

# ParsBrief

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### **Arrest warrants for 14 top MKO terrorist Leaders**

IRNA - 2009/02/06

Official: Baghdad soon to close MKO file

Iraqi National Security Advisor Muvafaq al-Rubai said here Friday that Iraqi government will in next few months close dossier of the terrorist Mujahideen Khalq Organization (MKO).

“The MKO is a terrorist group and a cancerous tumor in Iraq; The crimes and sins the group has committed are evident and well-documented. Several thousand Iraqi citizens have fallen victims of the terrorist organization and we have provable evidence, that we will submit them to Iraqi courts,” said al-Rubai in an exclusive interview with IRNA.

He said the MKO was stationed in Iraq by former Iraqi ruler Saddam Hussein and contrary to then regulations in Iraq, getting involved in suppression of Iraqi people’s Intifadha in 1991 and massacre of Kurds and Shiites.

He added that after formation of popular government of Iraq, the MKO has taken provocative moves against legal government of the country over recent years.

He went on to say that Iraqi courts have issued arrest warrants for 14 MKO members.

On removal of the MKO from Europe’s list of terrorist organizations, he said the MKO case is complicated and the European courts have thus far removed the outfit from the terrorism list and re-entered them into the list three times.

He said that the MKO will soon be put in the EU terrorist list.

“We have asked the EU to contribute to settlement of problem with the MKO and their exit from Iraq; we have recently discussed the issue with ambassadors of the countries and they have vowed to cooperate.”

**Mojahedin Khalq (MKO, MEK, Rajavi cult) Suicide operative arrested in Iraq**

Buratha News in Baghdad, January 19, 2009

The office of Mr. Movafagh Al Rabiee, Iraq's National Security Advisor, has issued a statement.

The security forces of Iraq have arrested a member of Mojahedin Khalq Organisation (aka: MKO, MEK, PMOI, NCRI, Rajavi cult) after he failed to carry out his suicide mission inside an Iraqi security base.

According to the source this resident of Ashraf camp (MKO base) gave himself up and is now being kept in secure and safe conditions.

According to the statement this member of Mojahedin Khalq has now complained about the severe exercise of torture and brainwashing techniques employed by the heads of the organisation.

According to his written statements, he claims that: "I was sent with a clear and precise plan to perform a suicide mission in this Iraqi base".

According to the statement of the office of Iraq's National Security Advisor, "the aim of this suicide attack has been to put pressure on the security forces of Iraq, to entangle them in this because it is this new force that has taken over the security of Ashraf camp from January 01, 2009"

The statement says it is believed that this was to be used in the media in the Arab world as well as the western media by MKO and its supporters. It also has the aim of making the disaffected members inside the camp afraid of giving themselves up to the Iraqi forces.

The statement adds that every effort is being made to either repatriate him voluntarily or find another country to transfer him. The Iraqi government wishes to announce that while the government of Iraq is committed to all its international obligations, including any promises made to the United State administration, that: "the security forces of Iraq are aware and conscious of the fruitless activities of Mojahedin Khalq Organisation in creating disturbances in Iraqi society and have been briefed to be able to carry out their duties".

### **France files appeal against "Mujahedin Khalq Organization" terrorists**

Indymedia-Letzebuerg - Saturday, 24 January 2009

France says it has filed an appeal to an EU court to keep the Mujahedin Khalq Organization (MKO) on a list of banned terrorist groups.

"Our appeal was filed the day before yesterday," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Frederic Desagneaux Friday. On Thursday, an EU diplomat said the bloc had decided to remove the anti-Iran group from the EU list of banned terrorist groups. The source, who

was speaking on condition of anonymity, said EU foreign ministers should approve the consensus before it can be fully implemented.

MKO terrorists, banned by many countries including the US, have claimed responsibility for numerous terror attacks inside Iran since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. The group is also responsible for assisting Saddam in the massacre of thousands of Iraqi civilians. The EU move to remove the MKO from its banned terrorist group list has provoked widespread condemnations inside Iran as well as among the families of the terror attacks victims. The French spokesman said Friday that Paris was pressing ahead with the appeal to keep the anti-Iran group on the list.

### **Protests in Tehran against EU removing PMOI group from terror list**

Middle East - January 25, 2009

Hundreds of Iranian students, pupils and families of veterans of the Iran-Iraq war (1980-1988) staged a protest gathering in Tehran Sunday against the decision by European Union foreign ministers to remove the People's Mujahedin of Iran (PMOI) from their list of terrorist organizations.

The crowd first gathered in front of the French embassy in Tehran and shouted slogans against France and the EU for their intention to approve the decision in favour of the PMOI at a meeting Monday in Brussels.

The official news agency IRNA reported that a similar protest gathering was to be held later Sunday in front of the German embassy in Tehran but according to the demonstrators themselves, the next protest gathering would be on Monday in front of the British embassy.

