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70,000 IRANIANS IN PARIS DEMAND PMOI'S REMOVAL FROM EU, US TERROR LISTS

624 parliamentarians from across Europe sponsored the gathering calling on EU and the French Presidency to remove the terror label from the PMOI as it was annulled by EU and the UK courts

Maryam Rajavi:

"Do not invest in the continuation of the mullahs' rule"
"Do not continue the futile effort to ignore the Iranian people's Resistance"
"Act firmly and recognize the Iranian Resistance for democratic change"



70,000 Iranians in a Paris Rally Demand Removal of PMOI from EU and US Terror Lists



A group of dignitaries joined Mrs. Rajavi on the stage to express their solidarity

On Saturday, June 28, more than 70 thousand Iranians gathered to pledge their support for the Iranian Resistance and its President-elect, Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, in the Paris-Nord Villepinte.

The gathering incorporated representatives from the Iranian exile community residing in various countries in Europe, the United States, Canada and Australia. They all pledged their support to the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI) and its members residing in Ashraf City in Iraq, as the backbone of the Iranian Resistance against the mullahs' regime. They called on the European Union and the United States to remove the unjust terrorist label from the PMOI immediately.

Nearly 1,000 parliamentarians and distinguished political, religious and cultural personalities as well as law experts from European countries, the United States, Canada, Australia and Arab countries such as Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria participated in the gathering.

During her speech, Mrs. Rajavi said, "The mullahs are in the phase of being overthrown. They lack political and religious legitimacy. The Iranian people's rage has surrounded them."

A delegation of British lawmakers comprised of 15 members of both Houses of Parliament, including Lord Waddington, former Home Secretary, Lord Corbett, Lord Russell-Johnston and Baroness Gould expressed their solidarity with the Iranian Resistance and its President-elect and congratulated the removal of the PMOI from the terrorist list in Britain. They reiterated that in their belief, the only solution to the Iranian problem is a democratic change by the people and the opposition, as proposed by Mrs. Rajavi.

A delegation from the European Parliament led by Dr. Alejo Vidal-Quadras, Vice-president of the European Parliament, highlighted their commitment to support the PMOI and the

NCRI as well as working to remove the PMOI from the EU terror list.

A delegation from Iraq comprised of leaders of political parties and tribal leaders expressed their support for the residents of Ashraf City. The Iraqi dignitaries made it clear that they considered the PMOI members as part of their own families and would not allow the mullahs' agents to harm them in anyway. Referring to the declaration by 5.2 million Iraqi citizens in June 2006, and that of three million Iraqi Shiites in June 2008, the Iraqi delegation reiterated, "Shiites, Sunnis, Christians, Kurds, Arabs and Turkmens in Iraq unanimously support the PMOI and believe that no one but the Iranian regime's agents are attempting to harm them."

Another delegation comprised of 12 parliamentarians and distinguished personalities came from Jordan. They joined other delegations in offering unequivocal support for the Iranian Resistance, saying, "We believe in the PMOI as the antidote of Islamic fundamentalism in the region and in Iran."

Lord Corbett of Castle Vale opened the event as the presenter and invited the delegations to go on the stage to address the gathering.

The French National Anthem was performed by the Iranian orchestra and the "Partisan," the song for the French resistance was performed in Farsi. Other pieces of music were performed by the group led by two renowned Iranian conductors, Mohammad Shams and Shapour Bastansiar.



Speech by Mrs. Maryam Rajavi - Excerpts

Any effort to keep PMOI on the EU terrorist list is a despicable scandal

“I caution that complying with the demands of the mullahs constitutes the greatest treachery to the laws of the French Republic and the European Union”

Five days ago, the freedom-seeking Resistance movement created a magnificent moment in Iranian history: The unanimous passage in both Houses of the British Parliament of the draft Order to remove the name of the People's Mojahedin from the terrorist list.

The parliamentary sessions in the Houses of Lords and Commons when the order was ratified was truly an unprecedented event in developments concerning Iran. The Iranian people saw an adamant defense of the Iranian people's Resistance against religious fascism being presented in both Houses of the Parliament in one of the world's five major powers.

A large number of MPs and Peers spoke to the need to end a disastrous policy of appeasement and recounted the suffering of the oppressed people of Iran, with admirable passion, sense of responsibility, noble humanity, dignity and sense of justice.

With unwavering confidence and courage, Lord Slynn spoke of the soundness of the judgments of the Courts in Britain and Luxembourg in invalidating the terrorist charge against the PMOI. Lord Corbett lamented the execution of 120,000 sons and daughters of the Iranian people at the hands of the mullahs' regime.

Lord Waddington followed by insisting that the last page had to be turned, namely that the EU must

revoke the designation of the PMOI. Lord Archer said, “This marks the beginning of the end to the pain and suffering of the Iranian people.”

Lord Clarke added that a long chapter of shame and disgrace is about to end. Baroness Harris lauded “the brave Iranians” in Ashraf City who “are fighting for the liberation of their country.”

Andrew Mackinlay said that he hoped for the day that the regime in Tehran is overthrown.

Indeed, as they defended the Iranian Resistance, they represented the conscience of people in the West that is against the policy of appeasement, connivance and humiliation.

The Iranian people hail these people's representatives who are the symbols of peace and democracy.

The unjust terror label against the PMOI brought with it much calamity for us, our nation, the people of Iraq and the Middle East. Not least were the cranes, from which Iranians were being hanged in cities, and the onslaught of terrorism and bloodshed in Lebanon, Palestine and Afghanistan.

For years, these governments invoked the terror



label to block the path of the Iranian Resistance movement.

We, however, proved that this Resistance is legitimate, just and supported by the Iranian people.

The government had claimed to have classified documents which implicated the Resistance movement.

But, in this campaign, we shed light on the dark and secret chambers of classified documents to the point where the UK Court proclaimed that the classified documents ironically further vindicate the PMOI.



Those in the West who conceive that fundamentalism only threatens the people of the Middle East and Muslim nations should glance at the history of these designations and fabrications. They will see how the mullahs ruling Iran have taken law, justice and democracy in important European countries hostage under the pretext of terrorism.

Indeed, how are those who acquiesce to a reactionary and murderous dictatorship, qualified to defend justice and law?

For this reason we say that the removal of the PMOI from the terror list not only opens the way to democratic change in Iran, but it also distances Western governments from a betrayal of democracy, justice and human rights. Removing this tag could mark an end to a chronic idiocy which has afflicted Western policy.

Now, we must act to return Iran to the community of nations. But the first step must be to transform Iran from being the central banker of terrorism to the central banker of democracy and peace in this region of the world. And this would only be possible through changing the regime in power. A nuclear-free Iran could be within reach now, but only after pushing back against religious fascism, namely the velayat-e faqih regime.

A peaceful Iran which values coexistence and peace with her neighbors instead of intervention and terrorism is possible, but in the course of a struggle to uproot religious dictatorship.

Unlawful bid to maintain PMOI in terror list

In recent weeks, the clerical regime, through blackmail and deception, has tried to coerce France into supporting the maintaining of the PMOI on the terror list.

The pretext for this unlawful effort is the June

17 dossier. Everyone recalls that this episode, the sweeping raid on the offices of the National Council of Resistance of Iran in 2003 was the result of a direct deal between the Chirac-Villepin government and the clerical regime. The subsequent dossier was essentially empty and unfounded. Because it lacked any credible evidence, it had been formed on the basis of the EU's blacklisting of the PMOI. That listing no longer has any legal basis and citing it is unlawful. If this dossier is not empty and invalid, as you claim, then why do you not resolve it five years after it was initiated? And if this case is without merit and your conduct appears to confirm this view, then why are you invoking it to justify the terrorist tag?

I therefore caution that any effort to support the maintaining of the PMOI on the EU terrorist list amounts to a despicable scandal for French policy and is contrary to France's international obligations in the fight against terrorism and fundamentalism, particularly since in two days France will assume the rotating presidency of the European Union. I caution that complying with the demands of the mullahs constitutes the greatest treachery to the laws of the French Republic and the European Union. And the anti-Islamic Ayatollahs in Tehran will be emboldened.

From this platform, I call on the Council of Ministers of the European Union to abide by the legal ramifications of the vote in both Houses of the British Parliament, and remove the PMOI from their terrorist list.

The only competent national authority that sought to include the PMOI has now bowed to the decision of its own courts and Parliament and has stepped aside. The EU Council of Ministers no longer has any excuse to continue this listing. Indeed, the force of justice and conscience will compel you to abandon this unjust designation

and finally compel you to accept the rights of the Iranian people to attain freedom and abandon fueling the mullahs' murder machine.

