

# Nejat Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 5

DECEMBER 16, 2006

## LET SOMAYEH CHOOSE IN A FREE COUNTRY

### The Campaign for “The Right to Choose” for Somayeh and others, who are in Ashraf

September 27, 2006

#### About Somayeh Mohamadi

Somayeh was only 17 when she met the recruiters of the Iranian opposition group Mojahedin-e Khalagh (MEK) in Toronto. Born into a family with sympathies towards the group and having already lost her favorite aunt in guerrilla fights against Islamic Republic of Iran, Somayeh decided

to drop out of her grade 10 high school class at Etobicoke Collegiate Institute and attend a MEK camp in Iraq for a month. Most of all, she was thankful to MEK for offering to pay for her expenses

to visit her aunt's grave. On February, 1998 Somayeh left Toronto to spend a month in what later on turned to be a guerrilla compound called Camp Ashraf, the headquarters of the Organization of the Freedom Fighters of the Iranian People. Somayeh is now a 25 year old, still living under harsh conditions of Ashraf, despite her parents' restless tries to bring her back home. Somayeh is one of the many Canadian and American teenagers who were deceitfully recruited by MEK and sent to Camp Ashraf, where they were trained for guerrilla fights and forced to stay inevitably. In an independent letter sent to the Canadian embassy in Jordan, Somayeh asks for the Canadian government's help to get her back to Toronto. Later however, she was forced by MEK in a court hear-



ing to denounce her family and state that she wants to stay with MEK “holy worriers”, now a banned terrorist organization under Canadian law since 2005.

Somayeh's life has been in great danger in the past 10 years and she is defiantly threatened to comply with MEK's rules. Her story is very damaging to MEK and as a result the organization does not allow Somayeh to leave camp Ashraf in order to contact or meet with the Canadian Officials in private or in a 3<sup>rd</sup> party country. This has further complicated her

case, as she officially told an immigration judge over satellite phone that she does not wish to return to Canada. Her family and friends know this to be a testimony made under pressure and therefore devoid of any

truth. Somayeh is kept like a hostage at Camp Ashraf and must be treated like one.

#### About Us

We are Family and Friends of Somayeh Mohammadi who are deeply concerned about her safety as she has been forcefully kept by Mojahedin-e Khalgh (MEK), Iranian guerrilla fighters in Iraq, for the past ten years. Somayeh is one of the many Canadian and American youth who were recruited to monthly camps when they were teenagers, only to be kept like hostages at the headquarters of the Organization of the Freedom Fighters of the Iranian People, Camp Ashraf, Iraq. This website is to raise awareness about Somayeh's case and help us organize our campaign to save Somayeh. (more on page15)

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Let Somayeh Choose in a Free Country	1
Strange Bedfellows The Wall Street Journal	2-5
Nejat Society Letter to the President of Iraq	6
Open Letter to Mr. Richard K. Armeey	8-11
Suspicious Attempts to Hide the Truth	12
Gone with the wind	14
Iraqis Welcome Revelations of MKO	15
Much Ado about Nothing	16
The residents of Camp Ashraf are subject to the laws of Iraq	16

#### [Help Somayeh To Spend Christmas With Her Family Just Like You](#)

[Iranian-Canadian kids sent to guerrilla camps in Iraq](#)

#### [Children of 'the resistance'](#)

National Post, Saturday, September 23, 2006

#### [Father's sacrifice](#)

National Post, Saturday, September 26, 2006

#### [Getting out of an Iraqi terror camp](#)

National Post, Saturday, September 27, 2006

#### ['I'm with the Mujahedin'](#)

National Post, Saturday, September 28, 2006

[Secretariat of the National Council of Resistance of Iran](#)

## Strange Bedfellows, Called a Terror Cult by Many, MEK Wins Friends in U.S. Because It Opposes Tehran

By **ANDREW HIGGINS** and **JAY SOLOMON**,  
The Wall Street Journal  
November 29, 2006



**Maryam Rajavi**

Early this summer, as Washington fretted about Iran's nuclear program, supporters of Mujahedin-e Khalq, an Iranian opposition group, held a rally in an auditorium two blocks from the White House. Prominent members of Congress addressed the crowd, as did the State Department's recently retired ambassador-at-large for war crimes.

Maryam Rajavi, the dissident outfit's leader, beamed in a stirring speech via satellite from France. Denouncing Iran's clerical rulers and their nuclear ambitions, she proclaimed democracy "the answer to Islamic fundamentalism."

Mujahedin-e Khalq, known as MEK, is Iran's largest exile opposition group and, say its supporters, the best hope of bringing democracy to Iran. It reaches into Iran through its own satellite TV channel and claims an underground network of activists inside the Islamic republic. It also has a big presence in neighboring Iraq, where U.S. soldiers watch over more than 3,000 MEK members gathered in a sprawling camp north of Baghdad.

The MEK, however, has a big handicap: The U.S. government says it's a terrorist organization. Officials cite its role in the murder of Americans in the 1970s and subsequent terror attacks that killed hundreds of Iranians. An-

other big blemish is the group's long collaboration with Saddam Hussein. On top of all that, former members describe the MEK as a personality cult obsessed with celibacy and martyrdom.

So how does an outlaw organization with a bloodstained past, a history of intimacy with Iraq's toppled despot and a reputation for oddness generate thunderous applause almost within earshot of the Oval Office?

Part of the answer lies in subterfuge: Mujahedin-e Khalq, which means People's Holy Warriors, has a raft of support groups with innocuous names, such as the National Convention for a Democratic, Secular Republic in Iran, the host of the Washington event. These haven't been banned and disavow violence.

More important in blurring the MEK's status, however, is the muddle surrounding U.S. policy toward Iran. With the U.S. armed forces bogged down in Iraq and America's military options against neighboring Iran severely limited, the MEK and its fans are lobbying hard to present the group as an ally that can help curb Tehran's growing influence. These supporters, who include lawmakers and conservative foreign-policy analysts, insist the MEK has no links to terrorism.

Most U.S. officials scoff at forming any alliance with the MEK and dispute its claims of having a mass following in Iran, stressing that many Iranians despise the organization. A senior White House official says the Bush administration continues to view the MEK as a terrorist organization and "not an advocate for democracy or human rights" in Iran.

But some Iran analysts say the MEK's thinly disguised presence in the U.S. makes a mockery of the administration's antiterrorism campaign. The White House accuses Iran of supporting terrorist groups, they say, yet turns a blind eye toward the MEK. "It gives the impression that some terrorist organizations are better than others," says Trita Parsi, president of

the National Iranian American Council, an Iranian-American civic organization.

