

# ParsBrief

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### **Terrorist MKO supporters confess in US**

PressTV - Thu, 30 Apr 2009

The MKO is responsible for numerous acts of violence against Iranian civilians and government officials as well as Iraqis.

Seven Iranian-Americans confess collecting money for anti-Iran terrorists loyal to the Mujahedin Khalq Organization (MKO).

The MKO is blacklisted as a terrorist organization by many international entities and countries, including the US.

"With jury selection in the case underway, the seven defendants each pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to provide material support to a designated foreign terrorist organization and one count of actually providing material support to the group," AFP quoted a statement released by the Justice Department.

The seven face up to 20 years in jail over the charges, after having been indicted for the first time by a federal grand jury in Los Angeles in 2001.

They are to be sentenced on August 10. The court says they had helped the MKO by raising funds for its members at public places like the Los Angeles International Airport.

The group, which identifies itself as a Marxist-Islamist guerilla army, was founded in Iran in the 1960s but was exiled some twenty years later for performing acts of terrorism in the country.

The terrorists are especially notorious for taking sides with former dictator Saddam Hussein during the war Iraq imposed on Iran (1980-1988).

The MKO is responsible for numerous acts of violence against Iranian civilians and government officials as well as Iraqis.

Baghdad has vowed to move MKO members to their country Iran or to send them to a third country, as it holds the anti-Iran group responsible for destabilizing Iraq.

Earlier in March, Iraqi national security advisor, Muwafaq al-Rubaie, described MKO members as "foreign terrorists" and ordered them to leave their headquarters in Camp Ashraf, where they had been stationed for more than two decades.

"The residents should understand ... that their days in Iraq are numbered and we are literally counting down," al-Rubaie told reporters.

**A delegation of ten journalists from Czech Republic visited Nejat society office in Tehran, yesterday.**

Nejat Bloggers – 6 May 2009

During this visit, Mr. Arash Sametipour the secretary of Nejat Society welcomed the delegation giving a detailed description of the activities of the society and its plans for future.

Mr. Khodabandeh also explained the current situation of Rajavi's Cult, the measures of violation of human rights in the cult, manipulation practices and the efforts of the cult leaders to maintain power over the members' lives and time.

The members of this delegation asserted the cult-like nature of MKO declaring that the European authorities are well aware of the disgusted image of the group all over the world. Nejat Society officials then answered the questions posed by the journalists and asked the European Union to support Iraqi government's decisions on MKO cult. Czech Republic currently holds the EU Presidency.

**No evidence of ill-treatment against MKO returnees**

UK Parliament - April 27, 2009

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will ask the government of Iraq to remove all restrictions on supporters of the People's Mujahedin of Iran based in Ashraf City following the recent judgment of the European Court of Justice. [257284]

**Bill Rammell:** On 26 January 2009, taking into accounts the judgment by the Court of First Instance on 4 December 2008, the General Affairs and External Relations Council adopted a list which did not include the People's Mujahedin Organisation of Iran

(MEK/PMOI). Mindful of this 4 December judgment annulling the July 2008 listing of the MEK/PMOI, the UK believes that EU member states must observe and respect the court's judgment in the current review of the EU list of terrorist organisations.

Residents of the camp are free to leave at any time if they demonstrate they have the appropriate travel documentation and finance to leave the camp and take up residence either in Iran or in a third country. Voluntary repatriations to Iran have previously taken place and, we understand, without the returnees concerned being ill treated. Such repatriations will continue for those who wish to do this. There is no evidence to suggest forced relocation of the residents in Iraq or elsewhere will take place.

