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Brace Yourself, New York! The Annual Anti-Iran Terrorist Freak Show Is Back in Town!

Caleb T. Maupin, Counter Currents, September 28 2015

You would think that individuals claiming to be “Islamic Marxists” — former members of an illegal Zionist terrorist organization — and Republican elected officials would generally not associate with each other. However, once a year for the last decade or so, they all gather together in front of the United Nations during its General Assembly to display their insanity to the world by calling for greater hostility between the United States and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Already on September 21, some of the early arrivals were out in front of the United Nations. With sandwich boards and like carnival barkers, a few blocks down from where the Lyndon LaRouche movement was set up, a group of elderly, agitated Persians tried to pass themselves off as “Human Rights Activists.”

All it takes is a little bit of research to discover that the psychologically disturbed protesters in bright yellow shirts with “No to Rouhani” on them are members of the Mujahideen-e-Khalq (People’s Holy Warriors). This is a violent cult whose members claim to be “Islamic Marxists” while they openly collaborate with Israel’s Mossad and the US Central Intelligence Agency.

(<http://www.cnn.com/2011/OPINION/09/12/abdi.dont.delist.mek/>)

Mass Murderers as “Human Rights Activists”

Led by Massoud and Maryam Rajavi, this group of fanatics has killed at least tens of thousands of innocent people since the Iranian revolution of 1979. When the group discovered that it would not win out in the aftermath of the Islamic Revolution, it went on a killing spree, bombing meetings of the Iranian parliament and assassinating elected officials throughout the country.

During the Iraq-Iran, war the Mujahideen-e-Khalq (MEK) befriended Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein. Hussein's forces air-dropped bands of MEK fighters into Iran where, as the self-named "Iranian National Liberation Army," they slaughtered entire villages. After the Iraq-Iran war, the MEK set up shop in Iraq where Saddam Hussein utilized them as his personal goon squad, sending them out to slaughter Kurdish villages.

In the 1990s the group officially ordered all of its members to divorce their spouses, as marriage was considered to be a distraction from the goal of overthrowing the Iranian government. The group has long departed from the foundations of the Islamic faith. MEK cadre now consider its founder Massoud Rajavi to be a prophet — at once existing on the same spiritual level as Mohammed and Christ while offering more revolutionary brilliance than Karl Marx and Vladimir Lenin. (US extremist Reverend Jim Jones of the People's Temple, whose followers committed mass suicide in Guyana, had a similar claim, describing himself as the combined reincarnation of Jesus and Lenin.)

Masoud Rajavi hasn't been heard from since the US invasion of Iraq in 2003, but his spouse, Maryam Rajavi, is now the public face of the organization. From exile in France, Rajavi declares herself the president of Iran, even though virtually everyone in Iran considers her a traitor and mass murderer for her atrocities during the Iraq-Iran war.

Though it doesn't make any real political sense, the Rajavi cult has fallen into favor among the Likud Party of Netanyahu and the Republican Party of Jeb Bush. MEK and the Mossad carried out joint operations assassinating nuclear scientists in Iran. As Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton officially legalized the Mujahadeen-e-Khalq in 2013, despite its record of killing Americans and routinely torturing and arbitrarily executing people inside its camps. (<http://www.hrw.org/legacy/backgrounders/mena/iran0505/>)

The group now openly operates in the United States, paying figures like former New York City Mayor Rudolph Guiliani and former Governor of Pennsylvania Tom Ridge tens of thousands of dollars to act as their paid representatives.

Racist Street Thugs Who Support Israel

Another regular of the annual anti-Iran song-and-dance extravaganza outside the United Nations is New York State Assembly member Dov Hikind. Hikind openly brags that he was once a member of the Jewish Defense League. (<http://www.thenation.com/article/former-terror-suspect-leading-attack-brooklyn-college-bds-panel/>)

The Jewish Defense League originated as a group of anti-Black racists who wanted to prevent African-Americans from moving into heavily Jewish neighborhoods in Brooklyn and Queens. When there was widespread criticism of Israel during the 1967 war, the

group suddenly developed an interest in international politics and began attacking Israel's opponents. Throughout the 1970s and 80s, the JDL carried out a string of bombings and assassinations. The Black Panther Party, Jews who criticized Israel and the organized political left were among its primary targets.