### Charm Offensive

Leading the push to get the MEK's "terrorist" tag removed, with help from some members of Congress, is an outfit called the Iran Policy Committee. The committee's president, Raymond Tanter, a former National Security Council official under President Reagan, says the MEK's designation is "restraining" the organization's ability to promote democratic change in Iran. His group recently published a glossy book that challenges the terrorism charges made against the MEK, and this month helped host an event on Capitol Hill arguing the same point.

The charm offensive has taken the MEK far from its origins. First set up in 1965 by vaguely Islamic left-wing intellectuals in Tehran, Mujahedin-e Khalq used to curse American "imperialism" and murdered a string of U.S. military personnel and defense contractors in the 1970s, says the State Department. The group blames the attacks on rogue Marxist factions and says they were not endorsed by MEK's leaders, who were in jail at the time or had been executed.

Shortly before Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution, the Shah's crumbling America-backed regime released jailed MEK activists. One of them, Massoud Rajavi, a former law student at Tehran University, became the group's paramount leader and allied with Islamist forces to topple the Shah. But the group quickly split with Iran's new clerical rulers led by Ayatollah Khomeini, who executed thousands of MEK supporters. The MEK retaliated with a wave of terror of its own.

Mr. Rajavi fled to France, where his brother, a doctor, has a house in Auvers-sur-Oise, a sleepy town outside Paris. To rally Iranians to his cause, Mr. Rajavi sent Massoud Khodabandeh, a British-educated electrical engineer, to Iran's Kurdish region to set up a radio transmitter. He began to broadcast taped tirades against Ayatollah Khomeini.

## Strange Bedfellows, Called a Terror Cult by Many, MEK Wins Friends in U.S. Because It Opposes Tehran (cont)

In France, the group swiftly fell prey to political and romantic bickering. Mr. Rajavi, who had just divorced his second wife, shocked supporters by taking up with the wife of a close friend and fellow MEK activist. They married and she took the name Maryam Rajavi.

Another contentious liaison followed. Mr. Rajavi moved to Iraq in 1986 with his new wife and forged an alliance with Saddam Hussein, then at war with Iran. Former MEK members say the Iraq dictator provided a six-story office building in Baghdad and military bases, including Camp Ashraf, named in honor of Mr. Rajavi's first wife, who had been killed in Iran by Ayatollah Khomeini's regime.

After a disastrous lunge into Iran in 1988, the MEK embarked on a more successful military venture. It helped Saddam Hussein crush an uprising by Kurds after Iraq's defeat by U.S. forces during the 1991 Gulf War, according to U.S. diplomats and the State Department's 2005 Country Reports on Terrorism.

Increasingly seen in the West as an Iraqi stooge, Mr. Rajavi sent Ms. Rajavi back to France to drum up support. Her campaign made some headway but foundered when the U.S. and Europe began looking for ways to reach out to Iran's newly elected reformist president, Mohammad Khatami.

Senior diplomats in the Clinton administration say the MEK figured prominently as a bargaining chip in a bridge-building effort with Tehran. Washington hoped it could get Iran to back a Middle East peace initiative, stop funding terrorist groups and forswear nuclear weapons. Iran, for its part, wanted the U.S. to take a hard line against the MEK.

In 1997, the State Department added the MEK to a list of global terrorist organizations as "a signal" of the U.S.'s desire for rapprochement with Tehran's reformists, says Martin Indyk, who at the time was assistant secretary of state for Near East Affairs. President Khatami's government "considered it a pretty big deal,"

Mr. Indyk says.

The MEK also got hit by a string of defections. Among those to quit was Mr. Khodabandeh, the electrical engineer. He married another defector, Anne Singleton, an English woman who had visited Camp Ashraf, where she says she was taught an anti-imperialist song that vowed "death to America." Ms. Singleton wrote a book denouncing the MEK as a crazed cult of enforced celibacy and brutal discipline.

Other former members describe a good cause warped by methods reminiscent of Mao Tse-tung's Cultural Revolution -- a constant hunt for internal enemies, ideological "cleansing" sessions and harsh punishment of real or imagined dissent. Mohsen Abbasloo, a 28-year-old former MEK activist, says he was jailed and beaten at Camp Ashraf for over a month after he voiced mild doubts. "I went there full of hope but it was not even 1% of what I expected," says Mr. Abbasloo, who says he spent four years at the huge desert complex of barracks, office buildings and military training grounds between Baghdad and Iraq's border with Iran.

Mohammad Mohaddessin, a veteran MEK member and chief foreign-affairs official of its political arm, denies accusations of brutality and describes defectors as "tools of the Iranian regime."

Throughout the 1990s, the MEK continued to operate in Washington and elsewhere through various front organizations, the most prominent of which was the Paris-based National Council of Resistance of Iran. In 1999, the State

Department banned the NCRI on the grounds that it is the MEK's official political arm. The NCRI describes itself as an Iranian parliament-in-exile comprising 530 members and not just representing the MEK.

Its former U.S.-based spokesman, Alireza Jafarzadeh, remained a regular on the Washington lobbying and policy circuits. In recent years he appeared routinely on Fox News as a foreign-affairs analyst. In 2002, he held a Washington news conference to reveal a



**Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein greets Massoud Rajavi, head of the Iranian opposition group Mujahedin-e Khalq, before America's 2003 invasion of Iraq.**

secret uranium enrichment facility in the Iranian city of Natanz. The International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna later confirmed the claim. President Bush and other senior U.S. officials publicly praised what they called an Iranian "dissident group" for unearthing

the information.

Former MEK members and some U.S. officials say they believe the Natanz information was fed to the MEK by Israel, which wanted to make it public. The MEK derides this as nonsense.

John Moody, a Fox News senior vice president, says Mr. Jafarzadeh's contract as a foreign-affairs analyst lapsed, but doesn't rule out further employment. "He consistently provides accurate and sometimes exclusive information," he says.

In 2002, 150 members of the House of Representatives signed a petition seeking the MEK's removal from the U.S. government's terrorist list.

As America geared up for war with

## **Strange Bedfellows, Called a Terror Cult by Many, MEK Wins Friends in U.S. Because It Opposes Tehran (cont)**

Iraq in early 2003, the MEK muted its adulation of Saddam Hussein, say people who were in Ashraf at the time. Top leaders, including the Rajavi couple, quietly bailed from Camp Ashraf.

