

ParsBrief

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Mujahedin Khalq Organization elements attacked the Iranian families and the Iraqi security forces.

Alalam, February 18,2010

While preventing the Iranian families visit their relatives incarcerated in Ashraf Camp in Iraq's Diyala Province, MKO elements attacked the Iranian families and the Iraqi security forces accompanied them.

Iranian families asked the Iraqi government to take urgent measures for the release of their children imprisoned in Ashraf Camp.

One of the relatives of the detainees told Alalam : "elements of Mujahedin have captured my brother here in Ashraf Base and despite all the problems, we've come from Iran but the Organization prevents us to visit him . I ask the Iraqi government to solve this problem.

The child of another detainee said:" My father has long been confined in Ashraf Base, Iraq. I am here to meet my father but the MKO's elements refused to let me visit my father and beat me.

Adel Almane Iraqi political activists told Alalam : "The Iraqi government opposes the presence of any armed organization in its territory as it threatens the security of neighboring countries as well as that of Iraq itself. "

He also said: "to give the opportunity to MKO to reside at Iraq would darken the Iran-Iraq diplomatic relations."

Rajavi, Rigi to make Joint Terror front

Tabnak news website - February 16, 2010

[The plots hatched by the anti-Iran terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) for stationing troops alongside Iran's eastern borders were defused after Tehran arrested Abdolmalek Rigi, the most notorious terrorist ringleader at its eastern borders, an Iranian lawmaker said Saturday]

Tehran, 16 February: [Opposition group] Mojahedin-e Khalgh Organization [MKO] and [Sunni rebel group] Rigi group have held initial talks to make a joint front and cooperate.

According to Javan Online, the heads of the Rigi and Hypocrites [MKO] group have recently met in an area in Pakistan and have held talks.

In this meeting, [head of the Rigi group] Abdolmalek Rigi has met with a number of the operatives and commanders of the Hypocrites group and has held talks with them. He

announced that he would be ready to have any sort of cooperation [with MKO] in line with making a terrorist group under the name of the Armed Forces Organization of Mojahedin. It is said that provision of weaponry and exchange of information have been among agreed issues in this meeting prior to finalizing the decision to make a joint front.

Translated by BBC Monitoring

Iraq FM: Mojahedin Khalq deportation based on Iraqi law

BBC Monitoring Middle East reporting from IRINN, January 7, 2010

At 0810 gmt, Iranian News Network (IRINN) started to broadcast live a joint news conference between the Iranian and Iraqi foreign ministers.

The Iraqi foreign minister, Hoshyar Zebari, was asked if Baghdad would take Iran to international courts if Tehran did not withdraw its forces from Iraq.

In response, the Iranian minister, Manuchehr Mottaki, said that each country's border guards were stationed on the right sides of the border and that the two sides were working on demarcation of borders.

"I should tell the people of Iran and Iraq that the two countries have very amicable ties... and no one can undermine those ties," he said.

Hoshyar Zebari also said that the presence of Iranian armed opposition Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) and Kurdish PKK could not continue in the country based on the Iraqi law.

The news conference ended at 0816 gmt.

Source: Islamic Republic of Iran News Network, Tehran, in Persian 0810 gmt 7 Jan

Mojahedin Khalq lobby clutching at straws

Written answers and statements, January 13, 2010

Lord Maginnis of Drumglass (Crossbench)

To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the Written Answer by Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead on 16 December 2009 (WA 246), whether their position on alleged injustices against residents at Camp Ashraf by the Iraqi authorities takes account of their representations to the Government of China in the case of Akmal Shaikh

Lord Brett (Government Whip (technically a Lord in Waiting, HM Household); Labour)

The UK opposes the death penalty and takes action in all cases to try to prevent UK nationals being executed. Akmal Shaikh was the first EU/British national to be executed in China in 50 years. Twenty-seven high level representations were made to the Chinese authorities dating back to November 2008 by my right honourable friends the Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary and other Ministers. The basis for these representations mainly centred on Mr Shaikh's mental health. Mr Shaikh's mental health was a crucial aspect of evidence that the Government believed the courts should have considered before they delivered the sentence.

Camp Ashraf is part of a sovereign and democratic Iraq and the situation there is a matter for the Government of Iraq. We regularly discuss Camp Ashraf with the Iraqi Government,

including with the Iraqi Prime Minister and Ministers for Human Rights, Internal Affairs and Foreign Affairs. We continue to underline the need for the Iraqi authorities to deal with the residents of Camp Ashraf in a way that meets international standards.

There is no link between the two issues.