Terror listing in the US

Let's turn to the United States of America now. On October 8, 1997, a senior U.S. government official said, "The inclusion was a goodwill gesture to the newly-elected Iranian president Mohammad Khatami."

They expected that offering ransom and sending goodwill gestures to those who massacred political prisoners would moderate the velayat-e faqih regime. They contended that a viper will give birth to a dove. But that viper gave birth to Ahmadinejad.

Isn't a show of goodwill towards the mullahs and religious fascism in Iran ultimately a show of ill-will towards the people in Iran, the Middle East and democratic forces in this part of the world?

I must therefore ask, after all this experience, why are you still pursuing the legacy of giving in to the mullahs' blackmail?

After the terrorist designation of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps and the Qods Force, why should the demands of the mullahs to designate the PMOI continue to be met?

Why should the mullahs and their agents in Iraq be allowed to continue the intolerable restrictions placed on the "protected persons" in Ashraf City?

A majority in the U.S. Congress have voiced support for the PMOI and the NCRI on five different occasions and described it as the only solution to fundamentalism. On the other hand, you bombed the PMOI camps in Iraq under the pretext of the terrorist label.

A 16-month investigation by nine different agencies of the U.S. Government into the status of the PMOI confirmed that there was no basis



to charge any member of this movement with terrorism.

If you stand with the Iranian people as they stand for liberty, then end the terrorist designation of their Resistance movement. This is a resistance with 120,000 martyrs lost to the cause of freedom. Do not deprive the world of the most effective counterweight to fundamentalism and terrorism. The third president of the United States, and author of the US Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson, eloquently described the state of oppressed people. It could well be a description of the Iranian people and Resistance today. He said, "When patience has begotten false estimates of its motives, when wrongs are pressed because it is believed they will be borne, resistance becomes morality."

And I quote the Declaration of Independence, "Whenever any form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute new government."

Today, many American thinkers, parliamentarians and personalities acknowledge that the policy of rapprochement with the mullahs' regime has been quite harmful to U.S. national security.

Of course, we have always said: "Go ahead and negotiate with the mullahs as much as you want." Today, there are many in the U.S. and Europe who have recognized that investing in dialogue with the mullahs' regime is a waste of time, as if one were to cook a piece of rock.

I must remind you that the Iranian Resistance has never asked the U.S. or any other country to send their men and women to war in order to confront the mullahs.

We only ask that you remove the shackles of your terrorist list from the hands and feet of the Iranian people.

After marching down a long path riddled with

errors, in search of moderation and ways of changing the behavior of the velayat-e faqih dictatorship, the time has come for you to stand on the side of history. Stand on the side which heralds freedom for the people of Iran.

Look at the experience of the UK government: If resistance and sacrifice for freedom against religious fascism is righteous and just, if this is the course of history, two important lessons of this experience must be learned.

The first is that designating just resistance to dictatorship and religious fascism that pays no heed to the people's will and opposes free elections is not a source of honor. It only brings shame.

The second is that the force of justice and good conscience, and those who advocate it, will ultimately triumph. Indeed, freedom is within reach, and we will ultimately achieve the goal of freedom.

Three million Iraqi Shiites support PMOI

Amid the horrific killings and tragedies that rock Iraq everyday, two weeks ago, we were witness to a stunning political, social and cultural movement against the influence and interference by the Iranian regime in that country, manifesting itself in the declaration of three million Iraqi Shiites. Three million Iraqi Shiites demanded a halt to the Iranian regime's meddling and crimes and called for its expulsion from Iraq. They demanded an end to the injustice and restrictions against the Mojahedin, who are themselves Shiites.

They called for an end to scenarios similar to the killing of workers going to Ashraf when their bus was bombed.

They called for an end to the bombing of a water pumping station serving Ashraf, and which also provided water to 20,000 Iraqi inhabitants in

temperatures as high as 60°C to 70°C.

They called for an end to abductions of the Mojahedin, two of whom have so far been kidnapped in Baghdad.

They also called for an end to missile attacks on Ashraf, one case of which happened as recently as May 26th of this year.

The mullahs falsely claim that the Mojahedin had massacred Iraqi Shiites. But now, three million Iraqi Shiites emphasize in their declaration, "The PMOI... acts as the counterbalance to this regime and is a strong bulwark against the regime's meddling in Iraq, and has always stood with the Iraqi people."

The declaration shook the foundations of the mullahs' rule in Tehran. The regime recognized the threat this posed to its influence, meddling and crimes in Iraq. There was nothing better than this that could have pushed back the mullahs who were exploiting the credibility of the revered Shiite Imams. The mullahs and their policy of sowing discord by taking advantage of Shiites' grievances were dealt a strategic blow. It was obvious that the mullahs' Supreme Leader [Ali Khamenei] feared for his investments in Iraq. This was particularly the case because those who drafted this historic declaration chose to announce it in Ashraf City. Immediately after the declaration, paid agents of the IRGC's Qods Force in Iraq mimicked the mullahs by condemning millions of Iraqis who voiced support for the Mojahedin. So furious were the mullahs that they made no effort to disguise their intention to export their inhuman punishments to Iraq to be meted out to anyone who had supported this declaration.

They declared, "Any individual, party, organization and institution in Iraq that would cooperate with the terrorist Mojahedin Khalq, whether Iraqi or otherwise, would be subject to anti-terrorism legislation and will be handed over to the judiciary."



In the mullah's book, the three million Iraqi Shiites who signed this declaration are guilty; 135 parties, groups and associations which sponsored the declaration are guilty; Any association which procured medicine, food or clothing for the Mojahedin in Ashraf has committed an offence;

In addition, all dignified and free-thinking representatives and spokespersons of the Iraqi people who are present here are guilty; And those courageous and heroic deputies in Iraq's National Assembly who said they are proud to stand with the victim, no matter what the cost, are guilty;

The International Committee of Jurists in Defense of Ashraf has in official letters to U.S. and Iraqi officials, repeatedly declared that the PMOI and residents of Ashraf welcome the opportunity to appear in any international court in Europe or North America to defend against any allegations levied against them by the Iranian regime and its proxies in Iraq.

The International Committee of Jurists has emphatically stated that it recognizes the International Fact Finding Commission, a credible international agency affiliated with the United Nations, as the competent authority to engage in an impartial examination of any allegation against the PMOI and accepts its arbitration so as to dismiss the misguided information and demonization campaign of the mullahs' regime. Indeed, this was a turning point in the struggle of the people of Iraq in rejecting the fascism of the velayat-e faqih in their country.

It was a turning point in the expression of support by Iraqis for the Mojahedin as a bulwark against the regime.

The regime, having reached an impasse in Iran, was determined on dominating Iraq as a way to continue its survival.

But, today, its policy of meddling and terrorism in Iraq is backfiring in the face of the mullahs' regime in its entirety.

When the UK Court of Appeal revoked the terrorist label against the PMOI, Ashraf City came under the mullahs' missile attacks. And now that the Shiites have rebelled against this regime, Ashraf is again the target of vengeance. Why is that? Because Ashraf is a bastion of resistance with deep roots among the Iranian nation. Ashraf is present in the unrelenting protests of young Iranians and workers' uprisings and students' strikes. As Massoud Rajavi said, "Ashraf is the symbol of perseverance and inevitable victory."

Today, the Iranian people and people in countries that are the targets of terrorism and fundamentalism are suffering from the policies of Western countries, which have emboldened the religious fascism. Their policies, according to the British courts, are perverse. It is treachery because it undermines global peace and security.

Mullahs' nuclear bomb

In the past six years, this movement has acted as the biggest factor in alerting the world to the dangers of a nuclear-armed religious dictatorship by making no less than 80 revelations about different aspects of the mullahs' nuclear weapons program.

Western governments, however, have done nothing but waste the international community's time and buy the mullahs more time instead.

When the mullahs unilaterally broke the seals of their nuclear facilities, and resumed uranium enrichment, Western governments retreated by

offering an incentive package.

When the regime refused to permanently suspend enrichment, the 5+1 retreated by conceding to suspension only during negotiations.

And when the mullahs rebuffed even this offer, Western governments accepted a nominal suspension.

And in the next step, the P5+1 retreated from suspension to the request that the regime not install any new centrifuges.

This is the essence of Javier Solana's package offered to Tehran two weeks ago.

At one time, they were insisting that they are not

prepared to offer the Iranian regime security guarantees. But, then again, they retreated from that position as well.

