

ParsBrief

Number 55
October 2010

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Brief No.53

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October,2010

Black Plague - Photos expose the MEK organized crime in Diyala

Iraq Beituna Agency, September 19, 2010

Diyala - A number of members of the House of Representatives and local government officials of Diyala province along with Senate members, academic figures, the media and managers of departments in the district of Khalis, established the Clans and Families of Diyala Exhibition - named Black Plague. This is a photographic exhibition exposing the crimes and practices of the Mojahedin Organization in the province of Diyala in Iraq.

The exhibition, which comprises 100 large colour photographs (100 × 70) cm, is scheduled to continue for three days at the Hall of the Directorate of Youth and Sports in the city of Khalis, 15 kilometers north of the city of Baquba, the county seat.

The exhibition also includes words and poems condemning the crimes of the Mojahedin. A Conference of the founders of the exhibition called on the government not to deviate from the public call for the removal of the Mojahedin from the land of Iraq.

The Mayor of Khalis, Adi Alkhaddran told Iraq Beituna Agency that the exhibition is the first of its kind in the province, noting that it was preceded by several conferences and demonstrations demanding the expulsion of the Mojahedin from Diyala and out of the country in accordance with the principles of the Constitution, which prohibits the presence of, and harbouring of terrorist organizations on its territory, and using the country as a springboard for aggressive operations against neighbouring countries. The Mayor urged the government to specify its position on the issue of the Mojahedin organization and put pressure on international organizations to support Iraq and not to do deals with it [Mojahedin].

Alkhaddran said that the Mojahedin Organization had plundered the country and the province, taking over 6000 acres of land in Khalis district. He said they took 80% of the

citizens' plots of land, and pointed out the economic gains for the Judiciary by returning the investment in Camp Ashraf taken by the organization for more than three decades.

Noting the tension created in the relationship with Iran created by the former regime by harbouring the Mojahedin and the futility and foolishness of Saddam's regime, the Mayor said that "some parties, under the flag of the Baath Party, are still in the political arena with external support and local cooperation with the Mojahedin Organization and trying to whitewash their crimes in front of public opinion and demanding humanitarian laws in dealing with members of this organization, which is stained with the blood of Iraqi people."

The former Congressman and a member of the National Coalition, Taha Shield Saadi said during his speech on the crimes of the Mojahedin and its role in the genocide of the Iraqi people in several areas , notably the south and areas of Tuz and Diyala, revealed the relation of Saddam's regime with the Mojahedin Organisation over many decades, such as misusing the Oil for Food programme and using the Mojahedin to operate economic resources and commercial companies on behalf of Iraq abroad.

Saadi said that the Iraqis have a legitimate legal right to prosecute the Mojahedin Organization for organized crime before the fall of the regime, and supporting and harbouring terrorist groups after the fall of the regime.

He added: The Mojahedin in their various websites, claim that there are many groups and organisations which support them, but these are fictitious and only exist on the group's websites. They invite people to anti-Iraq and anti-establishment activities as well as joining in the cult activities. They also spread hatred between religions and ethnic groups in Iraq.

In turn, the Deputy Chairman of the Diyala Council, Sadeq Al-Husseini, denounced the double standards followed by the United Nations in dealing with the Mojahedin, demanding that Iraq be lenient toward members of the Organization. The United Nations for the first time has accepted the classification of the Mojahedin as terrorist but still asked Iraq to be lenient. He added that, the interference of Mojahedin in the internal affairs of Iraq is unacceptable and unjustifiable and that the group are dangerous and saturated with bloodshed and the culture of death.

Husseini said that the Council of Diyala and the parliament had passed a resolution to expel the MKO from the country, but this decision was not acted on properly by central government. He praised the position of the Council of Samawah province which refused to allow the Mojahedin to be relocated to their territory.

The Vice-Chairman of the Board of Diyala who emphasised again the demand of the people of Iraq to expel the Mojahedin, said this organisation is logistically and financially behind all the security problems in the province, and this has been endorsed by the

security officials that this is the case. Therefore we do not want them to stay in our country for even a day.