The US received assurances from the Iraqi authorities which make clear their commitment to the humane treatment and continued wellbeing of the camp residents. We understand that in addition to this the Iraqi Ministry of Human Rights have also visited the camp and delivered these assurances to a representative body of the residents. We are naturally concerned that the rights of all those involved are observed and that camp residents continue to be treated humanely and their fundamental human rights be maintained.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will seek to put in place mechanisms to protect supporters of the People's Mujahedin of Iran based in Ashraf City. [257285]

**Bill Rammell:** I should clarify that it was the US, not the UK, who had responsibility for the security and administration of the camp. The US informed us of its plans to hand responsibility for the camp to the Iraqi authorities from 1 January 2009 and this has now taken place. Both the Iraqi authorities and the US had been involved in discussions with the UN High Commissioner

### **Maryam Rajavi's cult representative in European Parliament**

Anne Singleton, Iran-Interlink, May 11, 2009

(Alejo Vidal-Quadras has already scurrilously attacked the Iraqi government in the European Parliament alleging them ready to commit a "second Srebrenica in Iraq")

(Alejo Vidal-Quadras - Mojahedin Khalq Terrorists logo - Rajavi and Saddam)

With the withdrawal from European politics of Portugal's Paulo Casaca, Maryam Rajavi – who is following a Zionist-style regime change agenda - has apparently selected a replacement in the shape of Spanish MEP Alejo Vidal-Quadras from the Group of the

European People's Party (Christian Democrats) and European Democrats. Vidal-Quadras has already scurrilously attacked 'a faction' of the Iraqi government in the European Parliament alleging them ready to commit a "second Srebrenica in Iraq" in relation to MKO cult members in Camp Ashraf.

Previously Maryam Rajavi posted her cult representative Firouz Mahvi in Casaca's office. We await with interest to see if he is moved to the office of Vidal-Quadras, if he is changed with another of Rajavi's cult members, or if another of Rajavi's MEP's has her cult representative based in their office.

Some western observers may still be wondering whether the MKO's supporters in various parliaments are acting out of ignorance or stupidity or sheer wickedness. Unfortunately, those who know the MKO best, particularly its victims in Iraq, when they see the orchestrated and vigorous insistence on lies and deception cannot be blamed for believing in the corruptibility of parliament and that these MPs must be being paid for their activities. Sadly the failure of western governments to challenge the undemocratic activities of the MKO is not a new story.

### **Open letter of Mr. Sobhani to Mr. Rodrigues Zapatero Prime Minister of Spain**

Iran Ghalam, May 19, 2009

Honorable President of the Government of Spain

"Mr. Jose Luis Rodrigues Zapatero"

Respectfully, I would like to introduce myself before anything else. I am an ex member of the Central Committee of Mojahedin Khalq Organisation (MKO). This can be verified from their own propaganda outlets including Mojahed Publication (Special Edition, Autumn 1992) which mentions my name as a Deputy Executive Committee member.

In 1992 I became an outspoken critic of what is known as the "forced divorces" and of what is known as "armed struggle". More than that, I criticised what was apparent about the special relations between the organisation and Saddam Hussein, the ousted dictator of Iraq. I was imprisoned for a few months in solitary confinement inside Ashraf camp and over all spent about 8 years in different prisons.

In January 2001, after 8 years of imprisonment and physical and mental torture, they turned me over to Abu Ghuraib prison where I was held for more than a year.

I would like to inform your Excellency that MR. VIDAL QUADRASS, Member of the European Parliament from Spain is supporting and backing up the leaders of MKO, MRS. MARYAM RAJAVI and MASOUD RAJAVI and their terrorist cult in European parliament.

MR. VIDAL QUADRASS visited from Camp of Ashraf in Iraq for more help to this terrorist cult last year. But without any human rights Organisation representative accompanying his good self., He visited the camp without even investigating the allegations as to what is really going on behind its closed doors. MR. VIDAL QUADRASS visited from Camp of Ashraf in Iraq, but he did not notice that the camp has no children inside and he did not think that this is because the cult leader has banned marriage and family relations?

I would like to remained you that self-immolations done by some members in European capitals after the arrest of their leader Maryam Rajavi in Paris on 17 June 2003, is one obvious example of the kind. Like all cults, this organisation needs a remote site to be able to isolate the members from the outside world. The residents of Ashraf Camp in Iraq and Auvers-Sur-Oise Camp in France have no contact with the real world, not even with their relatives.