"We suddenly noticed that a lot of senior people were missing," says Behzad Alishahi, an Iranian who spent more than 15 years at the camp working as an MEK TV presenter. Just before the U.S. invaded in March, he says, hundreds of MEK fighters rushed toward the Iraq-Iran border for an attack on Iran. They turned back, he says, after U.S. planes bombed their convoy and Camp Ashraf.

Ms. Rajavi fled to the group's compound in Auvers-sur-Oise, France. Her husband vanished, along with his hairdresser and bodyguards. This stirred rumors that he had been picked up by the U.S. military and was providing intelligence about Saddam Hussein and also Iran.

A State Department official says Mr. Rajavi was last seen in Baghdad in March 2003 and is now either dead or in hiding. The MEK says he's alive and evading Iranian assassins.

When American troops pulled up outside Camp Ashraf shortly after the fall of Baghdad in April 2003, the MEK offered no resistance and later agreed to disarm. Mr. Alishahi says he and colleagues at the TV station were ordered by MEK commanders to destroy film and other evidence of close ties to Saddam Hussein.

U.S. officials launched a review of camp residents to decide if they should be prosecuted for terrorism. At the same time, the Central Intelligence Agency warned French authorities to watch out for the MEK. The French dispatched hundreds of police to storm the MEK's Auvers-sur-Oise compound. They arrested Maryam Rajavi and carted away \$9 million in cash and documents detailing bank accounts in France, the U.S. and elsewhere holding tens of millions of dollars.

Also confiscated, says a senior

French security official, were videos of Mr. Rajavi meeting Saddam Hussein and 99 satellite-positioning devices programmed with coordinates for Iran. The French also found what they say were signs that the Iraqi dictator had bankrolled the organization, something the MEK has always denied. These included stacks of dollar bills wrapped in Iraqi newspapers and documents relating to a gift of Iraqi oil, say French officials who were involved.

### **Drawing Criticism**

The raid drew criticism from lawmakers and others in France and also the U.S. About 10 MEK members set themselves on fire in Europe and Canada in protest. Two died from their burns. French police released Ms. Rajavi but launched a formal terrorism-conspiracy investigation of her and 16 others.

Mr. Mohaddessin, the group's foreign-affairs spokesman, who was also detained and later released, ridicules the raid as a publicity stunt to win favor with Iran. There were enough police, he says, "for a coup in an African country."

The U.S. review of Camp Ashraf, which began around the same time as the French raid and finished in summer 2004, partially vindicated the MEK. Only one person has faced any U.S. charges, a naturalized U.S. citizen from Iran who was arrested in September in New York for allegedly providing support to a terrorist group. The roughly 3,300 now still in Ashraf were given the status of "protected persons" under the Geneva Convention, which promises humane treatment for nonnationals in a country at war. The U.S. military, as the occupying power, took on the role of protector. A White House official says

this "protected" status applies only to individuals, not to the MEK as an organization.

Former Ashraf residents say MEK commanders, most of whom are women, have worked hard to woo the American soldiers who are now nominally in charge, inviting them to use a big swimming pool and serving them pizza. American forces have, under an agreement with the MEK, confiscated the group's roughly 300 tanks, 250 armored personnel carriers, 250 artillery pieces and 10,000 small arms. They also blew up most of



**Mujahedin-e Khalq members at a rally in Camp Ashraf, north of Baghdad, before the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of Iraq.**

the MEK's ammunition. But Camp Ashraf still functions as a bastion of opposition to Iran, shielded from the turmoil elsewhere in Iraq by American soldiers.

In June, the MEK camp hosted a mass rally of Iranian dissidents and thousands of Iraqis. Ms. Rajavi sent a message from France urging them to "cut off the tentacles of the Iranian regime." The MEK's satellite TV station, meanwhile, pumps out adulatory propaganda for Ms. Rajavi and her missing husband, Massoud.

Both the Pentagon and the U.S. Central Command declined to comment on the military's dealings with the MEK in Iraq. But individual officers have expressed support for the MEK. In May 2003, Maj. Gen. Raymond Odierno, then-commander of America's 4th Infantry Division, commended MEK members at Camp Ashraf for their cooperation and told reporters that "this should lead to a review of whether they are still a terrorist organization."

In 2005, following a report by Human Rights Watch detailing torture and other abuses at MEK camps in Iraq before the U.S. invasion, the commander of a U.S. military police unit that had been



## Strange Bedfellows, Called a Terror Cult by Many, MEK Wins Friends in U.S. Because It Opposes Tehran (cont)

stationed at Camp Ashraf wrote to the U.S.-based human-rights group to defend the MEK. He said U.S. forces had not found "any credible evidence" of any such abuses and said he would "like my own daughter to someday visit these units for the cultural exchange."

In Washington, debate raged during this time over how to deal with the MEK, say current and former U.S. officials. Amid the screening of Ashraf residents, some in the Pentagon pushed to use the MEK as a tool against Iran and Iranian-backed militants operating inside Iraq, say current and former State Department officials involved in Iraq policy.

Colin Powell, who was then secretary of state, pushed back against the idea of cooperating with the MEK, say current and former officials. Mr. Powell and his underlings argued that any flirtation with the MEK would undermine Washington's stand against terrorism. The State Department then designated the group's previously tolerated U.S. affiliate, NCRI-U.S., as a terrorist front for the MEK. In August 2003, the Federal Bureau of Investigation shut down its offices at the National Press Club in Washington.

"There was this kind of language [being offered by Pentagon officials] that one man's terrorist was

another man's freedom fighter," says Lawrence Wilkerson, who served as Mr. Powell's chief of staff at the time. He says the State Department pushed through 2003 and 2004 for the MEK's disarmament.

Douglas Feith, who served as the Pentagon's No. 3 civilian official until last year, denies any desire by the Pentagon to cozy up to the MEK. "The idea that we would use them against Iran is fantasy," he says.

MEK leaders sheltering in the West are now ramping up a campaign, along with their American and European fans, to present Maryam Rajavi and her missing husband as the only way to stop Iran from developing a nuclear bomb. This summer, thousands of their supporters gathered in a Paris convention hall. Ms. Rajavi arrived in a chauffeured Bentley, stepping onto a red carpet to the sound of trumpets. Rose petals were strewn at her feet. A former French prime

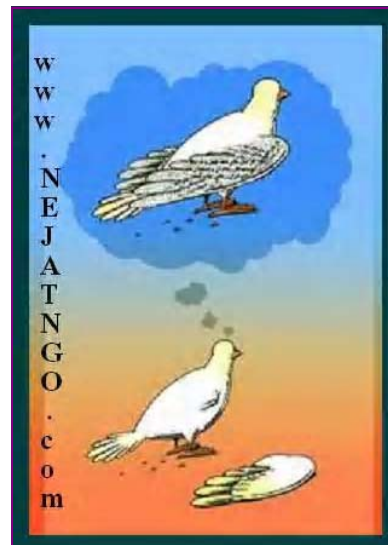
minister and other VIPs applauded.

