

Nejat Newsletter

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EU to examine court decision on MKO, but group remains on terror list

IRNA,

December 12, 2006

The European Union said Tuesday that it will thoroughly examine the European Court of Justice ruling to annul a decision by the European Union

to freeze the assets of the terrorist MKO group.

Jean-Claude Piris, legal counsel to the Council of the EU, told reporters in Brussels that the EU will also consider whether to make an appeal against the judg-

ment.

However, the MKO remains on the EU terror list for the moment, he said.

The Luxembourg-based court earlier Tuesday said the MKO was not given a fair hearing to defend itself

against the move to blacklist it.

The EU put the MKO on its terror list on 2 May 2002.

Since then, the EU has updated the blacklist several times and the MKO has been maintained on the list.

Nejat Society's letter to the EC Court

Nejat Society

Tehran, Iran

December 16, 2006

Court of First Instance of the European Communities

Luxembourg

Dear Sir or Madam,

With regards, we would like to request your consideration of a matter concerning your latest judgment to annul the EU Council's decision ordering the freezing of the funds of the Mojahedin-é Khalq Organisation (MKO) in the fight against terrorism. Initially it is worth mentioning that Nejat Society consists of those defected members of Mojahedin-é Khalq Organisation (MKO) who have managed to rescue themselves from the bounds of the Organisation, and find themselves obliged to strive to help and rescue the members who are still mentally or even physically captive inside the Organisation.

Up to 500 ex-members of MKO have managed to return home to their families since the overthrow of the former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein. Nejat Society of course played a vital role with the help of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Iranian Red Crescent, and other international and domestic bodies as well as the families themselves to safeguard their homecoming.

Around 300 of those who have managed to flee the Organisation are kept in a nearby compound under the supervision of "Temporary International Presence Facility (TIPF)". And evidently there are some 3000 members still left in Ashraf Camp inside Iraq. These people need to be rescued urgently.

Several members of MKO have left their families and relatives many years ago to join the MKO ranks with the hope of bringing prosperity and welfare to the Iranians. But on the contrary they were themselves caught up in a dreadful cult that managed to control totally their minds and lives throughout the years and within the bounds of Ashraf Camp in Iraq.

They practically became part of Saddam Hussein's Army in the war against Iran. They were misused by the MKO leaders to risk their lives for terrorist activities against their own people for the interest of the then ruling Iraqi dictator. Nejat Society is aiming to end these unfortunate people's misery.

The members and authorities of Nejat Society are well aware that they are facing an extremely difficult task. The Mojahedin-é Khalq Organisation of course has adopted a hostile attitude against the Society and has never stopped its intense propaganda and aggravation in order to stop the Society helping the MKO members.

All cults, typically try to intimidate their critics and opponents, particularly those who try to help the discontented members out. MKO is no exception. They have a long record of suppressing their despondent members and they have used all forms of mental and physical methods in order to make their followers yield.

Nejat Society has been the subject of all sorts of accusations by the MKO officials because it tries to make the contact of the members with their families possible, something the Organisation is truly terrified of. Nejat Society tries to help the defected members in Iraq who reside in "Temporary International Presence Facility (TIPF)". This of course is an unforgivable sin from the Organisation's point of view. Therefore they even try to subject people in TIPF to harassment. In one word Nejat Society is here to save the individuals caught up in the MKO and let them live.

We were therefore astonished to learn that the Court of First Instance of EC has annulled the EU Council's decision and has risked its status and have become the advocates of MKO in order to whitewash its dreadful deeds in the past and even at the present time. It has happened many times before that MKO has tried to misuse official and independent sources to gain credibility to counter its past accounts. This has evidently damaged the reputation of those establishments severely. We are well aware that the Organisation, like many cults of the same sort, is prepared to use enormous pressure and influence to reach its goals.

While an EU spokeswoman declined immediate comment on the ruling, saying legal experts were studying the judgment, the Mojahedin's TV suspended all its regular programs beating a jubilant tom-tom calling it a great victory. Nothing has changed. Its funds being frozen or unfrozen, MKO remains a proscribed terrorist organization. Soon after the verdict was out the leader of MKO Massoud Rajavi gave out a statement declaring that MKO should be given a free hand in Iraq as well as Europe and America to do whatever they wish without being monitored.

You might be interested to know that MKO openly supports using violence and aggression as means to reach political objectives. One dreadful example was on the case of the most horrifying terrorist act of the century on September 11th 2001 incident which the Organisation celebrated the occasion in Ashraf Camp in Iraq just after the outbreak of the news.