In Security Council resolutions, they give the regime two or three months to comply. But then again they take a year to pass each resolution.

In all these years, Western governments have always acquiesced to the mullahs' demands to crackdown on the PMOI. In the words of diplomats engaged in these talks, this has been on top of the regime's priorities.

And after moving along and encouraging the long path of negotiations, they gave so much leeway to the mullahs' deception and concealment that the Americans suddenly discovered that the mullahs had stopped the production of nuclear weapons five years ago.

These incentives and concessions have so emboldened the mullahs that three days ago, Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani implicitly warned that the

regime will pursue the bomb. He said that if the West does not tolerate the regime, it might face a fait accompli. Earlier this month, IAEA Chief El Baradai was given the same message from Iran's rulers that if they are given sufficient incentives, they can build the bomb in the near future.

Disaster of appeasement policy

In Iraq as well, these gentlemen have followed the strategy of incentive packages to the regime.

Of course, through the mediation of Mr. Jack Straw, the camps of the Iranian opposition in Iraq were bombed and then Iraq's borders with Iran were left open and unguarded to the mullahs' infiltration. In the next step, the mullahs' regime murdered Iraqi men, women and children in cold blood, and destroyed the country by exporting its bombs to it. It did not even spare mosques and the holy shrines. But officials refrained from admitting the obvious fact that all the bombings and the killings were being carried out on the orders of the Iranian regime's leadership and its Supreme Leader. And now as you look at Lebanon, Palestine and Afghanistan, you notice that the policy of incentives and appeasement has swung open the gates to the regime's infiltration and intervention everywhere.

The mullahs boast of this brutality before the Iranian people in order to conceal their utter weakness. They say brazenly that we have Islamicized the Middle East and turned it into our strategic depth.

But, there is hardly anyone who does not know that the onslaught by Khamenei and Ahmadinejad is beholden to appeasement and the pathetic weakness of the West.

Indeed, the evil of fundamentalism has been riding on the shoulders of the guardians of appeasement from one corner of the world to the next.

And it is even more astonishing that some have not realized that religious fascism cannot change its behavior because that would immediately and inevitably lead to its overthrow.

They opine that they are paying a lesser price today. But all the while they are actually imposing war and catastrophe on the world.

We tell them that instead of appeasement act firmly and recognize the Resistance movement working to change the Iranian regime. As such, change would be within reach and the specter of war will dissipate. This is to your own advantage.

We say, "Do not invest in the continuation of the mullahs' rule."

We say, "Do not continue the futile effort to ignore the Iranian people's Resistance."

This Resistance movement cannot and will not be intimidated.

We are the voice of the voiceless in Iran. We are the voice of those who want us to represent their hopes, ideals and dreams.

The removal of the PMOI from the terror list not only opens the way to democratic change in Iran, but it also distances Western governments from a betrayal of democracy, justice and human rights

To those who have accepted to deal with and appease this regime, or are afraid of changing it, we say:

You are suffering from four major miscalculations. First, you have believed the mullahs' posturing. They are selling their terrorism and brutality as a sign of strength for their faltering regime. You have been intimidated by that.

Your second major mistake is that you either have no understanding of the extent of the Iranian people's resentment towards the regime or you are deliberately covering it up.

The Iranian regime's lobby propagates the belief that the Iranian people would unite in support of the regime in the face of the world community's firmness, such as that exuded by international sanctions. And, you are repeating these absurdities. Do you not know that the Iranian people, more than anything else, despise the ruling mullahs, who ravage, pillage and raise cranes to hang people in the streets?

And your third mistake is that you ignore the explosive potential of Iranian society.

The mullahs and their spin doctors are bent on covering up the Iranian people's yearning for democratic change. They are bent on using the services of the international movement for peace in favor of making peace with and appeasing religious fascism.

And your fourth error is that you ignore the real solution to the Iranian problem, which is the people's Resistance.

By demonizing the Iranian Resistance, the mullahs are trying to distort its credibility and its deep roots in Iranian society, in order to suggest that there is no force which could overthrow them.

The solution to Iran problem

The Iranian crisis is a major one. But there is a force that can resolve it and that force is the Iranian Resistance.

This is a Resistance movement which will stir social uprisings and major movements by the Iranian people.

This is a Resistance movement, which by virtue of the PMOI, is the antithesis to fascism under

the banner of Islam and Shiism, and has in the past three decades discredited the so-called Islamic foundations of the ruling regime in the eyes of the Iranian people and exposed its demagoguery.

This Resistance movement is the standard bearer to the Third Option. And, the struggle and the sacrifice of its members and supporters will render the Third Option victorious.

This Resistance enjoys the leadership of Massoud Rajavi, who has symbolized the ideal of the Iranian people's freedom in the context of a deeply-rooted and capable movement and has preserved and strengthened it in the midst of storms. He has plucked much good from much evil and amid the most complex circumstances in the past three decades has advanced a principled strategy. And through painstaking patience and great sacrifice, he has brought victory into the horizon.

Repression and rising protests

Since three years ago, when the mullahs' Supreme Leader propelled Ahmadinejad to power, the regime has dramatically stepped up repression, hangings and amputation of limbs.

Nevertheless, at no other time, has the Iranian society been broiling with protests as it is today. In the past three years, there have been 4,700 acts of protest on average every year.

Officials say the number of those imprisoned for "acting against public security" is "between 10 to 15 thousand people."

Indeed, thousands of prisons, torture chambers and execution centers have been set up in order to help the mullahs maintain their grip on power at any cost.

Regime in its faltering state

The mullahs are in the phase of being overthrown. They lack political and religious legitimacy. They are surrounded by the rage of the Iranian people.

Today, they are relying on an insignificant minority. According to the regime's figures, during the parliamentary elections, the highest number of votes for the candidates in larger cities was between six to 14 percent.

The real base of support for the regime is those in the IRGC, the Bassij and the infamous Intelligence Ministry. All of this barely constitutes three percent of Iranian society in its entirety.

The dire economic crisis is also a grave threat for the survival of the regime.

Ten million unemployed, 8 million dwellers on the outskirts of cities, and millions of embittered youth, all constitute a viable force, which could eventually bring the downfall of this regime.

Conclusion

The ruling mullahs cry out that they will forever safeguard and maintain their absolute rule embodied in the velayat-e faqih.

Appeasers tell us that freedom is nothing but mere hope worthy of being forgotten.

The regime's apologists claim that the people are too fatigued by experience to rise up once again and change the ruling regime. Using a taunting tone, they say that sacrifice and love of freedom are ancient relics.

But, we say that there is a certain energy and force in the Iranian society and its history. We say that there is a never-ending thirst in the oppressed, which is foreign to a world outlook of surrender, shame, and disgrace.

The day will come when life in the hell the mullahs have created will give way to life in a democratic society, so that everyone would have the right to part take in decisions about the most important political affairs of society; And, when the right to change the government is respected.

The day will come when the horrific abyss of bigotry will give way to tolerance and understanding. No religion will be privileged. No one will be denied his/her right because of the belief or non-belief in a religion; And there is the separation of church and state.

The day will come when suppression and discrimination against Iranian women will crumble and gender equality will steer the Iranian society towards a new world.

And that day is very close.

I call upon everyone to expand the struggle for the overthrow of the ruling religious fascism.



Parliamentarians and dignitaries from across the world listening to speech by Mrs. Maryam Rajavi

British delegation reaffirms its support for the PMOI and pledges to continue fighting



Lord Corbett leading the British delegation. From left; Lord Waddington, Lord Dholakia, Baroness Gould, Lord Russell-Johnston, Lord Cotter, Malcolm Fowler (Jurist), Baroness Verma and her spouse, Baroness Gibson, Joe Benton MP, Lord King and PMOI lawyers Ed Grieves and David Vaughan

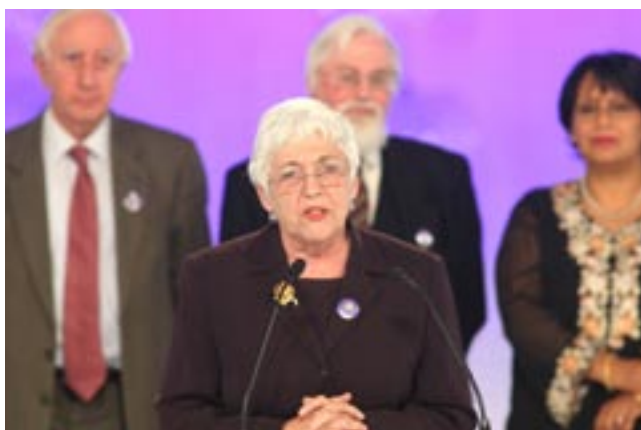
UK government must fulfill its legal and moral obligation to get EU ban on PMOI removed

Lord Corbett of Castle Vale

Head of the UK delegation, Chair of the Parliamentary Committee for Iran Freedom

It gives me great pride to lead the Parliamentary Committee for Iran Freedom. I want to share the victory we've had in our Parliament this week, with all of my colleagues in both Houses of Parliament, and the brilliant team of lawyers, which we've had to help us secure this victory. We are members of all political parties united in a strong single belief that [terror listing of the PMOI] was shameful. It not only did not support those millions in Iran who cried freedom, but sided with those who had stolen freedom from them. I want to apologize.