Among the MEK's Washington supporters are a significant mix of lawmakers on both sides of the aisle. Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, a Florida Republican who chairs the International Relations Subcommittee on the Middle East and Central Asia, drafted legislation this year that would require the White House to provide funding to Iran's largest opposition groups, although the bill doesn't explicitly name the MEK.

Mr. Abbasloo, the former Camp Ashraf resident, who is now in Europe, says he doesn't like Iran's current regime but mocks the MEK as an alternative. "This would only replace a snake with a crocodile," he says. "I hope America is not going to be

that stupid."

Write to Andrew Higgins at [andrew.higgins@wsj.com](mailto:andrew.higgins@wsj.com) and Jay Solomon at [jay.solomon@wsj.com](mailto:jay.solomon@wsj.com)



## Nejat society Letter to The President of Iraq

### Nejat Society correspondent-Tehran

*Posted on 2006-12-06*

Through a meeting with the President of the Republic of Iraq, Nejat Society representative delivered a letter to Mr. Jalal Talebani on behalf of Nejat families.



**Nejat Society  
Tehran, Iran  
November 29, 2006**

**His Excellency Jalal  
Talebani**

**The Honourable President  
of the Republic of  
Iraq**

**Your Excellency**

Nejat Society would like to sincerely welcome you to Tehran and express gratitude for your stances regarding expelling the members of the Mojahedin-é Khalq Organisation (MKO) lead by Mas'ud Rajavi from Iraq. Nejat Society, which is established by some defected members of Rajavi's Terrorist Cult, is active for humanitarian and anti-terrorist causes to safeguard and implement the democ-

atic thoughts and civilised ethics. One of the higher goals of Nejat Society is to help the victims of terrorism in all its forms, and assist individuals held captive by the leadership of MKO in Ashraf Camp in Iraq, as well as their anxiously awaiting families in Iran.

Nejat Society deeply believes that being committed to find democratic conducts to assist those under the rule of terrorist cult groups such as MKO is a sacred and humanitarian responsibility. Fortunately you are well acquainted with the MKO and its deeds particularly against the Kurdish people. No one can deny the very fact that MKO did actually assist Saddam's army to suppress Kurds in 1991.

There is one undeniable fact that MKO and its National Liberation Army (NLA) have been an inseparable part of Saddam Hussein's Regime and have even participated along the forces of the Deposed Despot to suppress the People of Iraq's freedom movement. The Organisation is also responsible for many sabotage and terrorist activities inside Iran through the years.

You are aware that around 3000 members of MKO are residing in Ashraf Camp (Al-Khalis Garrison) under the control of the US Army. These people have no connection with their families what so ever and they have

all been somehow brain-washed by the leaders and kept unaware about the outside world. They are systematically manipulated to serve to the benefits of the leaders.

The Mojahedin-é Khalq Organisation, over the years has situated numerous people in their Camps inside Iraq under severe control, repressive conditions, and totally disconnected them from the outside world; and therefore has placed many serious obstacles against their members stopping them from contacting their families in Iran. Hereby we wish to express our disgust against the undemocratic deeds and inhuman manners of the leadership of the Organisation who abuses the basic rights of the members inside Ashraf Camp, which is on the contrary to the democratic values and principles of an advanced community. Therefore we urge you to facilitate the possibility of inhabitants of Ashraf Camp meeting their families in a free atmosphere without the presence of the officials of MKO, by using your legal capacity and political authority.

Nejat Society finds its duty to try to bring these people out of their misery and once again introduce them to the normal life and the real world. In other words these people must be helped to survive from the state of

## Nejat society Letter to The President of Iraq (cont)

captivity that they are experiencing at the moment. Driving them out of Iraq would mean liberating them from the hand of their capturers. Expelling the members of MKO in a way that they no longer could be controlled by the leaders of the Organisation would be to their own best interests and that of their families. Once they become freed from the barriers of the Organisation and be let to think and decide independently and find themselves in a new world, they would certainly be most pleased about their new situation out of the Organisation's control.

We also wish to draw your attention to another important matter. It is well clear that the leadership of MKO had always acted as a strategic ally of dictatorial regime of Saddam Hussein, in recent years. They have joined the security and military forces of the Regime of Iraqi Ba'th Party to take part in violent activities and planning terrorist operations against both nations of Iraq and Iran and murdering and terrorising the civilians. The former ruling regime of Iraq has covertly spent millions of dollars gained from the UN oil for food programme during economical sanctions against the people of Iraq to help MKO, without informing the international authorities, and has breached international regulations regardless of economical pressures im-

posed to the people of Iraq. This Organisation has in return tried to restore the political and military power of Saddam Hussein; in such way that one can say the leader of MKO and the former Iraqi dictator have been one spirit in two bodies.

MKO would of course like to keep hold of the Ashraf Camp since it provides them a good opportunity to withhold the members isolated from the outside world. As far as the Americans are concerned they are just passing time to see what would be the outcome in the future. It seems that they are not certain what to do with them. Some 600 people have defected from the MKO in Iraq since the collapse of Saddam Hussein while about 400 of them have managed to come back to Iran to their families and start a new life. Around 200 are therefore still with the TIPF alongside Ashraf Camp.

Let's wish that all these unfortunate people who have been utilised by Mas'ud Rajavi in Iraq against the two great nations of Iraq and Iran as well as their own families who have also suffered through the years missing their beloved ones would soon gain reunion and start a new prosperous life.

Regarding the above mentioned points, and considering humanitarian tendencies, democratic values, and hu-

man rights accounts, and bearing in mind the very important fact that according to government of Iraq, in addition to the world community, MKO is categorised as a terrorist Organisation, this Society demands prosecuting and bringing into justice the leaders and officials of the Organisation. We believe that dealing properly with terrorism and giving a trial to the terrorists, is the most desired and logical manner to be adopted. We also believe that using terror is a fascistic method and is in contrast with the human conscience, communal ethics, and wisdom teachings of the contemporary mankind.