Though the JDL frequently invoked the holocaust to justify its terrorism, in the 1980s the group decided to focus its attacks on the country which defeated Nazi Germany and liberated most of the concentration camps. When the Soviet orchestra performed in New York City, JDL bombed the theaters. Soviet diplomats at the United Nations frequently found themselves dodging JDL attacks as they tried to negotiate and prevent nuclear war.

Dov Hikind, now a kingmaker among Orthodox Jews in the Democratic Party, admits he was one of the rank-and-file who bowed at the feet of Rabbi Meir Kahane and carried out his orders as a member of what is widely recognized to have been a terrorist organization.

In more recent times, Hikind has focused more on trying to ban books from Brooklyn's public libraries (<http://brooklyn.news12.com/news/eyebrows-raised-over-access-to-erotic-books-at-brooklyn-public-library-1.5662870>) and dressing in racist blackface costumes for Purim celebrations (http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/26/nyregion/hikind-defends-wearing-blackface-to-purim-party.html?_r=0) than on bombing or shooting people with whom he politically disagrees. He still proclaims he has "no regrets" about joining a violent organization that even the Israeli government has outlawed.

Hikind recently got intentionally arrested outside the office of Chuck Schumer in a demonstration against the P5+1 Nuclear conclusion. The video shows Hikind, clearly inexperienced when it comes to street protests that don't involve lead pipes or Molotov cocktails, trying to get a reluctant group of supporters to chant "Chuck, Chuck the Deal" as he positions himself for a planned symbolic arrest.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dL0ODfbr4nY>

Desperate Rage Against Prospects for Peace

The admitted terrorists Dov Hikind and the Mujahideen-E Khalq will only be sideshows at the upcoming display of insanity outside the UN headquarters. The mainstream of the crowd will be rank-and-file New York Republicans, Donald Trump supporters, and members of the World Zionist Organization. These forces have already made a point of countering the peaceful rallies supporting the nuclear deal at congressional offices in New York.

While having less of a violent history, the small crowds of elderly right-wing New Yorkers protesting the nuclear deal are equally delusional. In response to moveon.org protesters

supporting the deal on the Upper East side of Manhattan, elderly Republicans shouted bizarre statements like “Iran is responsible for 9/11,” “Iran is part of ISIS,” and “Osama Bin Laden was an Iranian.”

The knowledge of global politics, history, or even basic geography among this angry, hateful crowd is extremely limited. Their analysis of the Middle East consists of “The Arabs are bad, and they are all in it together, so let’s kill them all.” Many of them do not even realize that Iranians are Persians, not Arabs.

Though their lack of knowledge of anything to do with Islam is very apparent, these FOX news junkies strut around pretending to be experts, beginning each and every hate-filled rant with “I’ve read the Koran.” Almost every New York City workplace has one of these socially awkward, hate-filled Islamophobes. Office managers across the city love the token office Republican; he keeps people hard at work in their cubicles, because when he gets up for a drink no one wants to be anywhere near the watercooler.

George W. Bush’s invasion of Iraq in 2004 depended on such ignorance. Educated people throughout the world would never be convinced that the Iraqi Baath Arab Socialist Party and Al-Qaeda had tag-teamed to bring down the World Trade Center, but the racism and ignorance of certain sectors of the US public can never be underestimated.

The tragic part of this annual hatefest against the Islamic Republic is the double standard. As the UN General Assembly rolls around once again, we can expect the mainstream US press to treat the anti-Iran, pro-war hate circus as a gathering of “responsible Americans” who are “deeply concerned about terrorism.” One or more of the Republican presidential candidates is expected to attend to join the extremist mob outside the United Nations. The double standard is rather blatant. One can only imagine what would be said if President Obama or Bernie Sanders were to address a crowd of unapologetic terrorists and individuals who claim to be “Islamic Marxists.”