But, this is not our victory. The real victors are those 4,000 people in Ashraf City, exiled in the deserts of Iraq, who want no more than to go home to a free and democratic homeland. Our victory is their victory. Their victory is a victory for those millions in Iran who demand change to a democratic secular state. The success that we celebrate here today, with all of you here in your thousands, is a major step on the road to a free Iran. It signals that a theocratic regime can be beaten, and that those millions seeking democratic change do not stand alone. Next, and very soon, we expect our government to fulfill its legal and moral obligation to ask the European Union to remove the copycat ban on the Resistance imposed at the UK's request. And, the Americans then would be wise to do the same since the Resistance is on the side of freedom and not the enemy of freedom. While that terror tag was wrongly hung around the neck of Iran's best hope for democratic change, the mullahs have won extra time to threaten their own people, the Middle East and the rest of the world with a lethal mix of violent fundamentalism and nuclear weapons. The risk is real. The risk is menacing. Nuclear weapons in the hands of these militant madmen threaten us all. Neither the people of Iran, nor those in neighboring states or more widely, can run the risk of giving the mullahs the extra and shortening time they now need to build nuclear weapons. With one voice, the rest of us must say no and we must mean it. UN sanctions! Yes, and the tighter the better. But, the surer, safer route to averting this real threat is that proposed by Mrs. Rajavi on behalf of the Resistance. It is called democracy, and that is something the mullahs do not understand and certainly do not want. The mullahs will soon become no more than a dirty stain on the long and proud history of Iran; A long nightmare, which will soon give way to the dawn of a free and democratic country. Iran will be free.



Baroness Gould (Labour)

It gives me the most enormous honor to be here at this wonderful celebration today. It is the first rally I've been able to attend, but my goodness, I think I picked the right one. It has been absolutely wonderful to be able to celebrate the removal of the terror tag from the PMOI, after many years of campaigning, after many setbacks, and many frustrations. And, over the years, I must give credit to the wonderful team of Iranians who have worked tirelessly in the UK. Those who have inspired us, who have helped us to be able to resist our own government. I also want to applaud Madam Rajavi for her courage and determination to continue to lead this struggle for freedom in Iran. And thanks for her inspiring words today. She is so right. The answer is not war and it is not appeasement, but the third way. History tells us that appeasement never works. It is by people getting together with a united voice that success is achieved. The British government, in removing the terror tag, said that they shared the desire of those 35 of us, who I was very pleased to be one of, to see the advance of democracy and human rights throughout the world. We will be looking to the British government to help us to achieve that democracy and those human rights in Iran. This is the beginning of a new era, a new stage in our campaign, a campaign for democracy in Iran, and a campaign to achieve equal rights for the women of Iran. I got involved in this movement because I have spent my life campaigning against brutality against women, and I could not have continued to try and see what I could do to try and help the women in Iran. There has to be an end of the brutality which too many suffer from. There has to be an end to the hangings and the floggings. There has to be an end to stoning to death of women. These actions show whom the real terrorists are: The Islamic Revolutionary Guards. There has to be an end to the torment for the families by the invidious regime in Tehran. By deproscribing the PMOI from the terror list, on which it should never have been in the first place, we are sending a strong message to the mullahs and the rulers of Iran. And there was unconcealed joy in Parliament when in fact the government finally dared to agree to remove the terror tag.

My message today to the EU officials, if they are listening, is to take the bold step of lifting the unjustifiable and perverse restrictions imposed on the PMOI and instead support democratic change in Iran. Then the people of Iran, the new future generations, may look forward to the dawn of a new freedom, of democracy within their great country, and the restoration of their country to a rightful place in the international community.

It is your day, it's your victory today, and it is your celebration. We are here just to join you in that celebration. We hope to start on the road for a wonderful future of Iran. A future based on freedom and democracy. And may be next time we have a rally, we'd be able to all come and join you in Tehran.

Lord Waddington (Conservative)

Former Home Secretary



I feel very humble standing in front of you in this great hall today. Thousands of you, tens of thousands of you, are working for, hoping for democratic change in your country under the inspired leadership of Mrs. Rajavi.

I joined the British Parliamentary Committee for Iran Freedom because I could not stand reading day after day the appalling way in which the mullahs were treating their own citizens. I could not stand reading everyday of the abuses of human rights which were occurring in your country. And I could also see in the way in which the regime exported terrorism and in the way in which the regime was set upon becoming a nuclear power. I could see a great threat to the whole world.

It seemed to me ridiculous that governments were treating as outlaws the people who were working for a better regime in Iran, a better regime which respected human rights and looked after their own people properly, and one that was working for democratic change. That was the PMOI. And so I joined with others in the action, which resulted in the PMOI being delisted as a terrorist organization. That is something which we can celebrate today. It's a step along the road. There are many more steps like when the PMOI is also delisted in Europe. That's our next task and when that is done, let's hope we'll influence those in America to delist the PMOI also in the United States of America. We are on our way, ladies and gentleman. And, you have yourselves to thank for your enormous support for your great leader.

Lord Dholakia (Liberal-Democrats)



Can I say to everyone that this is a day to rejoice. Finally, the Iranian people's legitimate resistance movement has been cleared of any and all wrongdoings. This is a time for us to celebrate.

The PMOI has always been seeking to bring an end to the terrorists.

During the barbaric regime ruling Iran, more than 120,000 members and supporters of this movement have been executed by the regime including boys and girls as young as thirteen. To them I say this that men and women have been hung for their beliefs, and no democratic country should ever accept that. The reality is that the PMOI is a nationwide grassroots movement, and we in the West have no right to be telling the Iranian people not to resist against the mullahs' regime. Would you have told the same thing to Germans during the Second World War? The answer is no.

The EU must immediately lift the ban on the PMOI, since it added the group to its sanctions because of a request from Britain. We have shown the way, and I want the EU to follow that. I want to say this: Let us pray that those who have shed blood have not died in vain. Let the message go out today from this meeting here that victory will be yours. Long live PMOI and long live peace. Madam Rajavi, the day will come when we will all come to the streets of Tehran to celebrate it with you.



International delegates joined in celebration with Mrs. Rajavi on stage when the British delegation presented her with the order approved by the UK Parliament to remove the PMOI from the list of proscribed organizations



Lord Russell-Johnston

Former President of the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly

What an extraordinary audience you have been. People have come from all over Europe and indeed from many other parts of the world to show their commitment and their determination to see a free Iran.

The leadership of Massoud and Maryam Rajavi has been a wonderful inspiration. To them we will always owe a very deep and special debt. I take this moment also to salute those in Ashraf City. As Mrs. Rajavi said, there are a symbol of perseverance and inevitable victory. We know what must and what will be done. Throughout history, repression has maintained itself for periods of time, but time for the mullahs is now running out. This great gathering is part of an inevitable movement to sweep away the theocratic repression and the encouragement of terrorism, and to bring to the Iranians once more human dignity and human rights. So, my message to you is very simple: Liberty is very close, so you must persist, persist and persist. And if you do that, and remain true and loyal to the democratic aims you have set out, the sweetness of success would be yours, and for all Iranians a better life will unfold. So, persist.

Mr. David Vaughan

Lawyer

I am one of the lawyers who had the honor to appear on your behalf in the European Court. There are not many lawyers who can address 70,000 clients at one stage, plus all the people in Ashraf and all those in Iran who believe in democracy. I suspect almost everybody there believes in democracy. There are several points I'd like to make. But, first of all, the dominant lawyer in this case is Lord Slynn. And Lord Slynn deserves and merits every honor you can give him. His work on your behalf has been tireless, both as a Parliamentarian and as a lawyer. Everything that was decided by the lawyers was approved by Lord Slynn. He was crucial to the victories that you have enjoyed. He is too important of a person not to play a leading role in this.