Here we also wish to draw your attention to the latest report executed by the Human Rights Watch on MKO. The report which is called No Exit was issued on May 2005:

No Exit: Human Rights Abuses inside the Mojahedin Khalq Camps

Iran: Exiled Armed Group Abuses Dissident Members

Opposition Group Seeks Recognition and Support in Western Capitals

"Members who try to leave the MKO pay a very heavy price."

Finally we wish to call for your attention to the very fact that MKO is already interpreting the verdict as a political victory and is obviously encouraged to put more pressure on its discontented members who are captive in Ashraf Camp in Iraq. All cults need this sort of approval to whitewash their misdeeds. They also use them to manipulate their members by showing them false victories.

With regards and thanks,
Nejat Society

www.nejatngo.com

The EU to State the reasons for MKO's proscription

18/12/2006

www.mojahedin.ws

Reported by Time Online on December 14 in an article entitled "Iran's Armed Opposition Wins a Battle — In Court", the author controverts the possibility that the EU might remove the MKO from its terrorist list. It seems, as it is wise, that nobody risks unleashing the hound one has effortfully leashed based on sound reasons. The EU and the US had been well aware of the MKO's terrorist nature when

they blacklisted it as a terrorist group. The ruling of the European court does not contradict the group's being listed as a terror organization but why the group was not informed of the reasons behind the decision.

Despite of MKO's jubilant chants of victory and its reliance on a number of advocates among the European Parliamentarians, who view the group as a potential force against Iran, the "European Union officials tell TIME that Madame Rajavi is

celebrating prematurely, because they have no intention of taking the MEK off the terror list".

The EU reviews the list every six months. To confirm the EU's stance, Jesus Carmona, spokesman for the European Union's anti-terrorism authority, enunciates that "The next list will come out in early 2007, and we're going to comply with the court and publicly state the reasons for any group or individual on it. But it wasn't an arbitrary decision to put this group on that list."

Recent Ruling on MKO Not Influential: UK Officials

Date: 2006/12/14

Iran-Interlink

UK Foreign Office: the MKO remains in terror list and having financial ties with the group would be a crime.

Deputy of Foreign Office stressed today that regard-

ing UK's anti-terrorism laws, the MKO remains in terror list and all restrictions applied by law would remain in place, including the banning of all financial ties with the group. This official said that there has been no change in the status of the group and, in the framework of mutual cooperation, other European

countries will be required to extradite those suspected of membership in terrorist organizations. Also, they will have to freeze bank accounts working for terrorist groups. He stressed that the ruling of Luxemburg-based court has nothing to do with the anti-terrorism decisions by member states.

EU knows MKO is not democratic says Director of Human Rights

Radio Farda,

December 19, 2006

In a report on Iranian refugees and also on the occasion of the anniversary of approving Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Brussels, Radio Farda said:

"Ms. Sabin Mayer, Director of Human Rights and International Relations of EU's

Greens, pointed to the process of talks between Europe and Iran since the government of Khatami and said: "Geopolitically, Iran is important and European Union believes that Iran can be taken out of isolation only by dialogue. Parliament knows that along with talking with Iranian officials, more activity is needed in the field of talking with Iranian opposition, writers and citizens."

She stressed: "Iran criticized invitation of Maryam Rajavi to Strasburg. Iranian officials said that it was an indication that we were backing the idea of regime change. But we denied it. We know that the MKO has not been a democratic group and that it is a closed group. However, in terms of legal issues, EU's laws were needed to change and therefore, restriction on MKO's bank accounts in Europe were lifted."

Court decision leaves victims trapped in destructive Rajavi cult

**Newswire, Washington,
December 14, 2006**
<http://releases.usnewswire.com>

A legal judgement of the Court of First Instance of the European Court of Justice on 12 December will have no substantial effect. According to various foreign office officials, the Mojahedin-e Khalq organisation (MKO) remains on Europe-wide terror lists. But the judgement has seriously undermined humanitarian efforts to help victims of the MKO, which is acknowledged by experts to be a destructive cult. Basic flaws in the basis for the judgement has left it open to misinterpretation and misuse by the opportunist Mojahedin-e Khalq, also known as the Rajavi cult. Critics say the Court ruling was politically motivated.

Following announcement of its judgement, Iran-Interlink wrote to the Court expressing disappointment at the level of evidence on which the ruling was based.

The letter said in part: "The delicate and ongoing humanitarian effort of the UNHCR, ICRC, HRW, AI and many smaller organisations to rescue victims of the MKO headed by Massoud Rajavi and Maryam Rajavi in Iraq has been jeopardized by this decision.