House of Lords, London , January 13, 2010

<http://www.theyworkforyou.com/wrans/?id=2010-01-13a.160.7&s=ashraf#g160.9>

Official Fatah Website drops all material from Iranian sources opposing the regime

IMRA - 21 January, 2010

The official Fatah movement website, Voice of Palestine announced yesterday that they are removing all material from their website from Iranian sources opposing the Iranian regime.

The following is a translation of excerpts from the Arabic item:

Voice of Palestine deletes all news concerning the PMOI of its website and announced not to deal with their news

Eshtewi general supervisor for Center for Media and Information - The Voice of Palestine - Fatah announced that the New Department of the web page was deleting all news concerning PMOI [AL: People's Mujahedeen of Iran] from the servers and that the Center would not deal with any news of the MEK[AL: Mujahedin-e Khalq - another name for PMOI] from now on. The Technical Center team is working to delete all the links present to these items in global search engines such as Google, Yahoo, and the Director of the Center hopes that the process of deleting the links from the web site will be completed in the next 24 hours, so that the servers will be completely free from any news for the MEK.

The move is to resolve the impact of news published by the Editor web page entitled "Commander of the Iranian Resistance message on the occasion of the uprising of the Iranian people" which was carrying with it the words insulting to the Iranian regime, in Persian...

Eshtewi said that the relationship between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Palestinian Authority and Fatah is the fraternal relationship and the Iranian regime would not be offended from the pages of electronic media and that the Palestinian Fatah will not allow news of any form to be distributed which affect the fraternal relations between the two countries.

Dr. Aaron Lerner

French court rules against Mojahedin Khalq advocate Rajavi

Iran Interlink - February 14, 2010

Mr. Yves Bonnet, former Member of French National Assembly and Director of the French Counterterrorism Agency (DST), has been fined and was ordered to pay compensation in a libel case on February 11, 2010. He was warned that further infringements would attract even more severe punishments.

The defamation case was brought by Mr. Ehsan Naraghi, Mr. Jahangir Shadanlou and Mr. Manouchehr Shalali against Mr. Yves Bonnet who had falsely accused them of being 'agents of Iran's Intelligence Ministry in a book titled 'VEVAK: At the service of the Ayatollahs'. Mr. Christopher Barge of Timaeus publishing company was also ordered to publicise the court's decision in relation to the book.

In February 2005, a similar defamation case was won by British academic Dr. Ali Ansari. A book written by a leading member of the Mojahedin-e Khalq had described Dr. Ansari as an "ardent apologist" and a "fervent proponent" of the Iranian Government. On receiving Dr. Ansari's complaint in court, the publisher accepted fully that there was no basis for what had been written about him and immediately offered him an apology.

The court ordered a suitable sum to be paid to an appropriate charity and for Dr. Ansari's legal costs to be met in full.

This latest decision of the Tribunal de Grande Instance of Paris in the case against Yves Bonnet was in a similar vein. The complainants were under severe pressure by the Mojahedin-e Khalq during the hearing on 17 and 18 December 2009 as several hundred members of the group packed the building in an attempt to intimidate the complainants and witnesses.

The judgment against Yves Bonnet and his publisher is another example of the failure of Rajavi in the attempted demonization of Iranian dissidents and critics of the Mojahedin-e Khalq.

MKO fundraising for Haiti

Stockholmian.com - January 28,2010

Following the disastrous earthquake in Haiti, Sweden, with a nine-million population is the third country to help the survivors ranked after the US and Canada.

But fraudulent groups use the opportunity to raise their own funds, manipulating people's emotional feelings.

Swedish authorities have made some decisions to prevent these individuals or institutes from financially abusing people. It has published a list of organizations that are considered as untrustworthy charities.

The government has allocated some special bank accounts to charity organizations. Such bank accounts are numbered with digits beginning with 90. The thirty organizations listed by the government, lack the accounts which are called "ninety". Among those organizations, one can see the name of a front organization working for Mujahedin Khalq organization which is named "Mujahedin Sympathizers Society"(MSF) . Erik Zachrisson, from Council of funds raised by volunteer charity organization of Sweden has already told about the listed organizations:" I don't know their nationality and they have not managed to present a registered number for their organization. I just know they are active all over Sweden and they do not own the account "ninety" and they have never asked to register a "ninety" account. They stop people in the streets by showing brochures or pictures and for example ask them if they know Amnesty International and then ask for financial help. A lot of people think they are helping that mentioned international body"

Many of these organizations use names including terms like cancer, orphans, very similar to those of famous charity organizations in order to deceive people.