As Rouhani continues his call for a “World Against Violence and Extremism” from inside the UN General Assembly hall, the group of violent extremists will be outside screaming louder than ever. However, US public opinion and the sentiments of people all over the world are against them. The tone of this year’s rally is likely to be far more desperate.

Caleb Maupin is an American journalist and political analyst

Why Iranians don't trust US

Juan Cole, truth dig, September 28, 2015

Things Like Ted Cruz's Threat to Kill Iran's Ayatollah Are Why Iranians Don't Trust the U.S.

Ted Cruz said Friday at the Value Voters Summit conference in Washington, D.C., "If you vote for me, under no circumstances will Iran be allowed to acquire nuclear weapons. And if the ayatollah doesn't understand that, we may have to help introduce him to his 72 virgins."

Neoconservatives keep highlighting Ayatollah Khamenei's negative statements about the United States and his continued suspicion of Washington's motives and bona fides, as if those are reasons for which the nuclear deal is a bad idea. It is the other way around. If the UN Security Council can implement in a fair way the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action for inspecting Iran's civilian nuclear enrichment activities so as to make impossible down the road any weaponization of the program, it will start the process of overcoming decades of American dirty tricks and dastardly plots against the Iranian people.

The US

1. destroyed the Iranian economy in 1951-1953 with a US-imposed global boycott of Iranian petroleum because Iran wanted a 50/50 split on profits from its oil and the British government and what is now BP wanted to continue to pay them just a small fee annually.
2. And when Iran was weak, roiled and divided because its economy had been destroyed, the US acting on behalf of the British government and BP sent CIA field officer Kermit Roosevelt into Tehran to liase with far right wing Iranian generals and to buy crowds and to overthrow the elected government of Iran. Prime Minister Mohammad Mosaddegh was put under house arrest and died a broken man a few years later. The US built his replacement, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, into a vicious capitalist dictator with a US-trained secret police and thousands of prisoners of conscience.
3. The US backed the Iraqi invasion of Iran, a naked act of aggression, from at least 1983 and put the US navy at the service of Saddam Hussein's brutal regime in a covert naval war on Iranian vessels.
4. This posture of aggressive war against Iran led to the shooting down of a civilian Iranian airliner in 1988, Iran Air flight 655, by the USS Vincennes, killing 290 persons. The US had no business fighting Iraq's ugly war of aggression for it in the first place, in the service of which it was targeting Iranian jets. Some argued that a simple visual check from the deck

would have sufficed to rule out Iran Air 655 as a military target, but no such precaution was taken. The captain of the Vincennes was not so much as reprimanded for 290 counts of manslaughter.

5. In the 1980s the group the MEK (Mujahedin-e Khalq or People's Jihadis) committed several dramatic acts of terrorism. In 1981 it bombed the HQ of the ruling civilian Iranian party and killing over 70 high officials, including several cabinet members and a supreme court justice. Saddam Hussein gave the group a camp in Iraq from which they struck into Iran in the 1980s, when the US was actively allied with Saddam. After the US invasion of Iraq in 2003, the US kept the camp in place, essentially deploying a terrorist group against Iran. Several mysterious bombings took place in Iran after 2003. The State Department delisted the MEK as a terrorist organization, apparently under Israeli pressure, in 2012, and the MEK has now bought a number of US congressmen (there is an obvious overlap between politicians supported by the Israel lobbies like AIPAC and politicians who support the MEK).

So Cruz's threat to send Khamenei to paradise, i.e. murder him, is not actually crazy talk from an American politician. Apparently we actually are the owners of Iran's oil and gas and if they insist on trying to own it themselves, we'll be happy to overthrow their government, support wars of aggression on Iran by brutal dictators, collaborate with terrorist organizations to murder civilians and scientists, etc. etc. Also, unlike France, South Korea, Japan, the Netherlands, etc. they are not allowed to have, like, science or fuel for their nuclear reactors and apparently not allowed to make electricity with such reactors.

