

ParsBrief

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TRC terrorist group profile mujahedine khalgh organization (MKO)

This group was formed in the 1960s by the college-educated children of wealthy Iranian merchants. Their purpose in organizing was to counter what they perceived as excessive Western influence in the Shah`s regime and to bring the nation more in line with their philosophical blend of Marxism and Islam. At a point early in the 1970`s, the MEK concluded that violence was the only way to bring about change in Iran. Since then, the MEK has developed into the largest and most active armed Iranian dissident group. Its history is studded with anti-Western and anti-Iranian activity, continuing with recent attacks on the interests of the regime in Iran and abroad. During the 1970s the MEK staged terrorist attacks inside Iran to destabilize and embarrass the Shah`s regime; the group killed several U.S. military personnel and civilians working on defense projects in Tehran. [Full Story](#) and [More Profiles](#)

FACTS ABOUT THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF RESISTANCE OF IRAN

The Mojahedin – e Khalq founded in 1965 is currently led by Massoud Rajavi and his wife Maryam Rajavi cofounded the National Council of Resistance of Iran in Paris in 1981 with former president Abol hssan Bani sadr . Both fled Iran when Rajavi's failed power coup provoked the severe repression in which thousands were imprisoned and killed.

- The NCRI can be described as a council of various groups, organizations and individuals who believe in ' regime change' by means of armed struggle in order to bring democracy to Iran.
- The NCRI is variously described as the political wing of the Mojahedin – e Khalq.
- The Chairman of the NCRI for twenty – three years has been Masoud Rajavi .
- Before 1993 most independent members of the NCRI had rejected Massoud Rajavi's undemocratic methods and had left. Rajavi then expanded the 12 twelve member NCRI to over 550 members by co- opting his own Mogahedin members as individual NCRI membes.
- Currently, over 95% of NCRI members are from the Mogahedin and are ideologically and unquestioningly obedient to Massoud Ragavi's leadership.
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Former MKO Members' Seminar

On June 17, 2003, justice went on to fight a terrorist cult and its leaders and MKO tried to run away from law and justice by self-immolations and by chantage. In the anniversary of this day, former MKO members held a press conference in Paris and revealed the real face of this terrorist cult and supported the move of France headed by Judge Bruguiere.

In this seminar, which was held in Forest Hill Hotel, more than 80 political activist, most of whom from former members of organization and also foreigners, exchanged views about Mojahedin-e khalq. More than 10 correspondents from different news agencies took report of the meeting.

In this conference, association of "Traditional Iran-shiny Future" was introduced by some members at first. Then, the book "Chantage", which is about self-immolations last year, was introduced by Mr. Mehdi Khoshhad who has gathered it. He devoted the book to the brave French Judge Bruguiere.

Then a documentary about secret relations of Masoud Rajavi and MKO leaders with Iraqi intelligence services, about receiving weapons and money by MKO, and about

Saddam's written appreciations of Massoud for suppressing Kurds and Shiites and ... was shown. Farhad Javaheri Yar stressed on the important role of former members in revealing the nature of this organization and its close ties with former Iraqi intelligence services. Mr. Tayebi, then, gave explanations about shooting the scenes of secret meetings by Iraq intelligence services and that it was directly ordered by Saddam.

In this conference, Ali Akbar Sherbaf and Ali Ghashghavi, former members who spent several years in Abu Ghraib Prison, told of being imprisoned and tortured by Mojahedin then being given to Iraq security system. They stressed that all of what happened to them were ordered by Maryam Rajavi. They said: "Iraqi guards told us that Madam (namely Maryam Azdanloo) has ordered us to welcome you (namely torture and beating). Report of these victims was so horrible that attendees were affected.

In the conference, Abbas Sadeghi Nezhad, Ardeshir Parhizkari, Karim Haghi, and Farhad Javaheri answered the questions of reporters.

Parhizkari described the real nature of Mojahedin and warned about the presence of this dangerous cult in the world. He said a group that can take to streets its members by brainwashing and order them to set themselves on fire is ready to set the world on fire.

Sadeghi Nejad talked about the MKO's prison and inhumane acts in prison and imprisoning of more than 500 dissent members in 1994, which led to the killing of Parviz Ahmadi and Ghorban Ali Torabi and several other suspected killings.

Karim Haghi gave account about filing complaint against Maryam Qajar and Masoud Rajavi and others in French Court.

Masoud Khodabandeh, one of former guards of Maryam Azdanlou, talked about the role of Maryam in assassination of innocent people and about the violent nature of her in suppressing dissent members.

Mr. Mohammed Taghadosi, Opera singer, expressed his regret over years of cooperation with Mojahedin and of inhumane acts of this organization. Consequently, he preformed an Italian song and devoted it to Ms. Robabeh Shahrokhi. This performance affected everyone.

In this meeting, Mr. Jamshid Tahmasebi, one of former members, gave detailed explanations about MKO's current status and that it does whatever it can to its name from terrorists list.