Member of Parliament for the Iraqi List (Ahmad Sharif) said that after parliament passed a decree to remove the Mojahedin from Iraq. He stressed that the settlement of issues between the Mojahedin and the government of Iran is nothing to do with Iraq.

Sharif also referred to some of the attacks on mosques during Friday prayers in Sadr City by direct order of Saddam's regime and emphasised on the need to expel the MKO according to the constitution of Iraq and international laws of the United Nations.

Tribal and religious figures also rejected the presence of MKO in Diyala province. In this respect, Sheikh Hamid al-Azzawi (religious scholar) condemned the use of the name of Mojahedin for this organisation with its black history and the murderous acts they carried out before and after the fall of Saddam. He said the presence of the MKO shows the weakness of the Iraqi govt, which should be rectified as soon as possible.

The head of Ezzah tribe, Sheikh Ali al-burhan al- Azzawi explained the confiscation of tens of thousands of kilometres of agricultural land by the Mojahedin and their regular attacks during the time of Saddam, terrorising the villagers and arresting their children. And using repressive methods all under Saddam's order with the threat that, confronting the Mojahedin means confronting Saddam. He demanded compensation for the tribal people.

Al-Azzawi said, after the fall of Saddam, Mojahedin started buying goods and vehicles stolen from the government and they encouraged weak people to commit burglary and steal things and had a direct role in the lootings and crimes at that time.

Sheikh Mohammed Jassem Al-Tamimi invited all the international and internal bodies and organisations responsible for deporting the MKO to use peaceful means and not to resort to force. He compared the MKO with the Black Death plague which has fallen on the land of Diyala province and especially Khalis. He said that they are still the main place of support for Saddamists and its repressive apparatus in the province.

Sheikh Resan Maamouri head of the Al-mamereh tribe in Diala warned against the presence of this Black Death (Rajavi cult) in Iraq and Diyala province and their role in the support and training and logistics of organised terrorism, and asked the government to put an end to the suffering of the people of the province and once and for all get rid of this dangerous disease (Rajavi cult).

The head of the media committee for Diyal provincial Council, Fakhri al-Obeidi, rejected the claim that 480,000 Diyali residents have asked for the Mojahedin to stay in the province. He said the number produced by the Mojahedin is irrational and added that the total number of residents in the five sections, including all tribes, including adults and

children is one million four hundred and eighty thousand. This is considering that I have added the cities of Khaneqin and Balous which are from Mandaly and Gazzanieh, and also huge parts of Muqdadiya , Baquba and people of Khalis, who we know have never had signed such a thing...

Mr. Einakian;another MKO Cult defector escaped Camp Ashraf

Sahar Family Foundation - September 15 2010

Mr. Alireza Einakian who spent 25 years in Rajavi's cult could manage to escape Camp Ashraf at 1:00 a.m. on September 7th 2010. He then submitted himself to Iraqi forces.

Mr. Einakian immediately asked Iraqi forces to take him to the gates of Camp where the families of Ashraf residents were on strike but they refused to do so. They just informed the families the next morning.

According to what Mr. Einakian reported about the situation inside Camp Ashraf, the members have to travel in the camp in groups of about fifteen in which several high-ranking members are supposed to supervise others. Most of cleaning works of the Camp's surroundings are done by the commandants and high officials because they are more reliable. Those who are in doubt of escaping from the camp are seriously controlled. If they cast doubt on someone, they will subject him /her to numerous manipulation meetings, imposing too much psychological pressure on him/her.

The members are told that if they escape from the Camp, Iraqi forces will turn them back to the cult where severe punishments will wait for them. About those who have previously fled the Camp, the members are told that they have been transferred to another part of the Camp.

At the present time, families' loudspeakers by which they denounce the violation of basic human right in MKO are the main trouble the cult is facing. The authorities of the Camp do efforts to keep the residents far from those loudspeakers or they make noises to tamper their voice. Apparently the recent facts revealed by Ms. Batould Soltani on Massoud Rajavi's immoral treatments and the so-called salvation dance have caused hesitation among Ashraf residents.