And that is why Khamenei is risking so much in making a deal with the United States, which has seldom honored international law or even basic human decency when dealing with that country.

Col. Lawrence Wilkerson: Using Al-Qaeda To Fight ISIS Is Crazy And Dangerous

Adam Dick, Western Journalism, September 23 2015

Wilkerson declared this assessment in an interview Thursday with RT host Thom Hartman. College of William & Mary Professor and Ron Paul Institute Academic Board Member Lawrence Wilkerson frankly assesses that former United States General and Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director David Petraeus' proposal that the US support al-Qaeda to fight the Islamic State (ISIS) is a "crazy idea" that creates a blowback danger for

Americans. Wilkerson declared this assessment in an interview Thursday with RT host Thom Hartman.

In the interview, Wilkerson, a former US Army colonel and chief of staff for Secretary of State Colin Powell, elaborates on his conclusion by warning:

“I would point out that this is just the kind of thing we do that gives us this enormous blowback later. There is a direct line between our support for the mujahideen — the training and arming of al-Qaeda in particular in Afghanistan — and 9-11. And there will be a line, I assure you, between any support we give al-Qaeda or al-Qaeda-like elements in Syria and any future attack on the United States overseas, or here, by them. It’s just something that happens, and it’s extremely dangerous to be playing with this sort of thing.”

The wide-ranging interview also contains Wilkerson’s frank insights regarding several other matters, including the paid lobbyists in America for the Mojahedin-e-Khalq (MEK) — “one of the most brutal terrorist organizations in the world,” the Saudi Arabia government — or some elements of it — “financing and supporting” ISIS, and former Vice President Dick Cheney, who Wilkerson calls “an obscene blemish on the American reputation” who “ought to be in jail for war crimes.”

Watch the complete 12-minute interview at the beginning of Thom Hartman’s show here:

<https://youtu.be/kU8QKaLiNF8>

On June 30, RPI Chairman Ron Paul and Executive Director Daniel McAdams discussed on the Ron Paul Liberty Report some earlier advocacy for the US government to overtly support al-Qaeda in the Middle East. Watch their discussion here:

<https://youtu.be/0fVkcIIULuQ>

This article originally appeared at RonPaullInstitute.org and is reprinted here with permission.

The Mujahedeen e-Khalq (MEK): The US Prepares to Back a New Terrorist Army in Iran,
Prelude to a Wider War?

By Tony Cartalucci, Land Destroyer, October 10, 2015

As US attempts to extort a settlement in Syria built on regime-change, US senators and generals conspire to arm and back a new terrorist army aimed at Iran.

An October 7, 2015 hearing before the US Senate Committee on Armed Forces (SASC) titled, “Iranian Influence in Iraq and the Case of Camp Liberty,” served as a reaffirmation of

America's commitment to back the terrorist organization Mujahedeen e-Khalq (MEK) and specifically 2,400 members of the organization being harbored on a former US military base in Iraq.

Providing testimony was former US Senator Joseph I. Lieberman, former US Marine Corps Commandant and former Supreme Allied Commander Europe General James Jones, USMC (Ret.), and Colonel Wesley Martin, US Army (Ret.).

All three witnesses made passionate pleas before a room full of nodding senators for America to continue backing not only MEK terrorists currently harbored on a former US military base in Iraq, but to back groups like MEK inside of Iran itself to threaten the very survival of the government in Tehran.

In the opening remarks by Lieberman, he stated:

It was not only right and just that we took them off the foreign terrorist organization list, but the truth is now that we ought to be supportive of them and others in opposition to the government in Iran more than we have been.

Lieberman would also state (emphasis added):

Here's my point Mr. Chairman, we ought to compartmentalize that agreement also, that nuclear agreement. We ought to put it over there, and not let it stop us from confronting what they're doing in Syria. Continuing the sanctions for human rights violations in Iran in support of terrorism. And here's the point I want to make about the National Council of Resistance of Iran and other democratic opposition groups that are Iranian – we ought to be supporting them.

