented report on the crimes committed by the MEK's leaders who bloodshed their own colleagues, raped the women of Ashraf, poisoned and executed dozens of the defectors.

According to FNA reporter in Baghdad, the second secretary of American embassy in Baghdad, William, revealed the bloody violence of Masud Rajavi, MKO leader, against the dissident members, in the third and fourth chapter of the report on the actual situation of Mujahedin.

The American official, who investigated the documents and files on Mujahedin, has been one of the authorities who control Camp Ashraf. The report reads:

Like Malik Farough, the former king of Jordan, Masud Rajavi abuses even his female colleagues."

In another part of the report you can read:

"Rajavi has expanded sexual relations with the female military, political and administrative ranks of the group. He also ordered the doctors to do hysterectomy surgery on some of them.

He noted that he has watched the films of the confessions of the women.

The second secretary of the American embassy mentioned that Rajavi sent the husbands to the deadly operations so as he can reach the wives and possess them in Napoleon's way. In the existing documents in Ashraf you find out that some of the deaths in the group were not random but intentionally planned. In his long report William noted three cases of the planned deaths and wrote:

"the confessions of some of group members reveal that Rajavi was involved in 19 cases of death personally ordering the assassination."

This American authority points out poisoning of the members and writes:

“Rajavi ordered the silent death, poisoning some friends or colleagues.

He added:

Now, it is clear for the US that MEK’s leader was involved in the suspicious death of his colleagues who were killed under his order but their death was reported falsely as the result of sickness or accident.

He continued mentioning that the forces of MEK are disappointed at the present time in Iraq and present no benefit to the US administration in the current Iraqi scene.

In a part of the report he writes:

Most of Mujahedin forces are suffering dangerous mental diseases and are likely to commit suicide or homicide.

Besides the Iraqi security authorities stressed that the Americans investigated some individuals who confessed that the MEK leader was involved in the assassination of Iranians residing abroad and some defectors of the group. To commit the assassinations, MKO enjoyed the assistance of embassies of the Saddam’s regime and his security organizations.

The annual report of “The Guarding Constitution Department “of Westfalen province, Germany, on MKO

The annual report of “The Guarding Constitution Department “of Westfalen province, Germany, on MKO does not include so many changes regarding its last year’s report. The report contains two pages in which there are various notes on Mujahedin Khalq.

The report reads that the sympathizers of MKO in Germany are about 900 people and in Westfalen province the number mounts to 400 people. The report declares their organization as Mujahedin, their TV channel as NTV in London saying that their activities on internet are multi-lingual.

The goals of MEK and NCRI are described briefly as to overthrow the Iranian regime and along with their goals MEK has established “National Liberation Army” which acts as the military wing of MEK in Iraq.

Following the above –mentioned description, the report concludes that “the MEK which is using violence and providing support for violent activities, threatens the foreign interests of Germany (The paragraph 1-3 of Guarding Constitution)MEK is a powerful violent dissident Iranian group that claims to be “ the only democratic alternative “ against the Iranian regime. The movement is consisted of a hierarchical structure with revolutionary Marxist rules mixed with Shiite Islamism “the report says. The report continues with MEK’s clashes with Islamic Regime of Iran and the election of Maryam Rajavi as the “ President Elect “ of the “ Resistance “,adding that “ MEK was listed as a terrorist organization by the EU in 2002 but the political wing has excluded from the approach. On September 12th, 2006, the European Supreme Court annulled the EU’s decision based on the designation of MKO as a terrorist organization, the reason of this ruling included lack of hearing for MKO. But MEK became disappointed of the removal of their name from the terror list and on June 29th, 2007, after MEK’s hearing the EU Council made serious decisions against terrorism especially MEK and NLA which still have been on terror list.”

“In their struggle against Iranian regime, the MEK follows two strategies: political activities, lobbying and fundraising campaigns and also military operations which were supported by Saddam Hussein. The NLA in Iraq launches its attack against Iranian interests and authorities. MEK’s political cadre (NCRI) has always attempted to discredit Iranian leaders outside Iran. The organization uses violent acts as a legal mean, especially while Iranian government authorities visit Germany “the report notes.