The thirty listed organizations are as follows:

- Al-Aqsa Spannmål Stiftelse
- Baltic 2000
- Cancerhjälpfonden
- Cancer- och Allergifonden
- Cancer- och Allergifondens Stödförening
- Cancer- och Barnhjälp
- Cancer- och Miljöfonden – CMF
- Cancer- och Trafikskadades Riksförbund
- Cancer & Trafikskadefonden
- CURO – Riksföreningen för cancersjuka
- Developing World Clothing
- FRF-Stiftelsen – Fonden för Rehab o medicinsk forskning
- Gatubarnsföreningen
- Hjälpfonden
- Hjärtehjälp
- Humana Sverige/UFF – U-landshjälp från Folk till Folk
- Innocent Child/Krigets Oskyldiga
- Insamlingsstiftelsen för Handikappades Rekreation
- Klädinsamling Service
- Mojahedin Sympatisör Förening – MSF
- NYTEX
- Orphan Home Care
- Pilgrimsfolket
- SADF – Alzheimer och Demensforskning
- Samhällsfonden/Svenska Samhällsfonden
- Stockholmsstorken/Storken
- Svenska Smärtafonden
- Sveriges Cancersjukas Riksförbund
- Telehjälpen

Iraqi pro-MKO MP cheats the cult

Sawt al-Iraq, January 25, 2010

Saleh Al-Mutlaq took Mojahedin millions, did not deliver

An Iraqi journalist unveiled parts of a pro-MKO MP's frauds, including his cheating the terrorist cult.

Saleh Al-Mutlaq, the current Iraqi MP disqualified from running in the upcoming general election for his Baathist ties, is accused of several multimillion frauds, Hailain Association (families of Iranian terror victims) news website quoted Seifullah Ali as writing in Sawt Al-Iraq.

"Mutlaq receives 10 million dollars from the Mujahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) every year to provide them with their needs including food. However, he has not met many of his obligations though he has received 70 million dollars in the last seven years," Ali wrote in his "Saleh Al-Mutlaq, thief of money and politics".

"According to documents published in the Iraqi Al-Bayyinah Al-Jadidah newspaper, in collusion with the US former ambassador to Iraq Zalmay Khalilzad, Mutlaq won a 96-million-dollar tender for Fallujah's sewage and paving. However, he has been warned by the US a few times since he has done nothing for the city in the last years," he added.

Saleh Al-Mutlaq has been an ardent supporter of the MKO and has backed their stay in Iraq. Calling the terrorist cult a lover of Iraqis and peace in the country, he was the head of the MKO Backers' Summit at Camp Ashraf prior to the Iraqi army's taking control of the camp.

MKO still deserves its terrorist listing

Associated Press. January 12, 2010

Terror Group Swears It's Changed Its Ways. Scouts' Honor

WASHINGTON-The People's Mujahidin is sick and tired of being called a terrorist organization by the U.S. government. So leaders of the terrorist group settled on a uniquely American strategy for handling this problem: They sued.

Yes, the group has done its share of assassinations, bombings, embassy attacks and killings of U.S. troops. But that was long ago, and now the People's Mujaheddin wants to let bygones be bygones. It says it has devoted itself to democracy and nonviolence, and it would like very much to be taken off the State Department's list of international terrorist groups.

Friends of the People's Mujaheddin Organization of Iran-a k a MEK, a k a Mujaheddin-e Khalq, a k a National Liberation Army of Iran, a k a National Council of Resistance, a k a Organization of the People's Holy Warriors-assembled Tuesday at the U.S. courthouse here to hear Andrew Frey of the firm Mayer Brown plead their case.

"Today's PMOI is unique among foreign terrorist organizations," the lawyer told a three-judge appellate panel. "The organization has foresworn violence. We walk the walk. There have been no terrorist acts by PMOI for eight years."

But couldn't the attacks resume? "The fact that terrorist activities are bad if they happen could be said of the Girl Scouts," Frey reasoned.

The People's Mujaheddin as Girl Scouts. Only in America.

People's Mujaheddin fighters were old-school terrorists who once battled the shah of Iran. They then went to Iraq and, with Saddam Hussein's help, attacked the ayatollahs. They allegedly killed hundreds of people, but now they call themselves a nonviolent Iranian opposition movement. About 3,400 of them and their family members still live at Camp Ashraf in Iraq-and they have plenty of friends in the United States, including former Rep. Tom Tancredo, R-Colo., who watched Tuesday's proceedings from the front row.

The government's lawyer, Douglas Letter, wasn't about to negotiate with "an organization that for at least 30 years has been involved in terrorism, violence, assassination, et cetera."

He admitted the public record was not sufficient to demonstrate that the group still poses a threat, but he said "it was the classified material" that made it clear that the group still deserves its terrorist listing.