This regime in Tehran is hopeless. It's not going to change. There's no evidence ... every piece of evidence says the contrary. So I hope we can find a way, we used to do this not so long ago, supporting opposition groups in Iran. They deserve our support, and actually they would constitute a form of pressure on the government in Tehran that would unsettle them as much as anything else we could do because it would threaten the survival of the regime which from every objective indicator I can see is a very unpopular regime in Iran.

The United States, unrepentant regarding the arc of chaos, mass murder, terrorism, civilizational destruction it has created stretching from Libya to Syria, now seeks openly to extend it further into Iran using precisely the same tactics – the use of terrorist proxies – to dismantle and destroy Iranian society.

While Lieberman, General Jones, and Colonel Martin all failed categorically to accurately describe the true nature of the MEK terrorists they seek to support in a proxy war with Iran, the US policy papers these three lobbyists are reading from have done so and in great detail.

MEK is a Listed Terror Organization for a Reason

MEK has carried out decades of brutal terrorist attacks, assassinations, and espionage against the Iranian government and its people, as well as targeting Americans including the attempted kidnapping of US Ambassador Douglas MacArthur II, the attempted assassination of USAF Brigadier General Harold Price, the successful assassination of Lieutenant Colonel Louis Lee Hawkins, the double assassinations of Colonel Paul Shaffer and Lieutenant Colonel Jack Turner, and the successful ambush and killing of American Rockwell International employees William Cottrell, Donald Smith, and Robert Krongard.

Admissions to the deaths of the Rockwell International employees can be found within a report written by former US State Department and Department of Defense official Lincoln Bloomfield Jr. on behalf of the lobbying firm Akin Gump in an attempt to dismiss concerns over MEK's violent past and how it connects to its current campaign of armed terror – a testament to the depths of depravity from which Washington and London lobbyists operate.

To this day MEK terrorists have been carrying out attacks inside of Iran killing political opponents, attacking civilian targets, as well as carrying out the US-Israeli program of targeting and assassinating Iranian scientists. MEK terrorists are also suspected of handling patsies in recent false flag operations carried out in India, Georgia, and Thailand, which have been ham-handedly blamed on the Iranian government.

MEK is described by Council on Foreign Relations Senior Fellow Ray Takeyh as a “cult-like organization” with “totalitarian tendencies.” While Takeyh fails to expand on what he meant by “cult-like” and “totalitarian,” an interview with US State Department-run Radio Free Europe-Radio Liberty reported that a MEK Camp Ashraf escapee claimed the terrorist organization bans marriage, using radios, the Internet, and holds many members against their will with the threat of death if ever they are caught attempting to escape.

Not once is any of this backstory mentioned in the testimony of any of the witnesses before the senate hearing, defiling the memories of those who have been murdered and otherwise victimized by this terrorist organization. The de-listing of MEK in 2012 as a foreign terrorist organization by the US State Department is another indictment of the utter lack of principles the US clearly hides behind rather than in any way upholds as a matter of executing foreign policy.

American Support of Anti-Iranian Mercenaries a Prelude to Wider War

MEK has already afforded the US the ability to wage a low-intensity conflict with Iran. MEK's role in doing so was eagerly discussed in 2009, several years before it was even de-listed as a terrorist organization by the US State Department in the Brookings Institution's policy paper "Which Path to Persia? Options for a New American Strategy Toward Iran" (PDF).

The report stated (emphasis added):

Perhaps the most prominent (and certainly the most controversial) opposition group that has attracted attention as a potential U.S. proxy is the NCRI (National Council of Resistance of Iran), the political movement established by the MEK (Mujahedin-e Khalq). Critics believe the group to be undemocratic and unpopular, and indeed anti-American.

In contrast, the group's champions contend that the movement's long-standing opposition to the Iranian regime and record of successful attacks on and intelligence-gathering operations against the regime make it worthy of U.S. support. They also argue that the group is no longer anti-American and question the merit of earlier accusations. Raymond Tanter, one of the group's supporters in the United States, contends that the MEK and the NCRI are allies for regime change in Tehran and also act as a useful proxy for gathering intelligence. The MEK's greatest intelligence coup was the provision of intelligence in 2002 that led to the discovery of a secret site in Iran for enriching uranium.