The EU move followed a ruling by the European Court in Luxembourg, which in December said the EU was wrong to keep the PMOI's assets frozen after it was taken off a British list of terrorist organizations.

Iran regards PMOI as a terror group due to its involvement in the assassinations of several high-ranking Iranian officials, including the president and prime minister in 1980.

After the group was expelled from France in the 1980s, former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein allocated a military base to the PMOI near the border with Iran.

Before the ouster of Saddam, the PMOI frequently infiltrated Iranian territory, leading to clashes with Iranian forces and casualties on both sides.

## **Mojahedin Khalq Organisation still designated a FTO in USA**

DEPARTMENT OF STATE - January 12, 2009

In the Matter of the Review of the Designation of Mujahedin-e Khalq Organization (MEK), and All Designated Aliases, as a Foreign Terrorist Organization Upon Petition Filed Pursuant to Section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as Amended

The MEK filed a petition for revocation of its designation as a foreign terrorist organization (the "Petition"). Based upon a review of the Administrative Record assembled in this matter, including the Petition and associated filings by the MEK, pursuant to Section 219(a)(4)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended (8 U.S.C. 1189(a)(4)(B)) ("INA"), and in consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of the Treasury, I conclude that the circumstances that were the basis for the 2003 re-designation of the aforementioned organization as a foreign terrorist organization have not changed in such a manner as to warrant revocation of the designation and that the national security of the United States does not warrant a revocation.

Therefore, I hereby determine that the designation of the aforementioned organization as a foreign terrorist organization, pursuant to Section 219 of the INA (8 U.S.C. 1189), shall be maintained.

This determination shall be published in the Federal Register.

Dated: January 7, 2009.

Condoleezza Rice,

Secretary of State, Department of State.

### **The report of Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution of Germany on MKO**

verfassungsschutz.de

Mujahedin-e-Khalq Iran was considered as the powerful armed opposition against Iran and its objectives was the evident overthrow of the Iranian regime.

Until the fall of Saddam Hussein, the organization was in the spotlight by its National Liberation Army, the military wing of MKO that has launched many terrorist operations against Iran.

The National Council of Resistance of Iran, the political arm of MKO which is active in Europe and North America, has got the attention of the world due to its large-scale propaganda and systematic fund raising activities.

MKO has repeatedly succeeded to have public attention using its professional propagandistic skills.

The most significant example on the case are the self-immolation acts in London, Paris, Rome, Bern, under the pretext of French Security Police's raid on MKO bases due to their illegal fundraising activities and terrorist operations (The investigation on MKO headquarters in Paris and 12 other locations and the arrest of 150 members.)

In that raid 9 million US dollars in cash and highly advanced transmission facilities were found at MKO base.

The arrest warrant was issued for 11 of high-ranking officials and Maryam Rajavi, the wife of Masud Rajavi, the MKO leader. Maryam Rajavi, who is called the president - in exile of the organization, was released together with the other detainees.

This bulletin includes the clandestine activities of MKO and the process of their cooperation with Saddam Hussein, their current situation and importance. It also presents the totalitarian characteristic of the organization that has not denounced violence in its political struggle even after the disarmament of its military arm.

[Http://www.verfassungsschutz.de/de/publikationen/auslaenderextremismus/broschuere\\_5\\_0811\\_MEK-Broschuere\\_neu/](http://www.verfassungsschutz.de/de/publikationen/auslaenderextremismus/broschuere_5_0811_MEK-Broschuere_neu/)

### **Belgian MP: "PMOI is a sect"**

lalibre.be - 27/01/2009

For Josy Dubié (Belgian MP), there is not a doubt that PMOI is "a sect". The Belgian senator draws from his memories international reporter to the RTBF to affirm it. At the end of the Iraq-Iran war, they are the combatants of this organization which Saddam Hussein had sent like "flesh with canon" at the time of the battle of Mehran, in 1989. The treatment that Moujahidine held for their own troops, the women like the men, and that they applied to their Iranian prisoners were abominable, explains in substance Josy Dubié. "I know them from inside" , continues the senator, " and I can say to you that their behavior is to be brought closer to that of the members of Scientologie". Didn't they evolve since the Eighties? Josy Dubié does not believe in it at all. "They are still as sectarian as before", he ensures. "However, there is in Iran an opposition much more democratic than that of Moujahidine of the people, the laic opponents, the members of the Communist party Toudeh, the sympathizers of the former Prime Minister Mossadegh ". And Josy estimates that one should not count on OMPI, which " do not represent anything the whole in Iran".

## Canada refuses to take Iranian group off terror list

By Peter O'Neil, Europe Correspondent, Canwest News Service January 27, 2009

PARIS " The Canadian government rejected Monday a call to follow Europe's lead and remove an Iranian resistance group from its list of banned international terrorist organizations.