I think you also ought to realize the courage of the judges in this case. The British and the European governments had behaved despicably. They knew there was no evidence at all to justify what they did. They did it for reasons of appeasement. But the judges in the European Court and in the British courts were not prepared to accept that. They defended the rule of law, human rights, and justice. And as much as the British government and the European Council suggested that this was an important diplomatic question, they [the judges] had none of that. They rejected that as an argument, and said that human rights and the rights of justice overrule everything else. So, when you think about this case, you must think about the courage of the British judges and the judges in the Court of First Instance, who found for justice and did not accept the position of the executive. You were very lucky in your judges in Luxembourg, in POAC, and the Court of Appeal, because they ensured that justice was done. And the only reason that the resolution was in front of the Parliament to be voted on was because the British government were told they had to do it. They did not do it voluntarily, and they did it with a rather bad grace. So, that was crucially important.

In Luxembourg we were a formidable team and effectively won that case. But there is still more to be done in Luxembourg as well. The UK resolution has passed, and that really undermines the whole EU proscription. And, subject to one thing, it seems to me that inevitably the PMOI must be taken off very soon of the EU list. I'd be very surprised if in two weeks or so you do not get a favorable answer from Brussels. If they do not give a favorable answer, we'll be back in court against them. The suggestion by the French government that they must rely upon the 2003 searches as a justification at the request of Tehran seems to me to be wholly without any basis at all. The EU has never relied upon the Paris searches as justification. They have never relied upon the searches in POAC. And, as the Court of Appeal said, all the evidence, including secret evidence, supports our position.

So, basically, on we go in Brussels, in Luxembourg, and we hand over the baton to the American lawyers pursuing these matters.



Jordanian delegation expresses full backing to the PMOI



From left: Mr. Mamdouh Al-Abbadi, first deputy speaker of the Jordanian Parliament, Mrs. Nareeman Al-Rousan and Mr. Munir Husni Soubar MP

Nareeman Al-Rousan

Assistant Speaker of Jordan's Parliament

I have come here today, together with H.E. Mr. Mamdouh Al-Abbadi, first deputy speaker of the Jordanian Parliament; Dr. Mohammad Abu-Houdeib, Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Parliament; H.E. Mofleh Alrouheimi, leader of the majority in the Parliament and former government minister; Munir Husni Soubar, MP and former government minister; Fakhri Eskandar, MP; Abdullah Gharyeb, MP; and Dr. Ebrahim Al-Amoush, MP.

Maryam Rajavi, my dear sister, the greatest political champion, President-elect of the Iranian Resistance.

It is rather sad that while we gather here today, the land of Iraq is under the occupation of bandits. They have taken away the hopes and dreams of all the people living on that land.

The evil forces in the world want to impose darkness and hopelessness, and deprive people of their bright futures. These oppressed people cherish only one hope and one dream. That hope is pinned on people like you who spread brightness and raise the torch of freedom. We hail those who fight tirelessly, those who aim to free their land and to promote their national values. We hail those who shatter the darkness in their homeland's horizon, and thus save future generation.

Our eternal good wishes go to those who have inherited the struggle for freedom and continue to fight. And to those who have pledged to pass

on the tradition of fighting for freedom to future generations.

Our greetings to the martyrs of the PMOI who lost their lives in the course of their struggle; Those who fought for the freedom of their people and a free Iran; Those who had only one thing on their minds, and that was to build a new democratic country.

I salute my sister, Maryam Rajavi, a woman from

the land of the East, and we Eastern women are proud of her. She has been fighting against tyranny and injustice along with her other sisters and brothers. She gives us, and all the oppressed people who believe in their rights, self-confidence and great inspiration.

I salute you and all those who support the PMOI. And our salutations and best wishes go to the heroes in Ashraf.

Mullahs react to Jordanian MPs' visit

The clerical regime summoned the Jordanian ambassador in Tehran to its foreign ministry to protest the participation of a delegation of Jordanian members of Parliament and the deputy speaker at the June 28th gathering of Iranians in Paris.

At the same time, the regime's Charge de affairs in Amman, Naser Kanani, met with the Jordanian deputy foreign minister, Mr. Naser Jodeh, to warn that the regime "would not tolerate support for the PMOI by any country and considers contacts with this organization as a red line not to be crossed, and one which would be responded to accordingly." He told the regime's official news agency that it was unacceptable for Tehran to see Jordanian dignitaries take part in the PMOI's gathering. In view of the number of MPs, which included the deputy speaker of the Parliament, Kanani said the government should compensate and demanded reparations. The news agency added: "33 Jordanian political dignitaries and members of press including 12 MPs participated in a recent gathering by the Mojahedin in Paris."

The Jordanian foreign ministry reacted to pressures of the regime by expressing its utter surprise for summoning its ambassador in Tehran for questioning on this matter and described the MPs visit as their personal decision. The Speaker of the Jordanian Parliament also reacted to the regime's furor and said the decision by 12 MPs to attend the gathering of the PMOI in Paris was a personal one.

In a report by the Arab Aljazeera network's website, Mrs. Nariman al-Roussan, an MP who had addressed the gathering in Paris, expressed her amazement about the regime's reaction and asked: "What kind of a rotten regime is this in Tehran which is shaken by the attendance of a few Jordanian people's representatives in a meeting?"

European Parliament Delegation urges removal of the PMOI from EU list



Alejo Vidal-Quadras leading the European Parliament delegation addressing the gathering. Standing on the right are Struan Stevenson, Paulo Casaca and Piia Noora Kauppi

Dr. Alejo Vidal-Quadras

Vice-president of the European Parliament

Let me first of all salute my brave brothers and sisters in Ashraf City who are fighting for the freedom of their country. They are the men and women who have proven to be genuinely faithful to democracy and freedom. And, they are paying the price for it everyday. Their sacrifice, their suffering, and their undefeatable commitment to the cause of a free Iran will forever remain in the history of your country. Our hearts beat when their hearts do, and our souls are one with theirs. They are the best example and the best inspirations for us all.

Supporting the PMOI today is not the only part of our political agenda. It is something essential for the defence of our human dignity. Today, we are part of the big family of the Iranian Resistance and this movement. The members of national parliaments and the European Parliament who work on your side for the cause of a free Iran consider themselves as your brothers and sisters, and we are proud of it.

The fact that we are here together in so many thousands proves that there are many millions of others outside this hall and also in Iran who support your movement; This popular movement that your President, Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, is leading with such competence and dedication in such difficult times.

I congratulate you, Mrs. President, for your courageous leadership. It is a privilege to serve under your banner.

I also hope that one day I will be able to meet Massoud Rajavi, the historical leader of the PMOI. I know that he has paid a heavy price over the years against the brutal dictatorship that oppresses Iran. I wish him well wherever he is. Our thoughts and our prayers are with him.

Let me conclude by saying that I can see the victory in the glint of your eyes and in your tireless will and commitment. Victory is closer than we think.

I have no doubt that we will win. We will win because our cause is the cause of freedom, justice and truth.

Mr. Struan Stevenson

Vice-president of the EPP-ED group



I deliver to you the best wishes from the people of Scotland. Today, we celebrate the removal of the PMOI from the UK terrorist list. Now there is no justification for the PMOI to remain on the EU terror list.

Justice has at last been served, and those who seek to defy the rule of law should take careful note. In Europe, truth and justice will always prevail.

But, sadly, truth and justice have been abandoned by the mullahs and their evil regime in Tehran.

Like the Nazis, they torture, hang and oppress their own people. Like the Nazis, they spread their brand of fascist hatred worldwide. Ahmadinejad has repeatedly said that he wants to wipe Israel off the map. Now he is building the nuclear weapons which will enable him to do so. Ahmadinejad is the new Hitler.

And yet Europe dithers and delays. The West pretends to impose tough sanctions, all the while supplying sanction-busting equipment to the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps.

Javier Solana pretends to talk tough in Tehran, yet he always looks for ways to appease the mullahs.

Europe tried to appease the Nazis and tens of millions died as a result. Let us not repeat the mistakes of history. Let us not put world peace at risk.

I say to Europe's Leaders: Forget appeasement. Back the Iranian people. Back the main opposition force, which embodies the only people capable of replacing the mullahs' evil regime. Support the brave and courageous Maryam Rajavi, Massoud Rajavi, and their front line brothers and sisters in Ashraf City. Back the PMOI.



