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US official: Albanians need reforms for themselves, EU membership as well as dealing with Mojahedin Khalq (Rajavi cult)

Associated Press, Tirana, February 14 2016

TIRANA, Albania (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry on Sunday pushed Albania to enact a major package of judicial and legislative reforms, backed by U.S. money that also is intended to help the Balkan nation take in Iranian refugees from Iraq.

Kerry, returning to the United States from a four-day trip to Germany, made a brief stop in Albania's capital to urge the government and opposition parties to support the package now pending in parliament. Kerry said the reforms represent a significant step forward in Albania's bid to join the European Union.

The changes include the creation of an anti-corruption court and prosecutor's office as well as a national investigative body similar to the FBI in the United States. The U.S. has provided \$20 million in assistance to support the reforms and \$5 million more is budgeted this year.

U.S Secretary of State John Kerry, right, meets with host Albanian President Bujar Nishani after landing at the International Airport Mother Teresa, Tirana, Sunday, Feb. 14, 2016. Kerry, returning to the United States from a four-day trip to Germany, made a brief stop in the Albanian capital Tirana to urge the government and opposition parties to support a major package of judicial and legislative reforms. (AP Photo/ Malton Dibra)

U.S. officials traveling with Kerry said that while the reforms are needed for their own sake as well as E.U. membership, they also were key to Albania's fulfilling a commitment to relocate thousands of members of the exiled Iranian Mujahedeen-e-Khalq opposition group.

Saddam Hussein had welcomed the Iranian group into Iraq in the 1980s, but Iraq's current Shiite-led government considers their presence illegal. The group lost what had been its

home for decades, Camp Ashraf north of Baghdad, and was moved to a former U.S. base in the Iraqi capital.

Over the past 18 months, Albania has taken in about 1,000 members of the group and has committed to taking 2,000 more.

Neither Kerry nor any of the Albanian officials mentioned the relocations.

After meeting Kerry, Albanian President Bujar Nishani said he had assured Kerry of "Albania's determination against organized crime and corruption."

Prime Minister Edi Rama said he expected the reforms to be adopted next month.

"I am very confident we shall do that and with the United States of America on our side there is optimism for success," Rama said.

The package is the latest effort to clean up what was once one of Europe's most dysfunctional governments. In December, Albania's parliament approved legislation barring people with criminal records from holding public office or most civil service jobs. The new legislation gave three months to people currently in office or in most civil service jobs who have a criminal record to resign. After that they will be dismissed.

Kerry praised Albania for its efforts so far, but reminded Rama and his government that more must be done.

"In the end, only Albanians can enact the right laws and insist on their effective implementation," he said. "Fighting corruption is hard but necessary work — and it is vital to Albania's economic future and its ability to become one with Europe."

While in Tirana, Kerry also thanked Albania for its contributions to the fight against the Islamic State group, saying the majority Muslim country was a leader in countering violent extremism.

Llazar Semini contributed to this report.

Pros and cons of the Prevent strategy (Counter-terrorism Policy)

The Guardian, March 30 2016

As an ordinary Leeds lass who spent two decades embroiled in a foreign terrorist organisation in the 1980s and 90s, I was deeply disappointed by the NUT's vote to reject the Home Office's Prevent strategy (Report, theguardian.com, 28 March). Last week, in a presentation to the Suffolk Prevent conference, I was able to explain in detail the mechanisms behind how radicalisation takes place. That the psychological manipulation

involved in radicalisation is similar to that which underlies domestic violence and child sexual exploitation. That the different belief systems espoused by various violent extremist groups are almost irrelevant because their radicalising behaviour is the same.

The audience response was overwhelmingly positive. They understood Prevent not as a political or ideological assault on their communities, but first and foremost as a safeguarding issue. They unequivocally understood that schools and colleges need to make space for challenging conversations and that through listening to explanations like the one I give as a former terrorist, everyone in the public sector can gain the confidence needed to effectively fulfil their obligations under Prevent. I can only assume that NUT members' reaction is due to the undeniably patchy and poor Prevent training which is being delivered by people who don't have a clear grasp of the issue. But as somebody who might have been rescued if the Prevent and Channel programmes had existed when I was radicalised, I can only say that it would be a disaster if the fallout from weak and incoherent training is allowed to blight the future of the Prevent duty.

Anne Khodabandeh (Singleton)

Leeds

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Congratulations to the NUT for coming out against the government's ludicrous Prevent strategy. Prevent is a paranoid and counterproductive initiative which has traumatised innocent children in the name of "fighting terror". In January police questioned a 10-year-old boy for writing a essay in which he mistakenly wrote he lived in a "terrorist house" instead of a "terraced house". In March a four-year-old boy who mispronounced the word "cucumber" as "cooker-bomb" was threatened with counter-terrorism measures.