Massoud Khodabandeh, spokesman for Iran-Interlink said, "This ruling contains glaringly obvious errors, which were simple to verify. Its main effect has been to further victimise the cult members and remove from them near hope for rescue."

In its press release No. 97/06, the Court, which is based in Luxembourg, states "In the past, it [MKO] has had an armed branch operating inside

Iran." This is demonstrably erroneous. The Mojahedin operated all its armed personnel exclusively from inside Iraq as part of the Iraqi military apparatus and only made armed incursions into Iran with the permission of the Saddam's military. The remains of this 'armed branch' are of course currently detained in Camp Ashraf 60 km north of Baghdad.

The court ruling also states "that it [MKO] has expressly renounced all military activity since June 2001". Massoud Khodabandeh explained 'this was a privately expressed statement by the MKO. The Court apparently took them at their word. Yet there is clear evidence to show that MKO military activity continued right up to the allied invasion of Iraq in March 2003. Even right now they are openly promoting terrorism and threatening their critics in the EU and US. These critics have been "condemned to death" by MKO's Revolutionary Court pending the execution of their sentences in Europe and the USA."

The Iran-Interlink letter continues: "The day after your ruling, Massoud Rajavi who is wanted by Interpol for war crimes and crimes against humanity, emerged after three years of silence, to tell his commanders in Iraq they will soon get their arms back and they can resume their armed activity. How does this square with the claim to have renounced military activity?"

In the last few years Iran-Interlink and other agencies have been successful in helping people leave the Rajavi cult and re-integrate into normal society. Many of the survivors are resident in western countries including most of Europe and the UK, Scandinavia and Canada. Mojahedin

military activity has resulted in the deaths of 16,000 Iranians, most of whom were civilians. The Mojahedin has also imprisoned and tortured hundreds of its own members resulting in several deaths.

Mr Khodabandeh stressed that the Court judgement reinforces the false image of the MKO as a political entity. "The main victims of this court ruling are the individual cult members interred in Camp Ashraf. They are now unable to leave the cult. Unable to make contact with their families and unable to return to their homes, the MKO will now tell those members trapped in Camp Ashraf that their armed struggle is being supported by western democracies. It gives them an open hand to increase psychological coercion on the remaining hostages in Camp Ashraf."

Iran-Interlink's letter to the Court of First Instance points out that the ruling "is a gift to the Islamic Republic of Iran which will use it to accuse the west of double standards".

Massoud Rajavi in his message to Camp Ashraf, a day after the court ruling, has openly announced that he wants the MKO to be financed by the west, but the only foreseeable use for the MKO is to be re-armed and help the insurgents in Iraq. For over two decades Massoud Rajavi and Maryam Rajavi have been promising to achieve victory through armed struggle. They are still promising the same. Yet, nothing they have achieved so far would lead anyone to believe they provide value for money.

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Terrorist listing not in question - Mojahedin-e Khalq is a terrorist entity

**Associated Press,
December 12, 2006**

The European Court of Justice yesterday overturned an European Union (EU) decision to freeze the assets of an exiled Iranian resistance movement, that is on the bloc's terrorist blacklist.

The court's ruling annuls a 2002 decision to freeze all European assets of the Paris-based group, the People's Mujahadeen of Iran.

It was the first time an appeal to the EU's terrorist list has been successful at the Luxembourg-based EU court. EU legal officials stressed that EU governments would not immediately remove the exiled group from their terrorist list, saying they had to study the full 45-page ruling before any decisions would be made.

"For the time being, they are on the list," said Jean-Claude Piris, legal counsel to the 25 EU governments. "But we have to examine it as soon as possible."

EU governments said in a statement that the court's ruling did not call into question the EU's antiter-

rorist list.

It said that the judgment also did not call into question a decision by EU governments that group was a terrorist organisation.

The US also lists the group as a terrorist organisation.

But the group, founded by students at Tehran University in the 1960s, insists it advocates the overthrow of Iran's hard-line clerical regime by peaceful means.

In its ruling, the court said the group was not given a fair hearing to defend itself against the move to blacklist it.

"Certain fundamental rights and safeguards, including the right to a fair hearing, the obligation to state reasons and the right to effective judicial protection are, as a matter of principle, fully applicable," the court said.

The court ruling said there was "a distinction" between Mujahadeen's appeal to the EU court and previous cases filed with the court to have names removed from the list.