At the end, I would like to remain you that the Mojahedin Khalgh Terrorist Cult has a similar place as the terrorist organization "ETA "in the hearts and minds of people of Iran. Is it certainly a justlyable position for a Spanish member of parliament to support a terrorist cult?

Sincerely

Mohammad Sobhani

19.05.2009

Postfach 90 06 63

51116 Köln - Deutschland

Telefon: +49 (0) 1774829905

Email: [sobhani\\_m\\_h@hotmail.com](mailto:sobhani_m_h@hotmail.com)

### **Iraqi PM, Noori Al Maliki in London: Mojahedin Khalq will never operate from Iraq**

Al Sharq Al Aawsat, May 01, 2009 - Translated by Iran Interlink

According to the London based Al Sharq Al Aawsat newspaper, concerning the withdrawal of British troops from Iraq, Noori Almaliki the Iraqi prime minister said: we have been participating with the British and coalition forces during these times and the British forces have successfully brought to an end their military mission.

...

Concerning the Mojahedin Khalq presence in Iraq he said: Under no circumstances would their presence in Iraq be acceptable. Irrespective of some speculation that this may be due to pressure from Iranians or non Iranians, I should emphasise clearly that even if Iran asks us to keep them in Iraq, we will not allow this. This is a terrorist organisation present in various lists of terrorist entities across the globe which of course concerns many, including Iran, the United Nations and other countries.

From our point of view, this is an organisation which has committed many crimes against the people of Iraq, being Kurds, Shiites or Sunnis, hand-in-hand with the last regime (Saddam Hussein) and even right now they are meddling in the internal affairs of our country and there are allegations of their active involvement in the present insurgencies in Iraq. Therefore we cannot allow their presence in the new Iraq. According to the constitution of Iraq, the country will not be used as a base for any terrorist organisation and no one is allowed to use our soil to act against other countries.

Maliki added: I clearly emphasise to the members of this group that although we will not hand them over to Iran, they should not for a moment think that Iraq can be a base for them.

### **Families of MKO members meeting in Ahwaz**

Nejat Society, 9 May 2009

On Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> May families of MKO members held a meeting in Ahwaz at Aftab Hall.

The meeting was held with the presence of more than 50 families of MKO captives who are banned behind the bars of Rajavis' cult and also some of the separated members.

After presenting the schedule of the meeting Mr. Hamid Dehdar Hassani ; head of Nejat Society office – Khuzestan Branch gave a report on Nejat Society's activities during the last year and also on incoming programs of the Society .

Mr. Ekrami member of Nejat Society then addressed the audiences under the title of "Active relations between families and Society, guaranties the release of hostages of MKO".

Mr. Maziyar Shirvani the former member of MKO who recently managed to release himself from the cult and joined his family explained aspects of the atmosphere rules the cult of Rajavi and the role of Nejat Society in releasing the captive members of Mujahedin.

During the meeting books as well as articles and interviews of MKO former members presented to the participants.

Also during the meeting 17 families of captives of MKO, signed a letter of request to meet their beloveds. The letter was to be sent to ICRI.

At the end the statement to Mr. Nuri Al Maliki was read and signed by the participants of the meeting.

A group of family members of Camp Ashraf residents, at Nejat Society office in Ahwaz, attended a gathering held by NejatNGO on Friday May 8th,2009. They issued a statement addressing Mr. Nouri Al Maliki, Iraqi Prime Minister, :

The Honorable Prime Minister,

As families of MKO members, we have been deprived of visiting our beloved children who have been taken as hostages in Camp Ashraf for years. We use the opportunity to ask your Excellency to provide us with a situation that we would be able to visit our captured children who are barred by MKO which violates all international human rights conventions.