The Ideal Summit Hysterectomy, latest MKO cult strategy

Nejat Society – Oct 15,2008

Mujahedin Khalq makes women infertile

According to the foreign policy reporter of Fars News Agency, following the disclosing speech of Nassrin (Batoul) Ebrahimi, an ex-member of MKO’s leadership council , in European Parliament ,based on the execution of an operation called “ Ideal Summit” through which the PMOI makes the women members barren:

An ex-member of Leadership Council of PMOI who was released of Ashraf base this years, stated new facts on the way the organization makes the women in the cult infertile. The “Ideal Summit” was executed following the two decades that the organization has been forcing the couples to divorce. The inhumane activities of Mujahedin Khalq were encountered by Human Rights Watch that condemned the anti-human right acts of the cult.

Mujahedin Khalq Organization, during its “Ideal Summit” operation, has made at least 150 women barren. The operation is done by a doctor named Nafiseh Badamchi, a medicine of MKO, by hysterectomy surgery.

The Ideal Summit operation is a phase that any woman in MKO has to bear in order to get linked with Maryam and Masud Rajavi.

Nasrin Ebrahimi, nicknamed Batoul, who was a member of the leadership council of Mujahedin –e – Khalq and National Council of Resistance, refused to have the surgery and finally was fired by the organization.

Batoul Soltani, another former member f the Leadership Council of MKO who was based in Camp Ashraf told NPR, the governmental Radio of the US, about the other dimensions of this disastrous operation.

Soltani has had interviews with 20 journals and media around the world and discussed the execution of Ideal Summit, describing the method Nafiseh Badamchi used to do the operation.

Mujahedin presence in Iraq is illegal

IRNA Oct 4, 2008

Iraqi envoy: Iraq never signs deal with US, unless its interests are met

Iraqi Ambassador to Tehran Abu Heidar al-Sheikh said on Saturday that Iraq would not sign any deal with US, unless it will meet interests of the Iraqi nation and those of all neighboring states.

In an exclusive interview with IRNA, he said there are lots of unresolved issues on a security pact between Iraq and the US which should be reviewed and that signing a deal at this juncture is out of question.

Any agreement should get approval of the Iraqi parliament, he underlined.

Iraqi religious leaders should also put seal of approval prior to signing any security pact with the US, he pointed out.

The Iraqi nation has the final say in all affairs and its consent is required, he said.

White House officials have declared that if Iraq refuses to sign the security pact with the US, they will freeze Iraq's assets, he said.

Iraq has asked Iran and the US to attend the fourth round of talks on Iraq's security, he said, adding that "We are waiting to hear comments from both sides."

...

He called for promotion of jointly run projects as well as investment of Iranian companies in Iraq to help reconstruct the war-shattered country.

Denouncing bloody war between Iran and Iraq, he said the war between the two countries was masterminded by Saddam Hussein and his oppressive regime and the Iraqi nation had no role in it.

On presence of MKO members in Iraq, he said "We believe that they are against the Iraqi and Iranian nations and should leave the country. Their presence in Iraq is totally illegal."

Iraqi tribes: MKO must be expelled from Iraq

Habilian Association – Oct 7, 2008

In a new statement, Leaders of Iraqi tribes demanded senior Iraqi officials, including Iraqi President and Prime Minister to expel Terrorist groups especially MKO from Iraq's soil.

They called President Jalal Talabani and Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki and members of the Iraqi parliament to take a firm decision to expel different terrorist groups, especially the MKO terrorist group from Iraq.

The tribal leaders believe that MKO clique is a symbol of global terrorism because they committed the most crimes and massacres against the Iraqi people; this band is the same terrorist band which assisted Saddam Hussein in suppressing Shiites Intifada in 1991 and other uprisings of Iraqi people. They also mass murdered Kurds under Saddam's direct command.

The statement stresses that the criminal terrorist group of MKO is one of the pawns of Saddam's regime to suppress the Iraqi people move further adding to its crimes through intervention in Iraqi affairs and supporting terrorists, particularly in Diyali province and harboring criminals in the Ashraf camp.

This new statement, which was issued by the political office of Islamic assembly of Iraqi Tribes and is sealed by the assembly's emblem, reveals that the group is still planning financial support for all terrorist acts in Iraq to destabilize the security and political stability throughout the country.

So What to Do with Those Mujahedin Terrorists?