The EU court last July dis-

missed requests by two terrorist suspects to annul the bloc's moves to freeze their assets under a United Nations (UN) antiterrorist order.

The court said the exiled Iranian group was added to the list under EU law, and not under a UN order, as with the others, so EU governments are "bound to observe" fundamental rights under EU law.

Piris said that the ruling would likely force a change in how European governments add groups or persons to the list, suggesting that rules include informing those suspects after they have been added to the list, so they could exercise their right to appeal the decision at the EU's high court.

The list, set up after the terrorist attacks on September 11 2001 and which was last updated in May, is done in secret by a special committee of security representatives from each member state.

The blacklist contains 45 people and 48 groups or entities believed to be involved in terrorist activities.

Belgian TV Documentary on MKO Blots Senators(cont)

(cont from page 8)

The report also referred to the recent report of HRW on repeated abuses of human rights

inside the organization.

Finally, reporter suggests European officials ask her questions on these accusations in the case she travels again.

It should be noted that two months ago, a number of MKO members shocked observers and public opinion by traveling to Belgium and Norway.

MKO Reacts to Tribal Leaders' Conference

Iranidban.com,

December 18, 2006

Recently, the heads of tribes in Dyala province held a conference to discuss the critical economical and security situation as well as the presence of terrorist groups in the province.

A delegation of tribal leaders also briefed the government on the ways of improving security situation in the province.

Complaints on the illegal presence of terrorist organization of Mojahedin-e Khalq as a

source of instability in the region were top on the agenda. They also backed government's decision to expel the group from Iraq.

The murderous gang of Rajavi, which has created a group called "The Front of Saving Dyala" with the remnants of Baath party, has desperately claimed that American forces can assure provincial officials that the MKO is restricted to Camp Ashraf and that it has no role in the problems of the region.

MKO's statement, released by the name of this fake "Front", reads:

"Governor's office and other provincial officials are well aware that the MKO has no role in destabilizing the security of the region. How is it possible to have a role in security of the province when you are restricted? This delegation, instead of solving the problems of people and province, is partaking in continuation of bad security situation. All residents of the province are disappointed by this move of delegation."

Observers believe that MKO's efforts during past years to win support in the province, and its claims that it has good relations with people, have all failed.

A lot of hooah for nothing

Karim Haghi Moni

18 december 2006

www.iranpeyvand.com

On Tuesday 12th of December 2006, the European court of justice announced that they had made an errand in not allowing the Mojahedin-E khalq of Iran the opportunity to defend itself when putting them on a terror list. Link

With this decision, the mojahedin will receive access to the frozen funds and be able to defend themselves in the courts.

That is as far as the court decision has implemented.

But if you were to view the official mojahedin TV stations and numerous websites and newspapers you would get the impression that they had in fact been taken out of the terrorist list. This is of course far from the truth.

The European court of justice, declared in its verdict that any funds that had been frozen should now be made available at the disposal of mojahedin-E khalq. But the experts on this organization can

clearly state that the Mojahedin has never in the past made any of its money transactions through any bank in Europe.

The mojahedin have in fact never placed any of its vast funds that they have acquired through Saddam Hussein in any of the European bank. The exchange and transfer of money has always been conducted in secret and always in cash, just like other terrorist organization like Al-Qaeda.

The reality is that removing the Mojahedin-E Khalq of Iran out of the European Terror list will not make any impact what so ever.

In the past, the Mojahedin used to get their entire funding and support from the Iraqi regime, and even with all the tanks and guns it still didn't amount to anything.

For the mojahedin, the presence of their names in the European terror list has had very little effect in their day to day activities. They have continued to hold demonstrations over the past few years and still enjoy the full support of many European politicians and lawmakers.

During the past few days the Moja-

hedin have unofficially proclaimed that they have set aside violent resistance and will from now on only work by peaceful means. But the reality is that the armed struggle against the Iranian regime is a strategic, tactical and ideological essence of the group. And if they ever decide to set aside armed and violent means as a form of struggle, they cease to exist as a group. The result would be mass defection and finally an implosion of the organization.

There has never in fact been an official declaration of distance from violent armed struggle.

The major issue at stake is that the people of Iran do not consider mojahedin as a serious political force. For the majority of the Iranian people they are only known as a cult that worked with Iraq's Saddam Hussein in time of war against and helped the enemy in killing thousands of Iranian people during the Iran-Iraq conflict that lasted 8 years (1980 – 1988)

There remains no support for the Mojahedin-E Khalq by any class, age or gender in Iran's society.