The anti-democratic cult of Rajavi, with its inhuman nature is known to you and Iraqi nation since it has committed crimes against the innocent Iraqi people in Northern and Southern Iraq under the rule of Saddam Hussein dictatorship. During the past years, MKO leaders have always prevented us from visiting our children and our efforts have not succeeded yet.

1. We present our request to your Excellency appreciating the position Iraqi government has taken against MKO and its efforts to expel MKO terrorist group out of Iraq.

Our request is based on the followings:

2. We want to visit our captured children as soon as possible in order to learn about their health conditions.

Regarding that Iraqi government is now holding the control over Camp Ashraf, we ask you to facilitate our trip to Iraq and our visit with our children.

3. We ask the Iraqi Government and Red Cross to help us make phone or letter communications with our captured beloveds.

4. We ask the Iraqi government to arrange a facility outside Camp Ashraf so that we can visit our children without the presence and supervision of MKO officials and far from fear and chantage.



## **While Iraq shows courage, West prevaricates over Rajavi cult**

By Anne Singleton, May 5, 2009

Iraq's decision to close Camp Ashraf and remove the Mojahedin-e Khalq from the country is based primarily on security issues. The group's long history of alliance with Saddam Hussein and its history of killing and suppression of Iraqi citizens are not in question. However the specific approach used to dismantle the group reveals that Iraq's authorities have a clear understanding that the principle problem posed by the group is as a dangerous, destructive mind control cult which has no place in any society.

The Government of Iraq's basic analysis of the group is that it acts outside the law, it acts against its own members and it acts against the interests of the host country. This of course is true not only in Iraq but in any country the group is located.

In contrast, western behaviour toward the group appears to take no account whatsoever that this is a destructive cult and instead appears to maintain the fiction that the MKO is a political or military entity. Although western governments treat the group as though it were a legal entity, in reality the MKO operates mostly outside legal boundaries.

Rather than look through the prism of security to understand the group as western governments have done with their terrorism lists, the Iraqi government has developed a sophisticated understanding of the MKO's internal relations and how that impacts its external behaviour whether in the political or security field.

An important baseline from which Iraq has started has been the recognition that as members of a cult, MKO members are victims not heroes. They are trapped in this situation and did not choose freely and still cannot choose freely to be there. They are held as hostages for the leader and the leaders' masters.

As part of its plan to expel the MKO, the Government of Iraq has several times made reasonable, timely requests to European countries for help. Since the Mojahedin-e Khalq is no longer legally regarded as a terrorist entity in the European Union, these countries could accept the individuals from Camp Ashraf as refugees. So far no country has been willing to accept them.

How should we interpret this intransigence?

There can be no doubt that the MKO is not an independent organisation but is backed by money and power to such an extent that western judicial and governmental officials

appear to be afraid of challenging the status quo. As a result, in western countries the MKO is permitted to operate freely without regard to the law. The results of this are twofold. The MKO, on behalf of regime change proponents, operates a powerful lobby in western countries based on deception to the extent that it corrupts parliamentary democracy and infects media reporting with lies. The MKO is also free to impose severe human rights violations on its own members with impunity.

The failure of western governments to deal effectively with the group and put it in its rightful place is not based on lack of information. Parliamentary debate and governmental pronouncements reveal that nobody regards the MKO as either democratic or popular. Human rights organisations have documented decades of abuse against members. Yet in spite of this it would appear that western governments still have not made up their minds how they want to treat this group.

The group is so blatantly owned by regime change proponents that it is hard to imagine that anyone believes other than that the MKO is an artificial construct which is being artificially imposed on western governmental relations with Iran. That this is only possible because the MKO is a mind control cult whose primary victims are its own members should also be quite obvious.

In this context, it is inconceivable that any western government actually believes the MKO to be a negotiating tool in relation to Iran. This would be the most ludicrously undermining position to take. If Iraq understands the MKO as a cult, an artificially maintained western construct, does anyone believe the rest of the world doesn't also see this? By taking a principled stand and requiring the MKO to obey the law, Iraq is unintentionally exposing the west to humiliation because of the continued failure to confront the MKO. Ultimately, this is not even to do with security or politics, it comes down to simply respecting the rule of law in their own countries.