Mrs. Piia-Noora Kauppi

Head of the Finnish delegation to EPP/ED group in the European Parliament

I am so glad to be here today in this magnificent gathering of Iranians. But first of all I would like to say hello to members of the Iranian Resistance in Ashraf City who are watching this meeting right now. I send my best wishes

to my sisters, the one thousand women of the PMOI in Ashraf. These brave women who have confronted all pressures in the last five years are an inspiration to millions of women inside Iran who have been suffering under the religious dictatorship of the mullahs. I am so happy that the PMOI was finally removed from the list of terrorist organizations in Britain. It took seven years. But the will of the European Parliament eventually triumphed. The majority of the European Parliament shares the view that the PMOI must be removed from the EU list immediately as stipulated in the European Parliament resolution passed on 31 January 2008. We want the EU Council to respect human rights, and the rule of law by removing the PMOI from the EU terror list.

I have very little respect for any government in the EU which tries to keep this organisation on the blacklist.

Therefore we are very proud and honored as members of the European Parliament to have stood together with Maryam Rajavi and all of you.

In December 2006, Mrs Rajavi was invited to address the EPP Group, which is the biggest political group in the European Parliament with over 280 members. I have met with her several times when she visited our Parliament. There is a great amount of sympathy for her, her movement and the Iranian people in the European Parliament. These recent victories prove that we are on the right path. I feel very honored to be part of the big family of the Iranian Resistance. I hope we'd be able to one day celebrate the Iranian people's attaining of freedom, democracy, gender equality, rule of law, and individual liberties in Tehran. That day will come.

Mr. Paulo Casaca

Co-chair of the Friends of a Free Iran Inter-group in the European Parliament



Five years ago, our governments thought that in accord with the Tehran regime, they could get rid of the Iranian Resistance. They attacked them here in France; they arrested the leaders of the Iranian Resistance. They bombed the PMOI's bases in Iraq. And what does one see today, five years later? There is an enormous crowd standing before us and that the Iranian Resistance is today even stronger than before.

Returning from Ashraf, I can tell you that the enthusiasm in Ashraf is not less than what it is here. Even though agents of the Iranian regime in Baghdad threaten everyone, threaten the PMOI in Ashraf, threaten our dear Iraqi friends, I have not seen any one more courageous than them. They have also threatened me. Even with all of this, they will not succeed, because the motivation to realize liberty and the democracy is so strong that nothing can stop them. They can reach us, but they will never be able to defeat us. I am absolutely convinced of this. This is why we will always be here, always more abundant.



French Delegation expresses its solidarity with the Iranian Resistance



Mr. Yves Bonnet

Former head of French DST



I think that today, because we are Europeans, we are all proud to be British. I believe that today is perhaps right here in France to pay tribute to the first democracy in

the world which is the British democracy, the first country for human rights, and which has succeeded today by a decision of a great courage to take the path of justice and to match the reality with it. The British Parliament's decision honors Britain, and it also honors Europe and it honors all those who believe in democracy. Today is a day of victory.

It's true, but it is also important to evaluate success and its obligations. The first requirement is that of modesty. The People's Mojahedin experience could have turned into a tragedy as they have been classified as terrorist and threatened to be forced to leave the territory where they sought refuge and arrive in Iran where they would have been badly welcomed, as we can imagine. So let's be humble in assessments we carry on each other and on terrorism and with a lesson which could have been costly for the PMOI, the National Council of Resistance of Iran and beyond, the Iranian people.

Mr. Alain Vivien

Former deputy minister on foreign affairs



On behalf of the French Committee for a Democratic Iran I would like to hail the great victory which has just been won by the Iranian Resistance and congratulate your

leaders and all your activists for the outstanding activities they conducted with calm and passion. The French committee in defense of democracy in Iran was very small when it was launched a few months ago but today we can claim that more than 70 French MPs and senators have joined us as well as several hundred dignitaries.

What is important in our view is that these men and women belong to political parties that are often rivals, but united when it comes to defend freedom, democracy and human rights.

I would also like to say on behalf of the committee that the Iranian Resistance is now at a crossroads. In Iran, popular protests are growing. The regime still hardens its position because it is desperate. It is afraid of human rights. It is therefore necessary now that all those who struggle for a democratic Iran help the Iranians, in Iran and abroad.

The PMOI is removed from the UK terror list, Europe should do the same.

Senator Philippe Dallier

French Senator



I committed myself a few days ago and signed an appeal made by parliamentarians for a free and democratic Iran. I did it because the history of my country, France,

showed me that the struggle for freedom and democracy is a difficult and long struggle which needs a determined will. I know that the 20th century has Winston Churchill in England, General de Gaulle in France and Pope Jean-Paul II. I have learned lessons and especially methods from these three great politicians.

Winston Churchill said: "Democracy is the worse political system with the exception of all other systems". General de Gaulle, at the height of the history, when France had just been defeated and conquered by the Nazis, at the worst moment of the history of France, said: "The flame of the French resistance must not die out and will not die out." And years later, Pope Jean-Paul II said "We have no fear, don't be afraid".

I am with you to establish democracy in Iran and everywhere in the world. The flame of the Iranian resistance must not die out and will not die out. And only democracy is a possible way for the Iranian people.

Mr. Jean-Pierre Béquet

Mayor of Auvers-sur-Oise



I observe with great pleasure that year after year, you are growing larger in number, more fervid, more active and more determined. You are right to be more determined,

because our English friends have just marked a very important victory. The victory that you achieved through the British justice system is pivotal for the continuation of your struggle. Today, I would like to address the French authorities and tell them that I hope that they are going to have the wisdom of our British friends and that will continue their path so that you are removed from the list of terrorist organizations. The world needs a democratic and peaceful Iran. And the alternative that you represent, the resistance that you embody around Maryam Rajavi has the objective of restoring peace, freedom and democracy.

I am happy that increasing numbers of democracy supporters, republicans, as well as supporters of freedom and human rights understand your struggle and stand with you.

Mrs. Nelly Rolland-Irrebury

Mayor of Villepinte



This gathering of nations which I call upon, must lean on dialogue for all and not on a dangerous arms race or on a race the profits from appeasing fundamentalists thus aggravating

social and economic inequalities.

The right of resistance against oppression dedicated by the 1789 Universal Declaration of Human and Citizen's Rights is a natural law and a universal right. The civil society facing the ayatollahs must have freedom of speech, must have the right to dress as they wish. Without hope, many Iranians in the country take refuge today in the artificial paradise to which narcotics give them access. A song by the rebels at the time of the Community Events in France in 1871 says that regardless of how many thousand kilometres, regardless of our different cultures, we all have in us the taste of freedom which gives a meaning to our life.

Mr. Jean-Pierre Brard

French MP



For the first time, representatives of the French National Assembly joined to bring you their support. 190 representatives from left to right have come together and decided to sustain

the fight that you lead for people who fight for their own liberty against the religious tyranny of the mullahs.

We support you Mrs. Rajavi. But why do we support you? Because your fight is carried out in favor of peace and stability in the Middle East region. We support you because you have plans for a democratic regime and secular state in Iran. We support you because for your liberation from the dictatorship you count on the strengths of the Iranian people and not on foreign intervention. Mrs. President, they say that the PMOI is terrorist. During the war when the Nazis were in power they also named those who resisted against them as terrorists. We are with you because you are resisting and you are called terrorists by those who assist those who oppress the Iranian people. France is going to take the presidency of the European Union. For France whose president is going to have a particular responsibility must be at the height of the history of the people of France and must not fall short on those resisting in Iran. It is necessary to choose those who are struggling for freedom or else we have to choose the mullahs and the companies supporting them.

Mr. Maurice Boscavert

Mayor of Taverny



We as democrats in France were all embarrassed of the shameful deal [with Iranian regime] by Chirac's government in 2003. I am pleased that the situation is improving, thanks

to our British friends.

It is necessary to go further now. The Iran of tomorrow belongs to you. The Iran of tomorrow belongs to your children. The Iran of tomorrow is your strength and your struggle is crucial. We will be on your side; we will always be on your side, for freedom, secularism and democracy.

Long live Rajavi.

Mr. Francois Colcombet

Judge, Co-founder of the French Committee for a Democratic Iran



I am among those who discovered your movement a long time ago. I have known you in difficult times. You have, thanks to your courage and your persistence, succeeded in

clearing all charges against you. The European Court voted in your favour and the English judiciary has just granted you a true victory in the legal field. I think that soon the European Union should remove you from the list of terrorist organisations.