Last September a 14-year-old pupil at Islington's Central Foundation used the term "ecoterrorism" in debate during a French lesson. A few days later he was interviewed by two adults, without his parents' knowledge, who asked him if he was "affiliated with Isis". The experience left the boy "scared and nervous". The fact that he – an Asian Muslim – was singled out from the class as a potential terrorist was not lost on his white, non-Muslim colleagues who had also spoken of "ecoterrorism". Prevent is racist nonsense which is stopping young people doing what they should be doing in school – learning about and discussing the world.

Sasha Simic

London

The Godfather of terror: anti-Iran terrorist Mujahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) cooperate with ISIS

awdnews.com, 04 March 2016

Iraqi media disclosed MKO's role in Saudi-led campaign in tarnishing Mobilization Forces' image.

(Baghdad, Iraq)— According to well-informed security sources, today morning Iraqi Federal Police foiled a suicide attack by a group of MKO terrorists who attempt to target a gathering of prominent Sunni clerics.

Although Iraqi Police spokesman was reluctant to go into further details, but the previous confessions made by arrested ISIS members show the great degree to which MKO is cooperating with the so-called Islamic State. Maryam Rajavi, the self-styled president of People's Mujahedin of Iran, has ordered her clique to develop close relation with ISIS field commanders.

Observers believe due to MKO's military acumen in guerrilla wars and committing myriad of terror operations against civilians, the remnants of this terrorist group serve as valuable tools for ISIS in murdering key Iraqi figures.

Qatari and Saudi-funded media stepped up their vicious attack against Iraqi Army and Popular Forces amid increasing speculations of a major terror attack by MKO.

Frustrated with recent military setbacks, Riyadh seeks to stoke ethnic fire in Iraq by carrying out terror attacks –By using ISIS and MKO–liquidating the leading Sunni leaders and then pointing fingers at Army and Iraqi resistance.

Suffering parents of MKO hostages in front of Camp Liberty Camp Liberty

Sahar Family Foundation, May 23, 2016

A number of families of residents of Camp Liberty picketed in front of the camp advocating the release of their loved ones taken as hostages by the leaders of the Mujahedin Khalq. 48 people including families of Ashraf residents traveled to Baghdad, Iraq from Fars, Khuzestan, Lorestan, Kermanshah, Qazvin and Tehran on Saturday May21st, 2016. They went to gate of Camp Liberty the next morning and launched their campaign to call on their loved ones in the Camp who have had no contact with them for years now. The families

have had no information on the physical and mental conditions of their children since they were recruited by the MKO. The group has kept members in isolation under a sever manipulation system.

Suffering parents, brothers and sisters of the MKO members have one main demand; a free visit with their beloved ones. However, families were faced with harsh behavior of the guards of the camp who had covered their faces. They were filming families carrying cameras while insulting them from time to time.

But families offered them, flowers and candies and told them about their real request which was getting some information about their loved ones but an MKO guard hit the candy container and offended them.

Nevertheless, picketing people kept calm and repeated their demand. A grieving brother tried to give them some photos of former members who previously left the group -- to encourage them to leave the camp-- but the guard threw back the photos torn!

On the other side of the walls and curtains some residents of the camp were seen from a narrow split between the wall and curtain. They looked sad and depressed regretting the free world. Eventually the split was covered by a cloth.

This is the fifth time that families of MKO hostages go to the gate of Camp Liberty and they do not succeed to visit their beloveds. Although, they know that the MKO leaders will not allow them to see their children, they repeat their campaign because no other way is left for them.

Unfortunately, Rajavi still has an absolute rule over his members exploiting and abusing them and there are still authorities who ignore the sever violation of human rights that takes place in the cult-like MKO under the rule of Massoud Rajavi.

The West's Terrorist "Catch and Release" Program

Tony Cartalucci, New Eastern Outlook, April 14 2016

Virtually every suspect involved in recent Brussels bombing had been tracked, arrested, in custody – either by European security agencies or the agencies of their allies – but inexplicably released and allowed to carry out both the Brussels attack as well as the Paris attack that preceded it.

So obvious is this fact, that the Western media itself admits it, but simply dismisses the obvious and deeper implications such facts pose by claiming it is merely systemic incompetence.