We do hope that your efforts and your useful attempts as well as those of the members of the Iraqi Government would pave the way to the trial of the terrorist leaders of MKO, and the rescue of misfortune members kept captive in Iraq. We trust this would bring a hopeful perspective to the world community, particularly the two great nations of Iraq and Iran, to establish a society without violence and terror.

**With regards and many  
thankfulness  
Nejat Society**



## Open Letter to Mr Richard K, Armeý about Mojahedin 'Information Laundering'

From Massoud Khodabandeh,

November 4, 2006

Mr Richard K. Armeý  
Senior Policy Adviser  
Co-Chair, Homeland Security  
DLA Piper Rudnick  
Gray Cary

1200 Nineteenth Street, NW  
Washington, DC, 20036-2412  
United States of America

December 4, 2006

Dear Sir,

I would like to draw your attention to a matter concerning the Mojahedin-é Khalq Organisation (MKO) - otherwise known as People's Mojahedin Organisation of Iran (PMOI) disguised as National Council of Resistance (based in Paris) and National Liberation Army (based in Iraq).

The weekly Persian periodical "Mojahed", the official organ of MKO, has reported on your role as the key figure in a three day symposium held in US Congress under the title "Iran: foreign policy challenges, solutions and democratic opposition" (Mojahed, No 823, Monday, Nov 20, 2006). The article states that you delivered a 250 page report in that meeting.

You are well aware, as a former member of the House of Representatives, of the 1994 State Department report on the Mojahedin which describes it as a terrorist group. Of course the MKO leaders, the Rajavis ignored that report at the time since they were backed by former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein and were fully relying on him. Since the collapse of the despot they have tried to find a new ally, this time in the West, but their

main obstacle has been the above mentioned report. Now they desperately need to be represented by some apparently independent establishments as an acceptable opposition group and to lend it the appearance of legitimacy in order to keep the organisation going.

As a result they are now vigorously pursuing 'information laundering' to whitewash their dirty past. As the name suggests this is identical to money laundering, which of course the organisation has also expertly undertaken. The Mojahedin has gone to a lot of effort and expense to pass-off its own version of information about itself - which of course has been part tidied up and part fabricated - to independent, well-known highly respected bodies which will then publish it as genuine, independent and reliable researched information.

That this current campaign of 'information laundering' is aimed at seducing a newly Democratic Party-led Congress is too obvious even to have to mention it.

However, what is abundantly clear is that you and your establishment have become the conduit for this campaign. Perhaps you are unaware however that once you get involved in the sort of game the Mojahedin are playing, you will hardly be able to find a way out of it.

For example, long-time apologist for the Mojahedin, Professor Raymond Tanter in an interview with Al Jazeera TV has said that "America should support the Sunnis, who have a lot in common with the Iranian opposition, against Iran". Professor Tanter, as a result of his uncritical support for the

Mojahedin now appears to be advocating a return to American support for the Ba'athists with the Mojahedin as centre-piece of Iraqi opposition against Iran.

In reality the Mojahedin's campaign is both too little and too late. MKO is not, as it claims, a democratic alternative. It is neither democratic nor capable of being an alternative; as the near collapse of Camp Ashraf in Iraq amply demonstrates. You can find many victims of MKO inside and outside Iran. There are many individuals who have suffered from the activities of MKO. Human Rights Watch published a report under the title of "No Exit" last year which reveals human rights abuses inside MKO. Mr Scott Ritter begins his book under the title "Target Iran" describing the MKO and its past record.

Following is a brief list of genuine information about the Organisation's activities during the years it conducted the process of its so-called struggle against the ruling system in Iran:

### 1. **The military, financial, and political relationship between the MKO and the deposed dictator of Iraq, Saddam Hussein:**

- A video tape attained after the fall of Saddam Hussein clearly reveals that the MKO leaders and principally Massoud Rajavi received huge boxes of money from the Iraqi Authorities, specifically the Security Services Chief Jaleel Tahir Habush, along with assassination orders to be carried out inside Iran.

- The National Libera-



## Open Letter to Mr Richard K, Armev about Mojahedin 'Information Laundering' (cont)

tion Army (the military wing of MKO based in Iraq) has been financed, trained, facilitated, armed, and supplied with intelligence and ammunition by the Iraqi Army to counter the Iranian Army throughout the war between the two countries.

- Many ex-members of the NLA have given full witness statements as to how the Organisation's military forces entered the internal conflicts in Iraq, particularly suppressing the Kurds in the north and the Shiites in the south in 1991.

- According to many members of the Organisation arrested inside Iran, they have been trained, facilitated and helped cross the border by the Iraqi armed forces and security services to carry out assassinations and terrorist activities inside major cities in Iran.

- Many defected members have also stated that their discontented associates have been jailed, abused of their basic rights, tortured, and finally handed over to the Iraqi officials to be locked up in Abu-Ghraib prison under Saddam Hussein's dictatorship.

- It is worth considering that apart from being in various international terrorist lists; and being hated by the vast majority of the Iranian people for their cooperation with the enemy during the war; no government has ever supported the Organisation in any form except for the

Iraqi Regime under Saddam Hussein. Of course the Organisation has managed to gain the signatures of many members of parliaments in Western countries on its petitions due to their lack of knowledge of the terrorist nature and terrorist activities of MKO.

- According to many undeniable documents, the money collected in US and in Europe by the so-called charity and humanitarian institutes have been sent to Iraq (after its track has been lost by money laundry) to be used for the NLA on arms and ammunitions.

### 2. **The systematic contact between the Organisation's HQ in Paris (the establishment formed in Auvers-sur-Oise under the cover of NCR) and the NLA bases in Iraq:**

- According to the DST press releases and statements as well as the French authorities' press conferences referring to the materials found inside the Organisation's Paris HQ, the two bases in France and Iraq have been closely and continuously linked using highly sophisticated devices.

- The documents clearly show that there is no distinction between different establishments of the Organisation and they are all run under the close leadership of the Rajavis.

- It is also clear that all activities in Western Europe and North America, including the political, publicity, and financial performance of the Organisation have been di-

rectly guided from Iraq.

### 3. **Establishing fake societies and associations to cover the Organisation's illegal financial and other acts and money laundry in Western Countries:**

- On many occasions the members of the Organisation have clearly and directly been told that the money which they collected in Western Countries for 'the cause of homeless and orphaned children' has instead been destined to be used for arms and other expenditures of the Organisation.

- The Organisation has many institutions that do not reveal their nature or their dependence on the PMOI (MKO), but which are all directed and instructed for their activities directly by Maryam Rajavi.