A Turn in US Policies on Iran

Date: 2006/12/14

Irandidban

Part of Radio Farda's interview with James Jeffrey is as follows:

The political scene of the US recently witnessed two controversial developments, namely the victory of Democrats in recent elections and the report of Iraq Study Group. Will these two development a beginning for a turn in US policies towards Iran?

Amir Mossaddegh Katuzian from Radio Farda posed this question for James Jeffrey Senior Advisor of Secretary of State in Near East Affairs and US policy-making on Iran.

CQ quoted a former American official, who talked anonymously, that the US army has deployed a number of MKO members to Israel for military training and that some other of these members had been trained in Nevada Deserts earlier. Are you aware of that?

We have also heard about that

report. When I was in Baghdad, I followed MKO's status very carefully. We consider this group a terrorist organization. American forces watch the group so as not to allow them to act against anyone.

This is being performed in coordination with the Red Cross and UNHCR. This program is related to refugees' affairs and I think these reports are baseless.

"We consider this group a terrorist organization. American forces watch the group so as not to allow them to act against anyone."

Massoud Rajavi, the leader of the MKO, has disappeared since the fall of Saddam. No one has heard of him. New pictures of him have not been aired by MKO's TV channel...

He is not in our custody. As far as we know he has never been in our custody. As far as I know he is in Western Europe or in the Middle East, but he is not in Camp Ashraf.

Does it mean that he is out of Iraq, but he's under US super-

vision?

We have no control over him. As the occupying force, according to UN resolutions, we are responsible for the MKO in Iraq. This only applies about the MKO.

Except this, we consider it a terrorist organization and like other terrorist groups such as PKK, Hamas, Hizballah and many others in the Middle East we oppose this organization. We don't support it.

What you said about the MKO means that changing Iranian regime is not on the agenda for the US?

What we observe is not to interfere in Iran's internal affairs. This is related to the people of Iran. Changing regime is related to the people of Iran who would decide about its time. I hope democratic processes would let them do so. For instance, in the upcoming elections which we think is not healthy but we hope it could allow people to have a role in their future, even if limited.



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MKO still qualified to be on the list

21/12/2006
www.mojahedin.ws

According to Brian Adebba's account published in NEWS STORY, MKO activists in Canada intended to follow the same action they took to the European court. It states that a Canadian lawyer, Warren Creates, an Ottawa-based lawyer who has represented the group and its sympathizers for seven years, is consid-

ering challenging the decision that placed The People's Mujahedeen on the Canadian list in May 2005.

Last month, the Canadian government reviewed the group and found that it still qualified to be on the list of terrorist organizations banned in Canada, said Philip McLinton, a spokesman from the Department of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness.

"It's according to the criteria [in the Criminal Code] and intelligence received that this assessment was conducted," said Mr. McLinton. However, he said under Canada's laws, any group listed on the terror watch list can appeal the decision, but added that the department hasn't received any such request from the People's Mujahedeen.

MKO, An Undemocratic Group

Date: 2006/12/19

Radio Farda

In a report on Iranian refugees and also on the occasion of the anniversary of approving Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Brussels, Radio Farda said:

"Ms. Sabin Mayer, Director of Human Rights and International Relations of EU's Greens, pointed to the process of talks

between Europe and Iran since the government of Khatami and said: "Geopolitically, Iran is important and European Union believes that Iran can be taken out of isolation only by dialogue. Parliament knows that along with talking with Iranian officials, more activity is needed in the field of talking with Iranian opposition, writers and citizens."

She stressed: "Iran

criticized invitation of Maryam Rajavi to Strasburg. Iranian officials said that it was an indication that we were backing the idea of regime change. But we denied it. We know that the MKO has not been a democratic group and that it is a closed group. However, in terms of legal issues, EU's laws were needed to change and therefore, restriction on MKO's bank accounts in Europe were lifted."

Belgian TV Documentary on MKO Blots Senators

Baztab,

December 23, 2006

Following a strange meeting between a number of Belgian Senators and Maryam Rajavi, Iran's terror lady, and some other leading members of terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq, Belgian TV (RTBF)- in a professional move- broadcast a documentary

on the event.

According to the correspondent of Baztab, this report contained interviews with former members of Mojahedin-e Khalq.

The report of RTBF had traveled to Iran to interview some former MKO members. The report pointed to the visit of Maryam Rajavi to Bel-

gium and her meeting with the head of Belgian senate. Then, comments of former members of MKO on human rights abuses in the organization, terrorist operations inside Iran, obligatory divorces, pressing the members to commit suicide and ... were covered in the report.

(cont page 5)