Here the People's Mujaheddin has a problem: The group is allowed to respond to the classified evidence but is not allowed to see it. "Due process," Letter explained, "is a flexible concept."

This turned the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit into something of a kangaroo court on Tuesday. With the terrorist organization not allowed to know the evidence against it, there was little hope of prevailing. "We're at the blind man's bluff part of the argument," Frey complained.

"We were always at that stage," corrected Judge Stephen Williams, one of the three on the panel.

But if the proceedings seemed stacked against the People's Mujaheddin, consider this: How many other countries would allow a terrorist organization to sue the government for name-calling?

In a bonus for the group, it had its day in court on the same day a grand jury in the very same courthouse was hearing from two hairstylists about their conversations with Tareq and Michael Salehi, the White House state dinner crashers. A bank of television cameras stood sentry outside the courthouse-not for the terrorists, but for the stylists, who arrived in a Hummer limousine.

An overflow crowd was in the courtroom, where some men standing in the back passed notes in what looked to be Farsi. The clerk called up case 09-1059, *People's Mujaheddin Organization of Iran v. U.S. Department of State, et al*. She struggled with the pronunciation, starting with "People's Mooha" before correcting herself.

Frey assured the judges that his client "rejects the sharia," or Islamic law, and renounced its Marxist past. He said the group is "totally committed" to a democratic and secular Iran. Judge Karen Henderson asked if the lawyer could provide "affirmative evidence that supporters who may be anywhere in the world have foresworn violence."

"I can't speak to individual members," Frey admitted.

Frey was asked about the accusation that the group was behind plans for bombing in Baghdad. "That kind of thing does not constitute substantial evidence," he replied. And the accusation that the group was training women to be suicide bombers? "Utterly implausible," he said.

"We've got eight years, I believe, of a clean record," he pleaded, citing such "powerful evidence" as the "disbanding of the National Liberation Army."

Maybe so, but it will probably take more than a lawsuit to solve their image problem. In the hours before Tuesday's hearing in Washington, a bomb went off in Tehran, killing a nuclear scientist. Iranian authorities, naturally, blamed the United States, Israel-and the People's Mujaheddin.

Dana Milbank

The West must cut its terror ties

The Daily Star - January 06, 2010

The world has been put on notice that Yemen is a worrying center of activities by terrorists. The question is, how many other countries can be added to that list? The Daily Star is publishing an open letter to British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, by Massoud Khodabandeh, a UK-based consultant who demands that the Mojahedin-e Khalq organization be brought under control. The group, which is termed "terrorist" by the United States, is allowed to operate freely in Germany, France and the United Kingdom, and its satellite programs are inciting violence on the streets of Iran.

Meanwhile, the Iranian authorities are claiming that some of those arrested in the demonstrations and clashes are Mojahedin-e Khalq members, purportedly acting with the connivance of Western intelligence agencies.

Whatever the exact degree of Western involvement with the Mojahedin-e Khalq, the group remains a candidate for partnership with Western governments, who preach about fighting terror.

The Mojahedin-e Khalq might be a footnote in the wider struggle, but it's the nail that punctures the great powers' approach to Iran. Why harbor the group if it's terrorist? If the West can't agree on who's a terrorist, how do they expect an agreement with the Muslim world?

The partisans of the Mojahedin-e Khalq aren't just reporting the news from London; they're inciting and agitating, and acting as a fifth column (whatever their actual size). They help ensure that the dispute between factions in Iran takes a course that leaves behind any possibility of reasonable settlement.

People in this region mentally note that the West, in some way or form, enables the efforts and activities of the Mojahedin-e Khalq while demanding action on terror. Today, Hillary Clinton is warning us about Yemen; can we be absolutely sure that such shadowy foreign policy tools aren't being used there too?

Similar credibility damage has come from Blackwater in Iraq, and the larger Private Military Contractor phenomenon. Many Iraqis have suffered the exactions of these mercenaries; last week, a group of Blackwater employees found out that they wouldn't have to stand trial for murder. People hear the stories of Blackwater, and the Mojahedin-e Khalq, and all of the Obama administration's rhetoric of fighting extremists and violence goes out the window.

Even worse, people assume that the West actually seeks a clash with the Muslim world, by allowing these harmful elements to survive or flourish.

If the West wants to go forward with new sanctions on Iran, and seeks regional and international support, it simply must clean up its act. It can't allow these terrorists and non-state actors to wreck the chances for making a real fight against the economic underdevelopment and political illegitimacy that plagues us, and that incubates the terror that Washington is so worried about.