- In particular, it should be noted that the MKO (PMOI), the NCR, and the NLA are alias establishments and could not and should not be dealt with separately. They all have terrorist nature which is well theorised and justified for the participants.

### 4. **The internal relationship of the Organisation and its cult status:**

- The self-appointed, charismatic, life leadership has unlimited power over decision making in every aspect of the Organisational affairs including the most personal matters concerning the members.

- The internal structure of the Organisation is based on absolute totalitarianism. The spiritual leadership

## Open Letter to Mr Richard K, Armev about Mojahedin 'Information Laundering' (cont)

(Rajavi) is positioned high above everyone, and cannot be criticised by anyone under any circumstances.

- The process of brain-washing, psychological coercion, and thought reform has widely been practiced inside the Organisation under the direct supervision of Massoud and Maryam Rajavi. A range of very sophisticated physiological and psychological persuasive techniques have been used to engage the followers in conspiracy and fraud as well as the most bizarre acts such as self-immolation.

- Many people have been harmed and their rights have been abused by the Organisation. Small children have been separated from their parents, families have been torn apart, and the possessions of the followers have been taken away. There are many psychological casualties still under treatment as the result of abuses inside the Organisation.

- The intimidation and harassment of critics inside (as well as outside) the Organisation has become a common habit to silence those who might expose these facts. Defectors in particular have been continuously subject to threats and personality destruction campaigns.

### 5. Getting to know Maryam Rajavi:

- Maryam Rajavi became the co-leader of the Mojahedin-é Khalq Organisation (MKO), alongside Massoud Rajavi, in 1985 and was announced the chairperson of MKO in 1989. She was appointed as Iran's

future President by the NCR on 1993 before she left Iraq for France. She returned back to Iraq again on 1995. Since the formation of the NLA in Iraq on 1986, Maryam Rajavi has been Second-in-Command of the Army after her husband Massoud Rajavi, and has personally directed many military operations against Iran during the Iran-Iraq war - though neither of the Rajavis have the military knowledge or training to qualify them for such a role.

Bearing in mind the above mentioned facts which were pointed out very briefly, it is now worth asking where one should stand on this case. Today, even the most rigorous opposition to the religious dictatorship of the Islamic Republic of Iran does not approve the methods and manners imposed by the MKO. The Iranian opposition as a whole truly believes that the Organisation's so-called struggle has severely damaged their efforts to restore democracy and freedom in Iran.

The truth is that many offences have been committed behind the legal presence of the MKO in western countries. These could have been prevented if this case had been dealt with sooner when many defectors, who have been under enormous physical and psychological pressure from the Organisation, had warned the western authorities about the subject. Many have been harmed and suffered from the Organisation's acts all through the world. The victims can be found everywhere both inside and outside Iran. And the international community certainly bears responsibility for this.

The Organisation claims that

all its assassinations and sabotage activities had taken place inside Iran during their armed struggle against the Islamic Republic of Iran. In this way they aim to discard the terrorist charges. They argue that they have never used arms inside western countries where they have been proscribed as a terrorist group. But in reality the MKO is surely a terrorist Organisation by nature, and they do believe in using violence for their political purposes. According to their beliefs the end justifies the means. So they have no limitation, as they have shown through the years, toward committing any sort of crime to reach their goals. It should also be considered that the mastermind of the Organisation has always been situated either in Iraq or in Paris and all the terrorist activities inside Iran have been directed from these two places over the past two decades.

A great deal has been said about the crimes of the MKO and its related institutes. Now it is time for a small amount of action to be taken to show that the Western authorities have taken the matter seriously. Any person who was assassinated inside Iran, any combatant who was self-eliminated by pulling the trigger of a hand grenade or taking a cyanide pill, or any youngster who committed self-immolation are all similar victims of a notorious cultic Organisation led directly by the leadership which was based in Iraq and has now moved to France. The world's public opinion, the many victims of the Organisation, and the Iranian Opposition want to see that this situation is dealt with justly. They want to see an end to what has been going on for years now. They are certainly extremely concerned to imagine that the MKO's infa-

## Open Letter to Mr Richard K, Armev about Mojahedin 'Information Laundering' (cont)

mous crimes might be white-washed away by misinformed but otherwise respectable people.

I find it my duty and responsibility to remind you of the nature and deeds of MKO in the

past and at the present time. Below I refer to a few books and reports that offer a variety of well-documented, well-researched information and witness accounts concerning the Mojahedin Organisation.

With kind regards and many thanks for your kind attention to this matter,

Massoud Khodabandeh  
Iran-Interlink  
Leeds (UK)

Row	Name of the book	Description	Author	Translator into English	Date	Publisher
1	Autopsy of an ideological drift:	Analysis and background on the People's Mojahedin Organisation of Iran	Antoine Gessler	Thomas R Forstenzer		
2	The People's Mojahedin of Iran:	A struggle for what	Victor Charbonnier	Thomas R Forstenzer		
3	Patterns of Global Terrorism		US Department of State	-	2000	US Department of State
4	Amnesty International Report		Amnesty International	-	2002	Amnesty International
5	Saddam's Private Army:	How Rajavi changed Iran's Mojahedin from revolutionaries to an armed cult	Anne Singleton	-	2003	Iran-Interlink (UK)
6	Masoud:	Memoirs of an Iranian Rebel	Masoud Banisadr	-	2004	SAQI Books
7	No Exit:	Human Rights Abuses Inside the Mojahedin Khalq Camps	Human Rights Watch	-	2005	Human Rights Watch

## Suspicious attempts to hide the truth

From Milad Ariea,

December 7, 2006

To: Iran Desk,

US State Department

With all due respect,

The Mojahedin Khalq Organisation of Iran (MKO) has again started attempts to remove its name from the list of terrorist organisation. The task has been delegated to a law firm, DLA Piper, which purports to have researched the history of MKO and come out with a fresh report about the terrorist cult. The basis for such an attempt and the provider for it is, of course, the MKO itself.

The above mentioned law firm, charging the Mojahe-din with the highest fees, is to attempt to whitewash the history of this terrorist organisation. A history that has been an obstacle for the terrorists to enjoy free legal and financial activities. It has been announced that Mr. Richard Armey is heading this so called independent review which is due to be published in the near future.

Any investigation into the involvement of Mojahedin Khalq in terrorism and violence is welcomed, but the law firm employed by the terrorist organisation has adjusted the context of its report according to the needs of its client so that

not only would it not allow access to the truth, it is overtly trying to avoid international justice for its client and even attempting to remove them from the list of terrorist organisations.