U.S. Official Casts Doubt On Iran Opposition Group's Nuclear Claim

Radio Free Europe, September 10, 2010

Alireza Jafarzadeh, the president of Strategic Policy Consulting, points to a monitor reportedly showing tunnels to a nuclear site during a press conference to present information on Iran's new "major secret" nuclear site, Washington, D.C., on September 9. News agencies have quoted a U.S. official as casting doubt on claims by Iranian opposition members that their contacts have discovered a new secret nuclear site in Iran.

Alireza Jafarzadeh, a spokesman for the dissidents, told a press conference on September 9 in Washington that the site was intended as a facility to enrich uranium and was located underground in mountains about 120 kilometers west of the Iranian capital, Tehran.

Jafarzadeh described the facility as part a secret Iranian nuclear weapons program.

The information about the site is reported to have come from sources inside Iran affiliated with the exiled opposition groups the National Council of Resistance of Iran and the People's Mujahedin Organization of Iran, which is considered a terrorist group by the U.S. government.

News agencies quoted a U.S. official as saying the U.S. had known about the facility for years and had no reason at the current time to believe it was being used for nuclear purposes.

The United States has led efforts to impose UN sanctions against Iran over the Islamic republic's refusal to halt uranium-enrichment work, which could be diverted toward an atomic weapon.

compiled from agency reports

http://www.rferl.org/content/US_Official_Casts_Doubt_On_Iran_Opposition_Groups_Nuclear_Claim/2153823.html

Mojahedin Khalq holds penitent members hostage

Press TV, September 10, 2010

The terrorist group Mojahedin Khalq Organization bars its penitent members from leaving the organization and joining their families, an Iranian envoy says.

There are some "remorseful Mojahedin Khalq Organization (MKO) members [at Iraq's] Camp Ashraf who wish to join their families but are prevented from leaving the camp by

the group's leaders," Iranian ambassador to Baghdad, Hassan Danaei-far, told Mehr news agency on Wednesday.

He also made a reference to the "frequent" reports on infighting at the camp over such issues and said, "We hope the incoming [Iraqi] government applies more pressure [on the terror group] and helps reunite youth with their families and hands the criminals over to the judiciaries."

The Iraq-based MKO is listed as a terrorist group by much of the international community. Founded in the 1960s, the MKO has masterminded terrorist operations in Iran and Iraq, killing thousands of people and wounding many more.

The group is especially notorious in Iran for having sided with former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war.

Following the 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq, US troops disarmed the MKO terrorists at Iraq's Camp Ashraf, where they were based, and surrounded it until Iraqi forces took over responsibility for the camp in 2009.

The Public Prosecutor of the Iraqi High Tribunal, Jaafar al-Mousawi, stated in mid-August that investigations have also incriminated MKO members in playing a leading role in the killings of Iraqi civilians.

Mousawi further commented that the terrorist group had supported Saddam Hussein's Baath regime, aiding in the suppression of the Iraqi people's uprising in 1991 and the torture and massacre of innocent people in the northern and southern regions of the country.

State Department amused by MKO so called Revelations

Federal News Service, FEDNWS, September 10, 2010

STATE DEPARTMENT REGULAR BRIEFING BRIEFER: MARK TONER, DIRECTOR,
STATE DEPARTMENT PRESS OFFICE (Part 2-final)

... Q With the -- with the Iranian nuclear site --

MR. TONER: I believe they've made claims in the past, yes...

Q They have asked that the secretary of State remove the blacklisting of Iran's main opposition, the People's Mujaheddin Organization of Iran. Any plans to do that?..

MR. TONER: The so-called MEK? I believe they're still deemed a foreign terrorist organization. No plans that I'm aware of to change that ...

Q This group has been one of the sources of previous intelligence on the same subject?

MR. TONER: I'm sorry, is that a question?

Q With the -- with the Iranian nuclear site -- MR. TONER: I believe they've made claims in the past, yes.