Mr. Jean-Philippe Maurer

French MP



He was represented by his assistant who announced his message of solidarity say: "I have the pleasure, and first I am very impressed by this scene, by the number of people

gathered here today, to convey to you a message of peace, support and consideration, with regard to your struggle for a free, secular and democratic country. And you will find us standing with you in this struggle. So together we will win and we will go forward until the end of this struggle."

Mrs. Renée Le Mignot

Co-president of MRAP



Every year I see you increasing in number and this is because people who resist will continue to add in number. The 1793 declaration of human rights states that while a state

oppresses the people, the right to resistance is the most sacred duty and most precious of all rights. You have done nothing other than use your right. The only solution for the Iranian people and their resistance is to overthrow this foul dictatorship. I strongly wish that next year this gathering takes

Middle East delegation lauds the PMOI's positive role in the region



Sid Ahmed Ghozali

Former Algerian Prime Minister

Dear Mrs. President of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, and I also greet, since I see that the widow of the late Algerian President Houari Boumediene is here among us. This gives somewhat reduces the unkind absence of representatives of the Algerian government and Arab governments in this large gathering.

Dear brothers, people of Iran, wherever you are, in Abadan, Tehran, Qom or Isfahan or in Ashraf. Greetings and congratulations to you. Massoud Rajavi if you see me, thanks to your sacrifice and to those combatants who come in many thousands from the PMOI, the Iranian people have just prevailed over a large legal and political battle. I know that you know that one day you will announce the victory of all battles, the victory of the end of a regime that calls itself Islamic, and one which has tortured and slaughtered 120,000 innocent people, simply because they are Iranians who fought to regain liberty and to establish democracy.

I also greet and congratulate the people of the United Kingdom who have just given a vivid

lesson through their elected representatives, members of parliament and the House of Lords who have enforced justice through their own government. And all of this was carried out by devotion for human rights and democracy.

I salute and honor all UK parliamentarians who brilliantly gained a unanimous vote in the House of Commons and the House of Lords to remove the horrible and cynical injustice of proscribing the PMOI. The horrible measure that has emanated from governments of democratic countries in the EU as well as the US administration where the prime victims of terrorism in Iran are designated as terrorists.

This is a victory, but the struggle continues. For France, whose people I greet here, whose government committed a big act of injustice vis-à-vis the Iranian Resistance five years ago. I hope that the French government will open its eyes to the injustice and take hold of this opportunity since it will take over the presidency of the EU to follow the example of the United Kingdom. It is not only about putting an end to an injustice and to freeing the Iranian Resistance movement, but also to overturn the injustice and to open their eyes to the reality. So long as the mullahs' regime is

not overthrown, peace in Iran, Iraq, Palestine, Lebanon or in the rest of the Moslem world is impossible.

Peace was signed in April 1975 between Iran and Iraq, through the mediation of the deceased president Boumediene. Everybody remembers that with president Boumediene's mediation an agreement was signed, however, it did not last long. Five years later war started. This war was one of the most lethal wars, because there was no chance of any accord between the two dictatorships.

The Iraqi people were not mistaken when they supported the Iranian Resistance. The large majority of the Iraqi people support the Iranian people. The Iraqi people know very well their direct neighbor in Iran and that peace will never be realized in Iraq so long as democracy has not prevailed in Iran.

With great joy I congratulate you all and I congratulate the CNRI represented by Mrs. Maryam Rajavi and the Resistance organization, the PMOI, under the auspices and under the leadership of Mr. Massoud Rajavi. I congratulate them for this battle and I am convinced that they will reach their final victory. Long live the Iranian Resistance, long live the Iranian people and long live democracy.



Mrs. Rajavi welcoming the Iraqi delegation



Sheikh Mazen Habib Khezaran

Al-Ezeh tribe leader

Greetings to the heroic people of Ashraf, to our sister Maryam Rajavi, our brother Massoud Rajavi, and to all the brave people of Iraq.

It is a great honor for me to be here joining the Iraqi delegation, which represents a wide range of Iraqi people

from all sectors of society.

People of Iraq have been hosting Mojahedin brothers and sisters for over 20 years now. It is our deep belief that they have the right to have a safe haven among their Iraqi brothers and sisters in order to be able to act on their natural rights as the legitimate political opposition to the regime ruling Iran. They oppose a regime which is considered by Iraqis as a direct threat to their existence, civilization and to their political identity. The regime is destroying our country by meddling in our affairs and infiltrating the Iraqi institutions.

The people of Iraq recognize the positive and effective role of the PMOI in their country as a bulwark against the clerical regime's brutal aggression and export of fundamentalism. The mullahs intend to use their model of government to rule Iraq.

They want to use Iraq as their diving board to dominate the rest of the Middle East and spread war and conflict to the region. The mullahs are a threat to peace and security in this part of the world.

Recognizing the role of the PMOI in our region in these circumstances and recognizing that their struggle is closely tied to ours to establish freedom, peace and democracy, we would like to declare our strategic alliance with the PMOI before you in this gathering. Long live the alliance between Iraqi and Iranian people and God bless.

Mr. Dhia Sheikhli

Member of the leadership of the Iraqi National Accord Movement

My dear sister, Maryam Rajavi,
My dear brother, Massoud Rajavi,
Sisters and brothers of the PMOI residing in Ashraf City in our beloved Iraq,

Allow me to convey greetings on behalf of the Iraqi National Accord Movement and especially Dr. Ayad Alawi, General Secretary of the movement, to you and all member groups within the National Council of Resistance of Iran.

As you know, Iraq is going through very difficult and complex times, and the meddling of the Iranian regime poses the single greatest threat to our country. The regime's meddling has effectively worked to tear apart the country and create divisions. The clerical regime in Iran has been planning the murder of thousands of Iraqis for various reasons. The mullahs have murdered Iraqi scientists, intellectuals, military commanders, academics and artists in a bid to destroy all of Iraq's values and resources and to prepare a fertile ground for their expansionist designs.

I would like to hail members of the PMOI in Ashraf, those who are working day and night for Iran and Iraq, and I praise them for their cooperation with the Iraqi nationalist forces.

Your achievements against the religious tyranny in Iran is not only a victory for the Iranian Resistance, but that it also contributes to the establishment of two democratic and friendly states in two neighboring countries, Iran and Iraq.

We must congratulate the Iranian Resistance for its victory in removing the PMOI from the list of proscribed organizations in the UK. We call on the EU to follow suit and remove the PMOI from its terrorist list in order to serve justice, rule of law and human dignity.

My brothers and sisters in the Iraqi delegation attending this gathering are grateful to Mrs. Rajavi and the NCRI for their invitation. This is a sign of deep rooted relations between us.



Mr. Dick Armev

Former US House Majority Leader



We share a common understanding that freedom is a gift that is given to all of mankind by the Lord God Almighty. We understand that it is the duty of governments to honor and protect freedom. And we understand that

when governments do not honor and protect freedom, they've failed in their duties. It is my job to help members of the American government, people who have known nothing in their lives but the blessings of liberty, to understand that they have failed in their duty to protect liberty by listing this freedom-loving organization. I wonder why those of you who have suffered tyranny, like the mothers who have lost their children, like those of you who have lost your families, and like those of you who have had to leave your home to be free, why you understand your requirement to stand up for freedom. And I have so much trouble with those in the position of authority who have not. The reason you stand up, and the reason they do not, is that you understand, as they have not yet been made to understand, how evil the mullahs are. It is our job to teach them that together, and I thank you for the privilege of letting me participate, and for the inspiration that you give to me.

Iraqi Shiite Cleric:

“Your Iraqi friends will always stand by you. You will be victorious.”

Seyyed Ayad Jamal-addin, a high-ranking Iraqi Shiite cleric and deputy chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee in Iraq's Parliament, attended a gathering at Ashraf City in Iraq, while tens of thousands of Iranians voiced their support for the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI) at a rally at the Exhibition Hall in Villepinte, north of Paris. Referring to the PMOI members at Ashraf, Seyyed Jamal-addin stressed, “We Iraqis, along with you, are pursuing a single path towards the freedom of our homelands and our peoples.”

He added, “The Middle East is facing instability. Our peoples are being hurt in the midst of this instability. We do not seek war or confrontations. We do not intend to exploit religion, or anything else for that matter, to prepare for confrontation. We only desire to live honorably in our country, without waging a war or facing an aggressor. We love Iran, its people, its civilization, its history, and we care about its future. However, we oppose tyranny and oppression in its entirety, especially if it is under a religious or sectarian banner. Our hearts go for Iran and its people. We long for a day when the flag of freedom, honor, sovereignty, security, and faith would be hoisted in a free Iran. Such will be an Iran in which Muslims and non-Muslims, Shiites and non-Shiites, are equal; An Iran free of religious or any other form of tyranny. You are the people who will make this happen; you are the future.”