The Wall Street Journal would admit that the recently arrested "man in the hat" also known as Mohamed Abrini, was also arrested for suspected terrorist activity – allegedly scoping out potential targets in the UK – but also – like his collaborators – inexplicably released. His brother had been to Syria where he fought and died alongside the so-called "Islamic State" (ISIS), and Abrini himself too appears to have been in Syria.

The Wall Street Journal's article, "Brussels Suspect Mohamed Abrini: What We Know," reports that:

After the U.K., Mr. Abrini traveled to Paris and then Brussels, where he was arrested but then released, according to the two people. But Belgian authorities passed the information about his U.K. trip, including images found on his phone, to the British, the sources said.

Abrini's case of "catch and release" before carrying out a successful string of deadly attacks across Europe, is just the latest.

West's ISIS Catch & Release Program

Germany's largest press agency, Deutsche Presse-Agentur, reported in their article, "Reports: Brothers known to police were among Brussels suicide bombers," that:

Two Brussels brothers who were known to police are among the suicide bombers who carried out deadly terrorist attacks on the international airport and subway in the Belgian capital, local media reported Wednesday.

And that:

[Khalid El Bakraoui] had been sentenced in early 2011 to five years in prison for carjackings, after having been arrested in possession of Kalashnikov rifles, according to the Belga news agency.

His brother, 30-year-old Brahim, had been sentenced in 2010 to nine years in prison for having shot at police with a Kalashnikov rifle during a hold-up, Belga said.

The New York Times, in their article, "Brussels Attack Lapses Acknowledged by Belgian Officials," would report regarding another Brussels bombing suspect, Brahim El Bakraoui, and his arrest and deportation from Turkey that:

The Belgian justice and interior ministers acknowledged that their departments should have acted on a Turkish alert about a convicted Belgian criminal briefly arrested in Turkey last year on suspicion of terrorist activity, who turned out to be one of the suicide bombers. And the Belgian prosecutor's office said that person's brother — another suicide bomber — had been wanted since December in connection with the Paris attacks.

That makes 4 suspects who were known to European security agencies for violent crimes and/or terrorism, with each and every one of them in custody before the attacks unfolded.

For fisheries around the world, the concept of "catch and release" allows anglers to enjoy the fishing experience while preserving the numbers and health of fish populations. The concept of "catch and release" for Western security and intelligence agencies appears very similar – to maintain the illusion of counterterrorism operations, while maintaining the numbers and health of terrorist organizations around the world.

Answering "to what end" the West is allowing terrorists to successfully carry out attacks against Western targets, the answer is quite simple. It allows for the expansion of power and control at home while justifying endless and profitable wars abroad.

The creation and perpetuation of terrorist organizations like Al Qaeda and ISIS by the West and its allies serve another, admitted purpose. In the 1980's it was admitted that Al Qaeda was created to wage proxy war against the Soviet Union in Afghanistan. In 2011, the US and its NATO and Persian Gulf allies used terrorists linked to Al Qaeda in Libya and Syria in an attempt to overthrow their respective governments.

Today, ISIS serves both as an armed proxy waging full-scale war on the governments of Syria, Iraq, and more indirectly Iran and Russia, as well as a means to threaten and coerce nations around the world.

Image: The Brussels bombing suspects... Every single one of these men were in the custody of Western security agencies for violent crimes or terrorism-related charges.

Image: In the aftermath of ISIS attack in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Political impasses in Southeast Asia revolving around America's waning influence in the region have been met with the sudden and otherwise inexplicable appearance of ISIS. In one case, Indonesia signed a large rail deal while pursuing other economic and military partnerships with Beijing, before suffering its fist ISIS attack in its capital, Jakarta.

Thailand was likewise threatened by the US of an imminent ISIS attack, amid attempts by Bangkok to uproot the political networks of US-backed political proxy, Thaksin Shinawatra. Bangkok has also shown hesitation to sign the unpopular US-sponsored Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) free trade agreement.

Bangkok was already hit by terrorism last year after returning suspected terrorists to China to face justice against America's repeated protests. Just months later, groups tied to NATO terrorist front, the Turkish Grey Wolves, carried out a bombing in the center of Bangkok.

ISIS, its counterparts, and peripheral groups like NATO's Grey Wolves, serve multiple roles for the West. They are a pretext to invade and occupy foreign nations, a proxy army to wage war against its enemies with, and a means of maintaining fear and obedience at home under the auspices of an increasing police state. It is difficult to believe the West

could maintain its current foreign and domestic policy without this menace – it has become an integral part of Western geopolitical strategy.

Would a Signed Confession Convince You?