But I'm not -- Q Have they provided you -- the State Department, the U.S. administration -- with any -- MR. TONER: Not that I'm aware. I can't say a yes or no. I don't know. Go ahead.

Q They have asked that the secretary of State remove the blacklisting of Iran's main opposition, the People's Mujaheddin Organization of Iran. Any plans to do that?

MR. TONER: This is the MEK?

Q Correct.

MR. TONER: The so-called MEK? I believe they're still deemed a foreign terrorist organization. No plans that I'm aware of to change that.

Q Okay.

MR. TONER: Go ahead, in the back.

Q Different topic. Yesterday at CFR, Secretary Clinton said, "We reaffirm our bonds with close allies like South Korea, Japan and Australia," and some Japanese media is taking this wording a little bit seriously. Before, in the past, it's been said "Japan, South Korea, Australia," so we're wondering if the switching in terminology has any effect on -- is there a change in policy?

MR. TONER: (Laughs.) I think I can state pretty unequivocally that there's no change in policy. We love them all.

Q Thank you. (Laughs, laughter.) MR. TONER: Anything else?

That's it? Great.

Nobody will say thank you?

Q All right. (Laughter.) MR. TONER: Great.

Ashraf Resident Escape from the Cult

Nejat Bloggers – September 1, 2010

Another resident of Camp Ashraf defected from the cult of Rajavi.

Mr. Morteza Badanara Marzdashti escaped from Camp Ashraf and joined Iraqi forces on Saturday, August 28, 2010.

Mr. Marzdashti was recruited by MKO agents in 2002 in Turkey where he was hopeful to find a job. He was taken to Iraq by MKO recruiters who had duped him using their deceitful recruitment tactics.

The recently defected Ashraf member reveals that leaving the camp is a really difficult challenge for the residents. They are seriously supervised by MKO leaders who try to terrify them from the consequences of submitting to Iraqi forces.

Mr. Marzdashti said that he left the group in fear of being arrested and imprisoned by Iraqi forces.

Iraq 'urged to fire MKO members'

PressTV – August 20, 2010

An Iraqi security official has urged the government to fire members of the notorious terrorist group Mojahedin Khalq Organization (MKO) from the country.

The MKO is funding armed groups to cause chaos and disorder in central Diyala province, said Ahmed al-Zarkushi, the mayor of Saadiyah district in Diyala, Mehr news agency reported.

The mayor further pointed out that the terrorist group has been using Iraq's wealth more than the Iraqi people.

The Iraq-based MKO is listed as a terrorist group by much of the international community. Founded in the 1960s, the MKO has masterminded a slew of terrorist operations in Iran and Iraq, killing thousands of people and wounding many more.

The group is especially notorious in Iran for having sided with former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war.

Following the 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq, US troops disarmed the MKO terrorists at Iraq's Camp Ashraf, where they were based, and surrounded it until Iraqi forces took over responsibility for the camp in 2009.

MKO Remains in US Blacklist

Fars News Agency - August 10, 2010

The anti-Iran terrorist group, the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO), remained in the US list of terrorist groups and organizations despite intense efforts by Zionist lobbies and a number of the Congressmen to delist the group.

The US State Department announced in its recent annual report on terrorism that no change has been made in the MKO's status.

The MKO insists that the US should delist it as a terrorist organization, a demand which has been rejected so far by Washington.

An appeals court in the US had earlier ruled that the State Department should review the terror status of the MKO.

The MKO had filed a petition against the US blacklisting in 2008.

The Bush administration, however, rejected the request in its final days in 2009, after examining the material submitted by the group and the US intelligence community, including classified information.

In July 2010, a three-judge panel of the US Court of Appeals in Washington said in a 22-page decision that the US government failed to give the group a fair chance to rebut unclassified information that claimed the group supported terrorist activities.

The government was obligated under a 1996 antiterrorism law and 2004 revisions to give the group the chance to rebut unclassified information, the appeals court said, adding that the group was "permitted access to the unclassified portion of the record only after the decision was final."

In a statement, the State Department said it would study the decision, but added that the US government continues to view the group as a terrorist organization.