As you are aware, in 1994, over 20 American academics and experts in relevant issues whose names have been published were asked by the State Department to investigate the MKO and report their findings back to the State Department. And they did.

The deep analysis and investigation by the group into the nature and activities of this organisation resulted in proscription of Mojahedin Khalq Organisation as a terrorist entity by the State Department. Not only was the result of this investigation found to be still valid in 2005, further investigations resulted in keeping the group in the list of terrorists permanently.

Mojahedin's lawyers (using the MKO's alias National Council of Resistance of Iran) challenged the foundation of the State Department ruling in 2004 and applied to the court to appeal the ruling. The appeal court announced its verdict as follows:

...the case was investigated on 2nd April 2004,... and on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2005 a verdict was given... serial Number: 01-1480... complainer: National Council of Resis-

tance... against: State Department and Mr. Colin Powell the Secretary of State... After the investigation and checking all the documents we believe that the decision of the State Department in classification of Mojahedin Khalq Organisation as a foreign terrorist organisation is in line with constitutional obligations. Therefore the request from National Council of Resistance will be rejected..."

It is clear that the law firm DLA Piper and Mr. Richard Armey would not be able to whitewash the history of Mojahedin Khalq Organisation but unfortunately their actions can have the short-term effect of misleading some people and that is why I would like to draw the attention of Iran desk to the following.

The MKO, according to Human Rights Watch report 'No Exit' of May 2005, has tortured its own disaffected members and has killed at least two of them under torture in 1994.

The MKO is accused of orchestrating the disappearance of tens of its members between 1985 when they entered Iraq up to 2003 when Saddam Hussein was removed from power.

According to the report given by the French security services, the Mojahedin have been planning to kill their critics on European soil and the marked maps and relevant document were seized by the anti ter-



## Suspicious attempts to hide the truth (cont)

rorism police from Mojahe-  
din HQ in France.

The Mojahedin Khalq Or-  
ganisation has never been  
a political alternative for  
the people of Iran and for  
years has worked hand-in-  
hand with some parts of  
the Iranian regime to stand  
in the way of progress, de-  
mocracy and freedom in  
Iran.

The Mojahedin Khalq  
started their terror and vio-  
lence in the 1970s with the  
assassination of American  
attaches including Colonel  
Hawkins and continued  
their violent strategy with  
the use of mortars resulting  
in the indiscriminate killing  
of ordinary civilian people  
in the crowded cities of  
Iran.

I would like to bring your  
attention to another impor-  
tant issue. There is no dis-  
pute about the strategic  
relation between the lead-  
ership of Mojahedin and the  
regime of Saddam Hussein  
during the past two dec-  
ades. The MKO joined the  
military and secret forces of  
the now toppled Iraqi re-  
gime and participated in  
the massacre of people of  
Iran and Iraq. The toppled  
Iraqi regime spent millions  
of dollars from the oil-for-  
food program in supporting  
this organisation; money  
which during the years of  
sanctions was supposed to  
be spent for the essentials  
of Iraqi people. The organi-  
sation in return did what-  
ever possible to ensure the  
political and military sur-  
vival of Saddam Hussein.

The participation in the  
massacre of Kurdish people  
in March 1991 can be taken  
as an example.

Considering the above  
mentioned points and con-  
sidering democratic values  
and the fundamentals of  
human rights and remem-  
bering that MKO has been  
recognised as a terrorist  
organisation across the  
globe, I hope that the ac-  
tivities of Mr. Richard Ar-  
mey is not an attempt to  
directly support a terrorist  
organisation.

MKO starts with the notion  
that they have never di-  
rectly carried out terrorism  
against American personali-  
ties. The argument is  
fraudulent and a non-  
starter.

- In 1973 Colonel  
Luis Hawkins, an  
American army atta-  
ché was killed in  
cold blood by Moja-  
hedins in Tehran..
- In 1975, members  
of Mojahedin Khalq  
Organisation killed  
two American air  
force officers in Te-  
hran and attacked  
an American em-  
bassy car resulting  
the death of another  
service man.
- In 1976 Mojahedin  
killed 3 employees  
of Rockwell Interna-  
tional.
- In 1979, Mojahedin  
openly supported  
the kidnapping and

holding of American  
embassy staff up to  
1981 when they  
were released by  
the Islamic Republic.

The truth is that due to its  
terrorist nature, you can  
not trust the Mojahedin as  
a source in any aspect.  
Would you trust Hezbollah  
or Al Qaida?

The rule of 'passage of  
time' does not apply to  
murderers, war criminals  
and terrorists and the ones  
who provide for and sup-  
port terrorists. That is why  
the passing of thirty years  
from the time that they  
killed the first American  
does not give amnesty to  
the Mojahedin. Otherwise it  
would be as if we accept  
that the human rights  
abuses by the government  
of Cambodia in the 70s can  
be an excuse for the Khmer  
Rouge and their violence.

Yours sincerely,

Milad Ariea

December 7, 2006

CC:

British Foreign Office

Foreign Ministers of Euro-  
pean countries

Foreign Minister of Republic  
of Iraq

DLA Piper

# Gone With the Wind

Omid Pouya,

Mojahedin.ws,

November 28, 2006

In mid November, the Algeria TV network in one of its political briefings, implicitly referred to the utilization of MKO by the Iraqi government as leverage of pressure against the Islamic Republic. The remark seems to have been mainly made on the Iraqi president's, Jalal Talibani, earlier distorted comment. Hambastegi site, a MKO-run website, two weeks earlier had quoted Jalal Talibani saying that Iraq could utilize MKO against Iran if it continued its meddling in Iraq's internal affairs. The next day, in an interview with Iranian correspondents in Iraq, he made it clear that Mojahedin had distorted his statement and once more stressed on the group's terrorist nature which is a proven sine qua none for its expulsion from Iraq. However, the Algeria TV's recent position is taken in line with other supporters of MKO and Saddam's loyal remnants to resurrect Mojahedin's lost weight and the crucial role they dream it might play in Iraq.

All those who evaluate MKO with an optimistic eye have never developed a good

understanding of the group's faculties, neither in the past nor at the present, when inflating it as a threat against Iran. The function of Mojahedin at least through the past 25 years well indicates that they had availed themselves of given opportunity, Saddam's overall backing and other reactionary political factions as well as the debilitating, prolonged war and controversies among the countries of the region. Of course, Moja-

hedin had given a pledge to make up for all protections and backings they had received after assuming power in Iran. In fact, any overt or undeclared investment on MKO proves to be the outcome of a political bargain.