The European Union, saying it was forced to comply with a series of court decisions by the European Court of Justice, announced on Monday it would end the ban imposed on the People's Mujahedeen Organization of Iran (PMOI).

But a spokeswoman for Public Safety Canada said there will be no change considered until the next two-year statutory review of banned groups such as PMOI, also known as Mujahedeen-e Khalq (MEK).

"The Government of Canada is determined to take decisive steps to ensure the safety of Canadians against terrorism," Jacinthe Perras said in an e-mailed statement.

"The MEK is a listed entity pursuant to the Criminal Code. It is a criminal offence to knowingly deal with the assets of a listed entity or knowingly participate in any activity that would enhance its ability to carry out a terrorist act. "

The latest December court ruling by the European court said the EU had breached the PMOI's right to self-defence by failing to inform the group of new information used to keep blacklisting it.

"What we are doing today is abiding by the resolution of the European court," Javier Solana, foreign policy chief for the 27-nation EU, told reporters in Brussels.

The group was banned by the U.S. in 1997, by the EU in 2002, and by Canada in 2005.

Iranian state radio has condemned the EU's move as "irresponsible," while the group's affiliated political arm praised the decision that it said will free millions of dollars in assets frozen in western bank accounts.

"Removing the terror tag is a crushing defeat to Europe's policy of appeasement" and a blow against the "mullahs' medieval regime" in Iran, according to a statement from Maryam Rajavi, who is described as the "president-elect" of the Paris-based resistance movement.

Fears have been expressed that the delisting could impair international efforts, now being led by U.S. President Barack Obama, to convince Iran to suspend its nuclear program.

David Kilgour, a human rights advocate and former junior foreign affairs minister in Jean Chretien's Liberal government, said Canada should follow Europe's lead.

"Canada's long-term political and economic relations (with Iran) are best-served by standing with its people, not the regime," Kilgour said in a statement.

"The time for appeasing the ayatollahs and suppressing the Iranian opposition must end."

The Canadian government included the PMOI when it extended late last year the list of banned groups that have "knowingly carried out, attempted to carry out, participated in or facilitated a terrorist activity or is knowingly acting on behalf of, at the direction of or in association with such an entity."

Among those on the list are al-Qaida, Hamas, Hezbollah, Peru's Shining Path, the Sikh terror organizations Babbar Khalsa and the International Sikh Youth Federation, and the Tamil Tigers of Sri Lanka.

The PMOI was formed as a leftist organization in the 1960s opposed to the U.S.-backed regime of Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi. ...

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/news/Canada+asked+take+Iranian+group+terror+list/1219856/story.html>

### **Iranian Militant MeK Group Losing Fight to Stay in Iraq**

FOXNEWS - By Anita McNaught - Monday, January 12, 2009

An Iranian resistance group that has been living in exile in Iraq for decades is no longer a welcome guest in the country and may have no choice but to return to Iran, where some of its members fear they could be tortured and possibly executed as traitors.

Some 3,400 members of the militant group the Mujahedin-e-Khalq — the People's Mujahadeen of Iran, or MeK — have lived at Camp Ashraf, a 14-square-mile base north of Baghdad, since Saddam Hussein invited them there in 1986.

But the current Iraqi government, which took control of national security on New Year's Day, has made it clear that it wants the MeK out. The government is unmoved by a sustained international campaign by the group that has included demonstrations and sit-ins in Washington and Geneva, Switzerland.

The MeK was founded in Iran in the 1960s, when it organized as a group opposed to the rule of the Shah. For more than two decades, it carried out a campaign of bombing and sabotage against the Iranian government, including the killing of U.S. citizens working in Iran in the 1970s, which led it to be designated an international terrorist organization by the U.S. State Department.

The MeK cooperated briefly with the clerical regime that overthrew the Shah in the Islamic Revolution, but then it turned against the nation's new religious leadership, as well.



Despite its history of violence and its official designation as a terrorist group, some U.S. officials have been sympathetic toward the MeK because of the potential that it could be used as a card against Iran. But now that the Iraqi government wants the MeK to leave Iraq, the group's designation as a terrorist organization is preventing other countries from offering its members a new home, and they fear they may have no choice but to return to Iran.

On Jan. 1, during a visit to Iran, Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki re-stated his government's position:

"Iraq is determined to put an end to this organization because it is affecting relations between Iran and Iraq. This organization participated in many operations that harmed Iranian and Iraqi civilians under the Saddam regime."

Al-Maliki was referring to evidence that the MeK collaborated with the government of Saddam Hussein, particularly during the Kurdish uprising in 1991 when thousands of Kurds were massacred. The MeK denies involvement in the repression and cites supporting statements from, among others, Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari.