The MKO, whose main stronghold is in Iraq, is blacklisted by much of the international community, including the United States.

Before an overture by the EU, the MKO was on the European Union's list of terrorist organizations subject to an EU-wide assets freeze. Yet, the MKO puppet leader, Maryam Rajavi, who has residency in France, regularly visited Brussels and despite the ban enjoyed full freedom in Europe.

Some other members of the MKO who have had a role in the assassination of a large number of Iranian citizens and officials are currently living in France.

The group started assassination of Iranian citizens and officials after the Islamic Revolution in a bid to take control of the newly established Islamic Republic. It killed several of Iran's new leaders in the early years after the revolution, including the then President, Mohammad Ali Rajayee, Prime Minister, Mohammad Javad Bahonar and the Judiciary Chief, Mohammad Hossein Beheshti who were killed in bomb attacks by MKO members in 1981.

The group fled to Iraq in 1986, where it was protected by Saddam Hussein and where it helped the Iraqi dictator suppress Shiite and Kurd uprisings in the country.

The terrorist group joined Saddam's army during the Iraqi imposed war on Iran (1980-1988) and helped Saddam and killed thousands of Iranian civilians and soldiers during the US-backed Iraqi imposed war on Iran.

Earlier this year, Iraqi security forces took control of the training base of the MKO at Camp Ashraf - about 60km (37 miles) north of Baghdad - and detained dozens of the members of the terrorist group.

The Iraqi authority also changed the name of the military center from Camp Ashraf to the Camp of New Iraq.

Many of the MKO members have abandoned the terrorist organization while most of those still remaining in the camp are said to be willing to quit but are under pressure and torture not to do so.

A May 2005 Human Rights Watch report accused the MKO of running prison camps in Iraq and committing human rights violations.

According to the Human Rights Watch report, the outlawed group puts defectors under torture and jail terms.

Numerous articles and letters posted on the Internet by family members of MKO recruits confirm reports of the horrific abuse that the group inflicts on its own members and the alluring recruitment methods it uses.

The most shocking of such stories includes accounts given by former British MKO member Ann Singleton and Mustafa Mohammadi -- the father of an Iranian-Canadian girl who was drawn into the group during an MKO recruitment campaign in Canada.

Mohammadi recounts his desperate efforts to contact his daughter, who disappeared several years ago - a result of what the MKO called a 'two-month tour' of Camp Ashraf for teenagers.

He also explains how the group forces the families of its recruits to take part in pro-MKO demonstrations in the western countries by threatening to kill their loved ones.

Lacking a foothold in Iran, the terrorist group recruits ill-informed teens from Iranian immigrant communities in western states and blocks their departure afterwards.

Israel's Secret Relationship with MKO

Nejat bloggers - Mazda Parsi - August 8, 2010

In the 1960's when the Mujahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) was founded by a handful of Iranian university students, its ideology encompassed a classless, monotheist society which denied all symbols of Western capitalism and Jewish Zionism. With this denial came a penchant for violence and systematic killing—killing which the State Department recognizes as terrorism. Michael Rubin, an independent scholar who in 2009, led a workshop at the AIPAC (American Israel Public Affairs Committee—America's pro-Israeli lobby) conference in Washington DC, wrote an article in 2006 titled "Monsters of the Left" in which he declares that the "MKO launched a wave of bomb attacks which targeted the Iran-American Society, the US Information office, the Hotel International, Pepsi Cola, General Motors, and the Marine Oil Company [...] In a wave of bombings that continued into 1975, the MKO group attacked clubs, stores, police facilities, minority-owned businesses, factories it accused of having 'Israeli connections,' and symbols of state and capitalism." [1] While carrying out these attacks, the MKO not only denounced Israel, but it supported the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), and in fact, during the 1970's, some of the MKO's core members went to train in PLO military camps. [2] The MKO's hostility towards Israel and Zionism was so strong that it led them to bomb the Jordanian Embassy in Tehran, "to revenge King Hussein's September 1970 crackdown on their PLO

patrons," admits Rubin. [3] Israel may have been an enemy of the MKO at one time, but now they have warmed to them—because the ideology of the MKO has shifted, and Israel may be able to use them.