Before Saddam's fall, MKO were enjoying the best given opportunity; being situated close to Iranian territories with an easy access to cross the borders besides being fully armed and financially protected by Sad-

dam. Besides, at the time it was not yet blacklisted as a terrorist group by the US and other European countries and the light was green to get on with its terrorist deeds. The result? All the group's achievements were a few failed military operations and ultimately veering from the path of a

political campaigner to that of a cult practitioner. As a result, it disappointed all its defenders.

Mojahedin's new approach to the US and the Westerners' does not necessarily mean that the group has been endowed with new potentialities to gratify its past protectors; they know the beaten road is the safest. Anybody with an average IQ knows the adverse consequences of working with a terrorist group.

Maryam Rajavi has recurrently offered the capabilities of the disarmed fighters stuck in Camp Ashraf so as to regain the group's lost legitimacy among its supporters to be reutilized as a potential leverage against Iran for whatever reason. However, for them, MKO is nothing more than a weightless instrument and they prefer not to play the card that is burned. But it remains a good plaything in the margins. MKO is a product whose date has long been expired and do not seem to return any interest if recycled.

*All the group's achievements were a few failed military operations and ultimately veering from the path of a political campaigner to that of a cult practitioner*

*All those who evaluate MKO with an optimistic eye have never developed a good understanding of the group's faculties*



## Iraqis Welcome Revelations on MKO

Seifallah Ali/Sotaliraq, December 5, 2006

<http://www.sotaliraq.com/articles-iraq.php?id=41495>

Finally, the Iraqi government announced that it has "undeniable evidence proving that the MKO trains terrorists and takes part directly in terrorist attacks against Iraqi people".

Like all Iraqis, I also wonder why the issue had not been revealed before.

Earlier, we had warned the government on the activities of this wretched terror-

ist organization. In this regard, please look at part of my article on 10.28.2006 that was published by several Iraqi websites.

In that article, I warned the government on its silence about the crimes and illegal activities of this organization:

"I'm surprised because the Iraqi Governing Council ordered the expulsion of this organization from Iraq but it has not been executed. Here, we remind the government of Iraq that they should execute the order and expel the hypocrites from our country. The ele-

ments of this group support the remnants of Saddam's ousted regime and back them militarily and logistically; MKO trains them how to use different kinds of weapons. The government should expel them from Dyalah".

Now the government has emphasized that it is going to act against the MKO. Although too late, it should be appreciated. In this regard, we warn the government on the suspicious activities of Adnan al-Dulaimi and his son. He is the leader of terrorists. He should be arrested and tried.

## Help for a safe Return of Somayeh From Iraq To Canada

### To: Citizenship and Immigration Canada

Justice for Somayeh Mohammady

Help for a safe Return of Somayeh From Iraq To Canada  
Dec 5, 2006

To:  
The Honourable Monte Solberg,  
P.C., M.P.  
Citizenship and Immigration Canada  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 1L1

Dear Mr. Solberg

We, the undersigned, call on you to conduct a thorough, investigation into the circumstances that led into the abduction of a minor at the time, Somayeh Mohammadi, by the MEK (Mojahedin e Khalgh) organization. We are also at the opinion that she should be

joining her family immediately with no more delay caused by the officials. We, strongly believe that it is against our Canadian values to let the organization still be active in our country and lobby our politicians while the pleas of the Mohammadi family is being ignored by the same authorities.

Ms. Somayeh Mohammadi, an Iranian-Canadian student was taken from Canada on a false pretension of, a month long, educational trip to Iraq in 1998 and was kept there since. The devastated Mohammadi family has been trying since to return their beloved child back to Canada. Their efforts included but not limited to over five trips to the dangerous and war torn Iraq. In doing so, they have not spared any resource or efforts to the level that the family is currently unable to support itself by any means.

Considering the limited resources

of a working class family, with three more children, which has already suffered beyond imagination vs. the obstacles they face in order to reunite with their daughter and sister we urge the Canadian government to help this family and facilitate this reunion.

In the spirit of the holiday season, while all Canadian families are trying their best to express their love for each other, we urge the government to deal with this issue with kindness and generosity in mind.

We wish to see the Mohammady family celebrate this holiday as a whole for the first time in the past 8 years.

Sincerely,

[www.somayeh.org](http://www.somayeh.org)  
CC: Hon. Peter Mackay

The Undersigned



### Address

E.mail: [info@nejatngo.org](mailto:info@nejatngo.org)  
P.O.Box 14395/679, Tehran  
Fax: 88 96 10 31

We are on the Web!  
[www.nejatngo.org](http://www.nejatngo.org)



## Much Ado about Nothing

Mojahedin.ws,  
December 12, 2006

According to Reuters, Europe's second-highest court has annulled an EU decision freezing the funds of an exiled Iranian opposition group [MKO] that argues it was wrongly placed on the European Union's list of terrorist organizations. EU member states ordered the freezing of funds of the People's Mujahideen (OMPI) in 2002.

The report states that European Court of Justice decisions are binding on mem-

ber states, but would not preclude decisions by individual governments to keep the group on their own terror lists.

While an EU spokeswoman declined immediate comment on the ruling, saying legal experts were studying the judgment, the Mojahedin's TV has 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.

### UK foreign Office: The residents of Camp Ashraf are subject to the laws of Iraq

House of Commons, November 27 2006

Harry Cohen (Leyton & Wanstead, Labour) Hansard source

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what her Department's policy is on the proposed extradition to Iran of the Iranian dissidents in Camp Ashraf, South East Baghdad; and if she will make a statement.

Kim Howells (Minister of State (Middle East), Foreign & Commonwealth Office) Hansard source

The residents of Camp Ashraf are subject to the laws of Iraq, including laws on residency and immigration. We would expect the Government of Iraq to implement these laws fairly and with due regard to the rights of

those concerned. Camp Ashraf residents who have not personally been involved in illegal activities are free to leave the camp and return to their home countries if they have the appropriate travel documents. A number have already voluntarily returned to Iran, where they are now living. Some 300 of the approximately 3,500 residents of the camp have chosen to return to Iran with assistance and support from the Iraqi Human Rights Ministry and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Iraqi Prime Minister Al-Maliki recently announced that he would establish a committee to look into the continuing residence in Iraq of those people living in Camp Ashraf, who in the main are not Iraqi nationals. But we are not aware of any plans to extradite Camp Ashraf residents to Iran.