Despite its defenders' claims, the MEK remains on the U.S. government list of foreign terrorist organizations. In the 1970s, the group killed three U.S. officers and three civilian contractors in Iran. During the 1979-1980 hostage crisis, the group praised the decision to take America hostages and Elaine Sciolino reported that while group leaders publicly condemned the 9/11 attacks, within the group celebrations were widespread.

Undeniably, the group has conducted terrorist attacks—often excused by the MEK's advocates because they are directed against the Iranian government. For example, in 1981, the group bombed the headquarters of the Islamic Republic Party, which was then the clerical leadership's main political organization, killing an estimated 70 senior officials. More recently, the group has claimed credit for over a dozen mortar attacks, assassinations, and other assaults on Iranian civilian and military targets between 1998 and 2001. At the very least, to work more closely with the group (at least in an overt manner), Washington would need to remove it from the list of foreign terrorist organizations.

Proof that Brookings' policy paper was more than a mere theoretical exercise, in 2012 MEK would indeed be de-listed by the US State Department with support for the terrorist organization expanded. The fact that former senators and retired generals representing

well-funded corporate think tanks even just this week are plotting to use MEK to overthrow the Iranian government should raise alarms that other criminality conspired within the pages of this policy paper may still well be in play.

Lieberman himself suggests that proxy war and regime-change should proceed regardless of the so-called “nuclear deal” – with the 2009 Brookings report itself having stated that (emphasis added):

...any military operation against Iran will likely be very unpopular around the world and require the proper international context—both to ensure the logistical support the operation would require and to minimize the blowback from it. The best way to minimize international opprobrium and maximize support (however, grudging or covert) is to strike only when there is a widespread conviction that the Iranians were given but then rejected a superb offer—one so good that only a regime determined to acquire nuclear weapons and acquire them for the wrong reasons would turn it down. Under those circumstances, the United States (or Israel) could portray its operations as taken in sorrow, not anger, and at least some in the international community would conclude that the Iranians “brought it on themselves” by refusing a very good deal.

Clearly, both Brookings in 2009, and Lieberman this week have conspired to use the so-called “Iranian Nuclear Deal” as cover for betrayal and regime change.

For those wondering why Russia has intervened in Syria in the matter that it has, it should be plainly obvious. The US has no intention to stop in Syria. With Iraq, Afghanistan, and Libya behind it, and Syria within its clutches, it is clear that Iran is next, and inevitably this global blitzkrieg will not stop until it reaches Moscow and Beijing.

Even as the US adamantly denies the obvious – that is has intentionally created and is currently perpetuating Al Qaeda, the so-called “Islamic State,” and other terrorist groups in Syria, it is openly conspiring to use another army of terrorists against neighboring Iran, live before a US Senate hearing. Should the US succeed in Syria, it would not be the end of the conflict, but only the end of the beginning of a much wider world war.

Iran: A victim of Terrorism

When it comes to terrorising people, the US beats the Islamic Republic, hands down.

Belen Fernandez, Aljazeera.com, September 08 2015

“One should have a single, not a double, standard.”

These were the (translated) words of Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, speaking at a conference I recently attended in Tehran. His observation was in reference to the habit of the United States & Co of decrying terrorism but then applauding terroristic behaviour when it serves their interests.

US mastery of the double standard means that, for example, the word “terrorism” is dutifully applied to situations in which planes are flown into US buildings, but not to ones in which US warships shoot down Iranian passenger jets , killing everyone on board

A look at reality

While Iran is portrayed in Western and Israeli circles as a relentless supporter of terrorism worldwide, the conference focused on a less politically convenient reality: that of Iran as a victim of terror.

According to Iranian calculations, more than 17,000 persons have perished as a result of terrorist operations in the country since the Islamic revolution of 1979. The majority of these were perpetrated by the anti-government Mujahedin-e-Khalq (MEK).