Washington Times - Trita Parsi - Oct 5, 2008

PARSI: Deciding the fate of the Mujahedin

The Bush administration inherited many of Iraq's problems when it invaded that country, including an Iranian terrorist organization funded and armed by Saddam Hussein, the Mujahedin-e Khalq (MKO). Though in the midst of a war on terror, the Bush administration chose in 2003 to protect 3,000 of the organization's militants and house them in a camp given to the group by Saddam — Camp Ashraf just north of Baghdad.

Ever since, the faith of this State Department-listed terrorist organization has been unclear. Hated by Iraqis for its involvement in Saddam's crimes against the Iraqi people, the Baghdad government wants to expel the group. But no country is willing to take them. Though the Iranian government wants to put the group's leadership on trial in Iran, it seems less interested in the organization's rank and file. The European governments have little interest in taking in 3,000 battle-hardened Muslim militants, fearing that they will use Europe as a base to plan and execute further terrorist attacks.

The U.S., on the other hand, has already contradicted its own principles by giving preferential treatment to an organization on the State Department's terrorist list — even though President Bush himself pointed to the organization's patronage under Saddam Hussein as evidence of Iraq's support for international terrorists in his speech to the United Nations in September 2002.

"Iraq continues to shelter and support terrorist organizations that direct violence against Iran," President Bush said. To complicate matters further, if reports that the U.S. has used MKO terrorists for cross-border raids into Iran are true, then Washington certainly doesn't want these militants to end up in Iranian hands.

Washington seems doomed if it does, doomed if it doesn't.

Members of the terrorist organization have protested outside the White House this past week, angered by the Bush administration's decision to hand over Camp Ashraf to the Iraqi government. The government of Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki will surrender the MKO members to Tehran, they argue, who in turn will imprison and execute them.

Though approximately 500 MKO fighters have been repatriated to Iran and no reports of abuse have emerged according to the International Committee of the Red Cross, which oversaw their return, sending rank-and-file Mujahedin members to Iran against their will would be irresponsible.

Hated by the Iranian people for having fought on Saddam's side in the Iraq-Iran war, the Iranian Mujahedin is understandably fearful of the fate awaiting them in Iran.

Yet, contrary to the protesters outside the White House, the issue is not a choice between freedom in Camp Ashraf and captivity in Iran.

The Mujahedin is not an effective opposition to the government in Iran as the organization's defenders in Washington claim, but a politico-religious cult that brainwashes its members, places children of Mujahedin members with other families in order to prevent parents from defecting, and who according to Human Rights Watch, maintains control by torturing its rank and file. "Members who try to leave the Mujahedin pay a very heavy price," according to Joe Stork of Human Rights Watch.

Its involvement in terrorism is undisputed. It assassinated several Americans in Iran in the 1970s. It supported the taking of the U.S. Embassy in Iran and blasted Ayatollah Khomeini for releasing the American diplomats in 1981, arguing instead that the hostages should have been executed. It made a pact with Saddam Hussein in the 1980s and fought alongside his army against their Iranian countrymen. Later in the 1990s, they became Saddam's most trusted henchmen, tasked with quelling Kurdish and Shiite uprisings against the Iraqi dictator.

According to defectors, Mujahedin members in Camp Ashraf celebrated the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

In 2004, French authorities descended upon the Mujahedin headquarters in France, arresting the leader of the cult, Maryam Rajavi. Immediately, zealous Mujahedin members staged hunger strikes and several set themselves ablaze. Hardly the behavior of a democratically oriented opposition group.

But the vast majority of the Camp Ashraf residents are not so much members of a terrorist cult as they are victims of it. The camp is itself a prison. It may have provided Mujahedin militants with protection against ordinary Iraqis who sought to avenge their relatives killed by the Mujahedin at the behest of Saddam Hussein, but the prison has primarily enabled the leaders of the terrorist organization to prevent the rank and file from defecting.

Rather than debating where to expel the Mujahedin terrorists, help should be provided to the rank and file to break with the cult and make free choices about their future. It's the only humanitarian solution to this dilemma - and one that defeats rather than protects this anti-American terrorist group.

- Trita Parsi is president and founder of the National Iranian American Council and author of "Traucherous Alliances: The Secret Dealings of Israel, Iran, and the United States."