Many are quick to dismiss evidence of Western special interests' use of terrorists and terrorism to project geopolitical power abroad and maintain control at home. This is despite the admitted nature of the West's role in the creation and utilization of Al Qaeda in Afghanistan during the 1980s, and signed and dated policy papers like the Brookings Institution's 2009 "Which Path to Persia?" document which openly advocated using listed-terrorist organization, Mujahedin-e Khalq (MEK), to wage a proxy campaign of violence against the Iranian people and their government.

MEK, it should be noted, is guilty of killing American civilians and military personnel, as well as continuing a campaign of terrorism against civilian and political targets in Iran. Brookings in fact, admits this while proposing the US' use of the terrorist organization to carry out US foreign policy objectives. If MEK is a suitable candidate for Western sponsorship, why not ISIS?

Considering this, and the "coincidental" arming and funding of "rebels" in Libya by the US and its allies in 2011 who are now verifiably members of listed terrorist organizations, revelations of US involvement behind the rise of ISIS should come as little surprise.

And beyond mere speculation, a 2012 US Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) report leaked to the public, admits that the US and its allies sought the creation of a "Salafist" (Islamic) "principality" (State) in eastern Syria, precisely where ISIS now resides.

The US DIA admitted:

If the situation unravels there is the possibility of establishing a declared or undeclared Salafist principality in eastern Syria (Hasaka and Der Zor), and this is exactly what the supporting powers to the opposition want, in order to isolate the Syrian regime, which is considered the strategic depth of the Shia expansion (Iraq and Iran).

The DIA document then explains exactly who this "Salafist principality's" supporters are (and who its true enemies are):

The West, Gulf countries, and Turkey support the opposition; while Russia, China, and Iran support the regime.

All that's left is for the Pentagon to perhaps, disclose payslips for ISIS leaders or logistical documents regarding US-NATO resupply operations for ISIS along the Turkish-Syrian border – and perhaps even such a disclosure would still not be enough to convince some in the West that the special interests posing as their leaders are complicit in creating not only ISIS, but organizing and ensuring the chaos they cause unfolding at home and

abroad wherever and whenever needed. The fact that literally ever Brussels and Paris attack suspect was known to and in many cases detained by Western security agencies before the attacks, yet were released before being allowed to carry out their attacks successfully, proves that the West is enjoying the "experience" of maintaining a war on terror, but like good fishery conservationists, is ensuring the populations of their quarry remain healthy and numerous.

Tony Cartalucci, Bangkok-based geopolitical researcher and writer, especially for the online magazine "New Eastern Outlook".

US admits Mojahedin Khalq (Rajavi cult) are their terrorists, moves to protect them.

Voice of America, February 22, 2016

TIRANA, ALBANIA— U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry has used a visit to Albania to thank the government for resettling members of an Iranian opposition group known as the Mujahedin e Khalq, or MEK.

Over the past two years, Albania has taken in about 1,000 members of the MEK and has committed to resettling an additional 2,000, said a senior State Department official. Most lived in U.S.-backed camps in Iraq.

Ahead of Kerry's Sunday visit to Tirana, the official said Kerry would not talk publicly about the resettlement effort, which remains a sensitive issue.

The U.S. has assisted Albania in its efforts to resettle the MEK, a group that has supported the U.S. in military operations in the Middle East and in its fight against terrorism.

The U.S. assistance includes a donation of \$20 million to the U.N. refugee agency to help resettle the MEK, said the State Department official. The U.S. has also provided Albania with security and economic development assistance, to help the country build up its physical capacity to house the refugees.

Support for Albania's justice reforms

Kerry's visit comes at a time when Albania is trying to adopt judicial reforms, as part of a wider effort to combat corruption. Kerry praised those efforts in his public remarks in Tirana

The country is considering legislation that would bring Albania's judicial sector more in line with U.S. and European norms. The measure would also create an entity similar to the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The U.S. and European Union provided advice to help Albania draft the provision, which would create a special anti-corruption force.

"Your country is moving in the right direction," said Secretary Kerry during an appearance with Prime Minister Edi Rama.

Kerry added that he was "encouraged" by the judicial reform package under consideration.

"Without the support and advice of the United States, Albania would not have managed to make so much progress in its reforms, said Rama.

The judicial reforms could also benefit Albania in its bid for EU accession.

Kerry traveled to Albania from Germany, where he participated in the Munich Security Conference and an International Syria Support Group meeting.

He received a robust welcome in Albania that included a column of U.S. and Albanian flags lining the streets along his main routes and onlookers who crowded street corners to catch a glimpse of his passing motorcade.

In addition to meeting with the country's prime and foreign ministers, he met with opposition leaders and civil society groups.