Now, the MKO could use a helping hand too because since the US-led invasion of Iraq, in the enclave of Camp Ashraf, a place the MKO has called home for over two decades, there is impending precariousness. The MKO fears for its future because they are no longer under the protection of Saddam Hussein, and there's no telling what the shaky new Iraqi government will do. What's more, the U.S. government no longer considers MKO 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. [4] At present, the MKO's biggest fear is Iranian reprisal. Even though they helped bring about the 1979 Islamic Revolution, killing Americans and ousting the Shah, in the years following, they simply proved to be too power hungry for the Iranian regime. In a move which was designed to distance them from the regime, and gain support, they changed their ideology, and in the 1980's joined Saddam Hussein and moved to Camp Ashraf in Iraq (where many of them still remain). During the time in Iraq, they killed Kurds in exchange for arms, and then turned against the government they helped bring to power—killing Iranian officials and civilians. Support they needed from Iran shriveled, and the people of Iran now hold the MKO accountable for their deadly attacks on citizens and officials throughout the last four decades. For the MKO leaders, Maryam and Massoud Rajavi, a worst case scenario would be deportation back to Iran because they are viewed as fascist cultists, and worse, traitors. With this kind of track record, a relationship between the MKO and Israel is weirdly devious—and secret.

The MKO sees the West's support as their only hope for continued existence. In order to formulate opportunity within the framework of hope, they no longer denounce imperialism and Zionism. And in a last ditch move to maintain their dying support among a small minority of Iranians, they have turned to President Ahmadinejad's "Zionist" foes—credulous Western politicians and, yes, Israel. Despite the MKO's past admonition of Zionism, Israel has been obliging, secretly working with the MKO in opposition to Iran. In order publicly unite with the West, the MKO came to the media in 2003 and announced that Iran had nuclear warheads—which according to the International Atomic Energy Association (IAEA), turned out to be wrong. Not only was the information incorrect, but it was fabricated by the Israeli government. In June 2009, Gareth Porter, an expert on U.S. national security policy, published an article on IPS, titled "Report Ties Dubious Iran Nuclear Docs to Israel Analysis." Porter reveals that "Israeli intelligence was the source of

the collection of intelligence documents which have been used to accuse Iran of hiding nuclear weapons research.” [5] Referring to various sources, Porter asserts that "the documents collection which the IAEA has called 'alleged studies' actually originated in Israel and in fact Israel intelligence assembled the documents." [6] According to Porter, "German officials have said that the Mujahedin E Khalq or MEK, the Iranian resistance organization, brought the laptop documents collection to the attention of U.S. intelligence, as reported by IPS in February 2008. Israeli ties with the political arm of the MEK, the National Committee of Resistance in Iran (NCRI), go back to the early 1990's and include assistance to the organization in broadcasting into Iran from Paris." [7] The Germans have long been wary of the MKO and Germany's Office for the Protection of the Constitution has noted that the MKO's propaganda campaigns often include attempts to contact members of parliament to inform them of the MKO's alleged goals, encourage political support, and influence parliamentary debate about Iran.

MKO's secret ties with Israel do not begin or end with Iranian nuclear documents. They also unabashedly attend AIPAC functions. In fact, the MKO has intensive and very direct cooperation with the Iran Policy Committee, a spinoff of AIPAC. Mahan Abedin, a journalist for the Asia Times, reports that there are regular media reports which allude to direct Israel-MKO ties. [9] In an article that Abedin wrote in which he interviewed a former MKO member, Massoud Bani Sadr, BaniSadr disclosed that "the [MKO] is exclusively motivated by the interests of the cult, and as such it will cooperate with any constituency. If there is any hesitation in collaboration it stems from Israeli reluctance, since the Mujahedin because of its close relationship with the PLO, is not fully trusted by Israelis. On the other hand from an Israeli perspective, the [MKO] is the only viable tool against Iran." [10] In 2006, Connie Bruck, a writer for New Yorker, spoke with an Israeli diplomat who declined to elaborate on the MKO-Israel relationship, but did at least say to Bruck that "Israel had found the [MKO] useful." [11]