Casualties have included three-year-old Fatima Taleghani, who burned to death when MEK members set fire to her room, teenager Zeynab Kamayee, who was reportedly suffocated with her veil, and 35-year-old Dariush Rezaeinejad, one of five Iranian scientists assassinated in recent years – apparently with the help of the Israelis

In Tehran, I spoke with Rezaeinejad’s widow, Shohreh Pirani, and the couple’s eight-year-old daughter, who advised her mother which family photographs to show me on the mobile phone.

A researcher and academic, as well as a deputy at the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, Rezaeinejad was fatally shot in July 2011. Pirani described to me the devastating psychological aftermath of witnessing the shooting, but nevertheless, she stressed the sorrow she felt for the perpetrators of the crime; terrorist acts, she said, were driven by desperation.

‘Material support’

The US government has also demonstrated sympathy for select Iranian terrorists, albeit in a far less noble fashion. In 2012, the US state department delisted the MEK as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO), despite reports of continuing terroristic activities.

Prominent journalist and constitutional lawyer Glenn Greenwald described the delisting as ” more vividly illustrat[ing] the rot and corruption at the heart of America’s DC-based political culture than almost any episode I can recall”.

While still on the FTO list, Greenwald wrote, the MEK had thrown large sums of money at an array of Democratic and Republican personalities, journalists, and other opinion shapers, who then became advocates for the organisation.

Along with previous training sessions in the US for MEK operatives, Greenwald argued that such collaborative arrangements seemed to constitute “material support” for terrorism – a felony under US law.

But the US justice system prefers to reserve this crime for hapless Muslims, like Syed Fahad Hashmi, a US citizen and Brooklyn College graduate sentenced to 15 years in prison – following several years of pre-trial solitary confinement – for allegedly providing material support to al-Qaeda.

What was the exact nature of Hashmi’s “support”? Having once provided temporary accommodation in London to a man who happened to supply al-Qaeda members with socks and rain ponchos

The US on trial

Again, the term “double standard” comes to mind.

And it returns with a recent Wall Street Journal article titled: “Terror Victims Eye Thawing with Iran”, which explains that “[o]ver the past two decades, terrorism victims have filed about 100 lawsuits against Iran in US courts”, alleging Iranian sponsorship of attacks ranging from the 1983 Marine barracks bombing in Beirut to 9/11.

Citing testimonies from the victims’ lawyers, the article notes that “lifting just the nuclear sanctions [against Iran] could free up billions of Iranian assets in Europe and elsewhere that victims may attempt to seize as part of their judgements”.

The barracks bombing is regularly attributed to the Iranian-backed Lebanese Hezbollah – which didn’t officially exist at the time. If we follow the above line of reasoning, however, it appears that the US is eligible for a fairly infinite number of lawsuits – in Lebanon and beyond.

Not only did the US rush shipments of weaponry to Israel during its assault on Lebanon in 2006 – an affair that dispensed with approximately 1,200 human lives, most of them civilian - it also contributed financially and morally to Israel’s sustained terrorism in Gaza via billions of dollars in annual aid and ceaseless repetitions of the mantra that Israel is engaged in self-defence.

Standard operating procedure

Other US hobbies, like drone strikes and imperialist wars, can also be pretty terroristic in nature. Furthermore, as California-based independent researcher Soraya Sepahpour-Ulrich remarked during her presentation at the conference in Tehran: economic sanctions against Iran constitute a form of “UN-sanctioned terrorism” given their detrimental effects on the well-being of innocent civilians.

One of the more glaring examples of the ruthlessness of sanctions is, of course, Iraq. Reports in 1996 that half-a-million children had so far died as a result of the policy elicited the following response from then-Secretary of State Madeleine Albright: “We think the price is worth it.”

Indeed, when it comes to terrorising people, the “land of the free” beats the Islamic Republic, hands down. But the victory goes largely unreported in mainstream circles because double standards have become standard operating procedure.

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The views expressed in this article are the author’s own and do not necessarily reflect Al Jazeera’s editorial policy.