Unlike Europe and North America, the Government of Iraq is enacting a plan to deal with the MKO based on a clear understanding of the dynamics which operate within the confines of Camp Ashraf. The same dynamics also operate in the base at Auvers sur Oise but apparently Europe does not regard this as problematic for its standing in the international community.

Outside the narrow viewpoint of the west, other countries see the MKO as a threat to parliamentary democracy in Europe, as part of that game of 'whose lobby is the richest, most vociferous, more litigious and powerful than the rest' rather than being about making decisions based on national interests.

A sympathetic examination of what Iraq is doing in relation to the MKO in Camp Ashraf brings up the stark contrast with what western governments are doing. Iraq has developed from its own culture a plan for dismantlement which abides by international laws and humanitarian principles. Iraq regards people in Camp Ashraf as victims of Rajavi's inhuman cult practices. In contrast, the MKO's backers see them only as consumables – their role is to kill or be killed, even if that means mass suicide to preserve not the people but the brand.

As a first step toward dismantling the cult the Iraqi authorities have required that all the individuals inside Camp Ashraf obey national, international and local law, and that full access to the camp be granted to Iraqi authorities to enforce the law. No group or individual can be above the law no matter what they state as their motivation or beliefs.

In the case of Iraq where the group is designated by the government as a foreign terrorist entity and is therefore an illegal entity, it is a reasonable next step for the authorities to demand that leading, controlling members of the group be removed to a separate location and that the lower ranking members be split into smaller groups. The Iraqi authorities require, on the basis of respecting human rights, that access be gained to all individual members without interference by any other member of the organisation.

In comparison we are entitled to ask why the group is permitted to operate outside the law in Europe and North America. For example, we are entitled to ask whether Maryam Rajavi is registered as a citizen of France. Does she declare an income and pay tax? Does her organisation conform to employment law in the utilization of any one of the hundreds of people at Camp Maryam in Auvers sur Oise? When the group claims its followers are 'volunteers' there is still a matter of employment law to which the group and its leader must conform.

In reality the people at Camp Maryam have a status which can only be described as modern slavery. They are, in the main illegally trafficked, do not have normal residence status, and certainly do not enjoy the protection of the law in whatever country they are living. Does Europe condone this kind of activity? What reason is there to avoid investigation and prosecution? Is there really a lack of evidence, do European countries lack the judicial teeth or is there a political angle to this?

What conclusions are we to draw from the behaviour of the U.S. in relation to the MKO? The group has been on the U.S. terrorism list since 1997, yet the American Civil Liberties Union in Southern California claims court documents show the U.S. government provided material support to the group. This information has been exposed because the U.S.

judiciary has chosen to prosecute individuals who have pleaded guilty to fundraising for the MKO in an airport.

Western governments which are prepared to pursue the prosecution of ordinary members of the MKO while the leaders Massoud and Maryam Rajavi are free and unaccountable are in fact doubling the abuse of these people. They must ask themselves very carefully what they hope to achieve. Is this desirable for the countries involved? While the judiciary in each case may believe itself to be independent and acting in the best interests of the law, perhaps other interests in these countries have motives beyond the judicial system.

Imagine the MKO is removed from terrorist lists everywhere and permitted to continue its activities unhindered by considerations of law – what next? Are they really going to successfully play a part in Iranian opposition politics? Are the people of Iran really waiting helplessly to be rescued by Massoud and Maryam Rajavi and their cult? The Rajavis want to retire in the west, to play at power politics using their followers as pawns in their games. And those whose interest is regime change at all costs are prepared to keep even this group going in the small hope it will act as an irritant.

It is certain what the MKO leaders want – but we need to ask their western supporters if they really know what they want from them.