Hopes had risen among MeK members and their overseas supporters that they had found a means of remaining in Iraq when the U.S. Embassy said on Dec. 27 that American forces would "maintain a presence at Camp Ashraf ... to assist the government of Iraq in carrying out its assurances of humane treatment of the residents."

"It means the United States has recognized its responsibility to ensure the safety and security of our people in Ashraf," said Ali Safavi, an official of NCRI, political wing of the MeK.

But the U.S. government no longer considers MeK members in Iraq to have the protected-persons status the U.S. gave them in 2003, and is privately supportive of Iraqi government efforts to encourage the residents to leave.

The U.S. also doesn't have the final say, as the Iraqi government assumed responsibility for all detainees on Jan. 1 under the terms of the Security Agreement.

The MeK once had the finest tank division in Iraq and harbored hopes of leading a resistance army back into Iran to topple the Tehran government. But it was disarmed in 2003 by Maj. Gen. Ray Odierno, then of the 4th Infantry Division, who put U.S. guards on the gate.

By then, the MeK had many enemies in Iraq as well as in Iran.

Nabaz Rasheed Ahmed, 61, a commander of the Kurdish Peshmerga fighters in 1991, said MeK forces attacked his battalion in Chiman, Kirkuk province, in 1991.

"Mujahideen fighters who were backed by Iraqi army helicopters and tanks attacked my battalion in March 29, 1991. They killed many of my Peshmergas and wounded a lot, including me," he said.

The military architect of that uprising was Neywshirwan Mustafa, 64, who now is chairman of the powerful Kurdish media group Wusha Corporation. When told that the MeK denied helping Saddam in his crackdown on the Kurds, Mustafa said:

"That is not true. They were working in cooperation with the Iraqi Army.... They attacked many bases belonging to the PUK.

"They occupied the road from Kanar to Kirkuk. They occupied a hospital in Kanar. They killed a doctor and many other civilian people. Saddam Hussein was protecting them in Iraq".

Abdullah Safir, 59, a Kurdish English teacher who lives in Kifri, in Kirkuk Province, says he was there when the MeK mobilized against his town in 1991.

"I knew they were opponents of the Iranian regime at the time. I did not expect them to intimidate people in a country in which they were guests, and to interfere in internal issues."

Safir recalled how the MeK shelled Kurdish towns "at random," took locals hostage, and in one incident attacked a busload of young people from Kifri, killing all 20. He remembers seeing some of the bodies when they were brought home and said that one or two had been run over by MeK tanks.

Joost Hiltermann of the International Crisis Group, which analyzes the causes of conflict, has also investigated the MeK's role in Iraq.

"The MEK has yet to own up to its intimate relationship with the Saddam regime, which protected it and deployed it against its enemies when this served its purpose," Hiltermann said. "It thus acquired its reputation as the ruthless tool of a thuggish regime."

Shorsh Haji, a researcher on Kurdish issues who lives in the United Kingdom, escaped from Iraq after the 1991 uprising with many Iraqi secret police documents and worked with New York-based Human Rights Watch to analyze the content. He said the mukhabarat — a branch of Saddam's intelligence service — wrote in their reports that the MeK "heroically resisted the rebels and traitors who wanted to occupy Kirkuk."

The intelligence the MeK had on Iran made them most useful to Saddam — and later, to the United States, Haji said. And that, he said, accounts for the protection the U.S. gave them at Camp Ashraf.

One MeK member told FOX News that the group gave the U.S. the names of "32,000 Iranian agents working inside Iraq." She also mentioned MeK's purported role in revealing

the extent of Iran's nuclear weapons program, though subsequent reports support the view that Israel actually provided the information for the MeK to release.

Iraq has told the residents of Camp Ashraf that they must be gone by March of this year. It has promised they will not be forcibly repatriated to Iran, but it is not clear where else they could go.

Sources told FOX News that the Iranian government has a list of 50 "most wanted" MeK members, around 20 of whom are believed to live at the camp.

In recent years Iran has made much of a new policy of humanely "readmitting" former MeK members into Iranian society, with the help of a group of ex-members called the Nejat Society, which means "Rescue."

Behzad Saffari, legal adviser for the MeK, told FOX News: "Anyone who repents or remorsees the past are welcomed by the Iranian regime and can be used against the MeK. They are a useful commodity. But anyone who goes back to Iran and still keeps the ideas of the MeK — they will be executed."

Approximately half of the residents of Camp Ashraf are under 30 years old, too young to have been part of the MeK's fighting past.

But this may partly explain why the MeK has outlived its usefulness. A Western diplomat told FOX News: "There's nothing we lose from Camp Ashraf except a huge headache and taxpayer dollars."

Qassim Khidhir Hamad contributed to this report