Ms. Mitra Yousefi, one of MKO defectors and wife of Hassan Nayeb Agha discussed the position of women in the organization. Ms. Yousefi gave examples and explained that the biggest pride of high-ranking women in organization is that they become the slave of Maryam and this is an offense to Iranians who are free and honorable.

At the end of the meeting, Mr. Taghadosi performed "Ei Iran" song and attendees accompanied him.

French Lawyer Calls His Government's Support for MKO a Big Mistake

TEHRAN (IRNA) -- France acknowledges its mistake in supporting the terrorist Mujahideen Khalq Organization (MKO) and sees its backing for the group as a big mistake, said a French lawyer of Iran's Labor House Dominique Adjian here Monday.

Adjian said this in a news gathering which studied the cases of Iranian workers who were murdered by the notorious terrorist group in 1999 in the capital city of Tehran in which one worker was martyred and seven others were injured.

The French lawyer stressed that the French government will do its best to follow up the file to fight terrorism.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's Labor House has lodged a complaint against the culprits. This is while the ring-leader of the terrorist MKO group was arrested by French police in 2003, Adjian stressed.

Pointing to his recent meeting with the family of martyr Major General Ali Sayad Shirazi, he added he is going to undertake the responsibility of following up the murder-case as a lawyer assigned by Sayad Shirazi's family.

Sayad Shirazi, the then deputy of commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces was martyred by the terrorist MKO in 1999.

He expressed hope that some new information on the murder-case of Iranian workers will be obtained through France Ministry of Justice to fully follow up the case.

Belgian Senate Denies Official Support Of MKO

June 20, 2004

BRUSSELS (IRNA) -- The Belgian Senate has clarified that the signing of a petition by some Belgian senators in support of the Iranian terrorist group MKO was a private initiative which does not express the official position of the chamber.

"It is not the senate as a whole adopting the text of the petition. It was a private initiative of some senators," an information official at the senate, speaking on condition of anonymity, told IRNA.

The official noted that not all the senators had signed the petition which called on the EU to remove the MKO from its list of terrorist groups.

"We are not concerned about it," added the official.

According to local media reports, 41 out of the 71 Belgian senators had signed the petition last week.

A Belgian Foreign Ministry spokesman said the government has no intention of calling on the EU to remove the MKO's name from the terrorist list.

The European bloc entered the MKO on its blacklist in 2002.

Saddam's regime tied to secondary players

Experts say Iraq did not have connections with ambitious groups such as al-Qaida but backed several others

Newsday.com

BY KEN FIREMAN

WASHINGTON BUREAU; Knut Royce contributed to this story.

June 20, 2004

WASHINGTON - Saddam Hussein's regime did have ties to terrorists - but those who got his support were either secondary players with narrow agendas or former A-list members well past their prime - not groups with global ambitions.

That is the conclusion of several experts on terrorism in the Middle East, one of whom said Friday that Hussein was running a "hospice for retired terrorists" and had nothing to offer a sophisticated network such as al-Qaida in any case.

... Ironically, a similar conclusion was reached by the U.S. State Department in annual reports on terrorism issued in the years before the Bush administration decided to wage war against Hussein in 2003.

...In the reports, covering the years 2000, 2001 and 2002, Iraq is identified as a state sponsor of terrorism. But there al-Qaida is not mentioned, and the active groups that are named as recipients of Iraqi patronage focused their violent energies on targets in specific countries such as Israel or Iran.

For example, the 2001 report notes direct Iraqi support for five terrorist groups: the Mujahedin-e-Khalq (MEK), the Kurdistan Workers Party, the Palestine Liberation Front, the Abu Nidal organization and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The MEK is dedicated exclusively to violent acts against Iran's theocratic regime. The Kurdish group has directed its attacks entirely against Turkey. The other three groups are pro-Palestinian organizations that attack targets in Israel.

...The State Department report covering 2002, which was issued after Bush ordered U.S. forces into Iraq, paints a more dire portrait. It says Hussein's intelligence service "laid the groundwork for possible attacks" against U.S. and Western targets and accuses Iraq of being a safe haven and transit point for groups that seek to attack the United States, Israel and other countries. It offers no supporting details.

The 9/11 commission report discusses three meetings between al-Qaida and an Iraqi intelligence official in Sudan in the early 1990s, the last involving bin Laden. At that 1994 meeting, bin Laden asked Iraq to provide space for al-Qaida training camps and to help in obtaining weapons, but the Iraqis never responded.

Bush and Cheney last week both cited the Sudan meetings as evidence that a relationship had existed between al-Qaida and Hussein's regime. But several experts said the Sudan meetings prove nothing of the kind. They said it is not uncommon for intelligence services throughout the region and the world - including some from countries friendly to the United States - to meet quietly with terrorist groups that they have no interest in actively supporting.

"You use these groups," said Anthony Cordesman, a fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. "Intelligence services do this all over the world. They often have informal contacts . . . just to know what they're doing. If you don't want them operating in your country, you provide just enough cooperation so they don't."

Knut Royce contributed to this story.