Richard Silverstein points out that the Israeli lobby in Washington advocates tougher U.S. policy against the Islamic Republic. [12] And the MKO is all for it. In their efforts for starting a war with Iran, or impose crippling sanctions on it, the Israel lobby and the neocons have been aided by two groups of Iranian exiles: the monarchists, and members and supporters of the MKO. [13] Silverstein notes that "Israel is in the midst of a massive diplomatic, political and intelligence campaign, both public and covert, that could lead – if those officials behind it have their way – towards a military strike on Iran. It is a war for the hearts and minds of Americans. Or you might call it the war before the war. In intelligence circles,

this Israeli project is known as perception management and defined by the department of defense as:

Actions to convey and/or deny information ... to foreign audiences to influence their emotions, motives and objective reasoning as well as to intelligence systems and leaders ... ultimately resulting in foreign behaviors and official actions favorable to [US] objectives. In various ways, perception management combines truth projection, operations security, cover and deception and psychological operations.” This is a parallel policy which is consistently held by the MKO, and its political arm, the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI). In hope that Maryam Rajavi, the leader of the MKO, will become the puppet of the United States—a shoe in the door in Iran, the NCRI's website maintains a canopy of praise for the U.S. for anything which is against Iran and the Iranian people. (Recently the NCRI's website ran a headline that states, “Maryam Rajavi, President elect of the Iranian Resistance, welcomed the imposition of new sanctions against the mullahs’ regime by the US and the European Union”) [14]. The relationship with the US, the sanctions, and the underlying reasons and ramifications for pressing sanctions should be seen as more complex for the Rajavi's, as they deem themselves Iranians—because Iranians are simply too savvy, and they know that sanctions are just a simplistic reprisal. The Rajavi's attitude and blind devotion to U.S. policy, along with their support for the Israeli lobby shows that they are out of touch with Iranian sentiment. Iran doesn't like Israel's attitude and blind devotion to itself and its expansion. For Iranians, Israel demonstrates a haughtiness that doesn't chronicle nicely with the rest of the Middle East, and Israel's policy towards Iran is to pressure the U.S. to do what Israel wants. After 9/11 Iran held sympathy for the U.S. and offered to exchange al-Qaida terrorists for MKO terrorists [15]. But the Bush administration neoconservatives declined after Israelis met with Manuchehr Ghorbanifar (an unreliable intelligence source for the U.S. who was involved in the Iran Contra scandal). The Jerusalem Post reveals that at least one of the meetings was quite specific with regard to an attempt to torpedo better US/Iran relations:

"The purpose of the meeting with Ghorbanifar was to undermine a pending deal that the White House had been negotiating with the Iranian government. At the time, Iran had considered turning over five al-Qaeda operatives in exchange for Washington dropping its support for Mujahadeen Khalq, an Iraq-based rebel Iranian group listed as a terrorist organization by the State Department." [16]

According to Juan Cole, an expert on the Middle East, “The neoconservatives have some sort of shadowy relationship with the Mujahadeen-e Khalq Organization, or MEK [MKO]. Presumably its leaders have secretly promised to recognize Israel if they ever succeed in

overthrowing the ayatollahs in Iran. When the U.S. recently categorized the MEK as a terrorist organization, there were howls of outrage from 'scholars' associated with the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, such as ex-Trotskyite Patrick Clawson and Daniel Pipes."[17]

MKO ties with US and Israel officials might offer short-term benefits to the group. But they will harm the fame of those who currently support them. Despite all effort made by the MKO propaganda campaign to win the support of AIPAC which "has a lot of weight" in U.S. congress according to Massoud Bani Sadr, the MKO "have not been able to pass a single substantial resolution in support of the organization in congress. Note also that the US government regards the Mujahedin as a terrorist organization and does not want to create another Al-Qaeda."[18] For now these strange bedfellows must remain a secret.

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