He prayed for the Resistance, saying, “I pray to God the He would protect your bright, patient, and persistent leadership.” He then praised the Resistance's members, saying, “You are the symbols of perseverance and resolve. You are victorious, and indeed you have triumphed.” He concluded by assuring the residents of Ashraf, “Your Iraqi friends will always stand by you.”



Cheering supporters, neighbors, and local residents greeted Mrs. Maryam Rajavi at her Auvers-sur-Oise residence after she returned from the June 28th gathering in the Villepinte Exhibition Hall, north of Paris. Holding hundreds of lit torches, supporters and neighbors reaffirmed their support for Mrs. Rajavi and the Resistance, and congratulated her on the latest victories.

In a brief speech at Auvers-sur-Oise, Mrs. Rajavi expressed her gratitude to supporters, and joined them in declaring that the struggle will continue unabated until freedom and democracy is established in Iran.





Prof. Henk De Haan

*Former Chair of the Dutch Parliament
Foreign Affairs Committee*

We are coming from different countries from all over the world. We have different cultures, different political backgrounds, and even different religions. But, what we have in common today is that we are all advocates of a free and democratic Iran.

In that respect, I bring you the best regards from the Dutch Parliament's "Friends of a Free Iran Committee". For every democrat, respecting human rights must be at the core of his attention. I am proud of Lord Corbett, Lord Slynn, and all their colleagues who had the courage and the power to protest against their own government. That really is the attitude of democrats. We have to respect the judges in our countries. I hope that all European governments, including my own government, will follow the British decision to remove the PMOI from the terror list. When that is done, all democratic governments here in Europe could concentrate on the future of your country, which is much more important.



Mrs. Sonia Hornery

*Member of New South Wales
Parliament, Australia*

Good day and greetings from Australia. I am a member of the New South Wales Parliament. My name is Sonia Hornery. I am very proud to be here

today representing the many Australian supporters of peaceful democracy in Iran. The solution before us is not the policy of appeasement. Rather, it is supporting the democratic, secular, opposition represented by the NCRI and President Rajavi. Let us remove the Iranian opposition movement, the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran, from the Australian terror list by following the United Kingdom.



Mrs. Raymonde Folco

Canadian MP

Our presence in such high numbers today shows the growing role of the international will against the totalitarian power of the mullahs' regime in Iran. That will advanced under the dynamic leadership of the PMOI and won a vivid victory lately before the UK's Court of Appeal. Bravo! And this victory permits the PMOI to operate freely and legitimately henceforth in the European states.

My dear friends, it is up to us, it is our responsibility to bring this victory to the attention of all other governments around the world. I speak to you today as a Canadian MP, accompanied by an important Canadian delegation consisting of Canadian MPs and senators.

I would also like to underline in particular, the presence and especially the actions of the women of the PMOI. These women, who have occupied all ranks of your liberty movement, have become a vibrant example of courage and steadfastness. They show us the path. They are emphasising of the necessity for all movements that struggle to open their doors to the democratic presence of women and all minority groups. On behalf of all the Iranians gathered for democracy, we decorate those women as well as their brothers, our brothers, with flowers and we all stand together for Iran.



Mr. Carlo Ciccio

Italian MP

First of all a big greeting to every one of you together with Italian parliamentarians Beatrice Lorenzin of the Free People's Party; Paola Goisis from the Northern League and Amalia Schirru the Democratic Party, representing the sentiments of the majority of Italian people.

Your incredible presence here from across the world is an indication of the extent of support your organization enjoys. Our presence here as members of parliaments from different countries is an indication of the fact that the world has eventually opened its eyes and ears to see and hear and wants to open its brain to understand. Your struggle for freedom and civil rights is a struggle for our principles.

We have to stand by you. You patiently fought and exercised tolerance through a general silence and now it is your time.

Nearly 30 years of darkness in Iran was too much. The world has now come to understand this. Economic interests, oil and international balance cannot stop us to understand the situation and see the facts.

The ruling of the court in London which removed your organization from the list of terrorist organizations indicates the return of justice. You are now the official representatives of the rights of Iranian people in the world. I am pleased to say that you have our solidarity and support with you as your struggle for the future of your people is a struggle for peace in the world. We are going to stand by you.

Messages of solidarity from the US Congress

Congressman John Lewis (D-GA)

I want to take this opportunity to greet the people of Iran who are struggling to build a more just society. There was a time in the United States just 45 years ago when injustice was the law of the land.

Most people in the American south still believe legalized segregation would never change because it has been engrained in our physical and written into the very foundation of our democracy. It has been the order of the day for so long, but all it took was committed and determined people who decided they wanted to make a change. They were ordinary people, with extraordinary vision who dared to believe in their own human dignity. They looked beyond the injustice of human kind to a higher calling and a greater law. As a participant in the civil rights movement, we truly believe in something we call the beloved community and all inclusive works (1:58) of society based on simple justice that values the dignity and the worth of every human being. We believe that is and means were inseparable, we believe that if our goals were peace, that we had to use peaceful means to gain that peace, so stated the teachings of Ghandi, Martin Luther King Junior, and Henry David Leroy. We use the philosophy of nonviolence to bring about a revolution of values and ideas that change this nation forever.

But our struggle is not over; Martin Luther King Jr. once said that a threat to justice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. As long as the people of Iran are suffering injustice, we are all suffering injustice. We may be separated by oceans and seas, there may be thousands of miles between us, but we are all one people, one family, one human family. As your struggle continues know that our thoughts and prayers are with you, that you will overcome the differences between you, heal separation that divides you, and remember the eternal bonds that makes us all one. Best wishes for an inspiring and great world conference.



Congressman Ed Towns (D-NY)



I am delighted to join you to celebrate a big victory today. It is a great day for the Iranian people and their resistance. It was great to hear that UK government formally removed the Iranian opposition from the UK's terror list on Monday. This happened after many years of campaign by the organization.

Legislators approved the decision of the Proscribed Organizations Appeal Commission which ruled in May that the People's Mojahedin of Iran (MEK) should no longer be listed as a proscribed group.

Although many disagree with the current status of this war in

Iraq, all agree that we must collectively work to stop Iranian-style fundamentalism from taking root in Iraq. Let me here recognize your actions in support of democracy in Iraq as well as in Iran.

Supporting your effort is especially important now that a number of British courts have affirmed the legitimacy of your resistance. The ruling of the British Appeal Court in May 2008 which exonerated the Iranian Resistance group, the MEK, from terrorist activity is a great victory for the cause of democracy in Iran. In light of the recent developments, the United States must seriously consider the court's findings and also remove the limitations it has placed on the MEK.

The world community must strengthen the sanctions on the clerical regime. It must also immediately recognize and support the Iranian Resistance as the democratic alternative to the regime in Iran.

The friends of Ashraf, here in the US Congress want the officials of Iraq to be committed to the international law and the rights of the residents of Ashraf City. Our support for the MEK is stronger as ever. All of us believe that freedom and democracy is the right of every man and woman. If these are not practiced in Iran, you have to bring them to Iran. Students, women, religious minorities are backing your noble effort in defense of freedom. Today, the mullahs are increasingly using oppression inside and terrorism outside of Iran. They want the world to view our present options as either WAR or accepting the status quo. I, like my colleagues Chairman Bob Filner disagree. There is a third option.

The Third Option introduced by Mrs. Maryam Rajavi relies on the strength of the Iranian people and their organized resistance. This is the best and least costly alternative. Let us not continue to make the mistake of appeasing Iran. As a viable alternative, we must move to support the Iranian people and their resistance. Only you can bring about democratic change in Iran.

I have come to know you and appreciate your thirst for freedom. Rest assured that it is attainable.

Congresswoman Lorretta Sanchez (D-CA)

Although I am not physically with you in France, I want you to know I am with you in spirit and unity.

I have a great appreciation for the Iranian community and the pivotal role they have played in bringing

international attention to the abusive regime of Iran.

As a long standing human rights advocate, I share your concern for the human rights of Iranian citizens.

That is why I commend your work and the sacrifices of Iran's peaceful dissidents in bringing attention to the government of Iran's continued sponsorship of terrorism and its numerous human rights violations.

This is unacceptable. And the Iranian people have shown that they are at the forefront of the resistance

against the extremist government in Iran. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the strong

fortitude of the thousands of students who protested at Zanjan University and workers who protested in the

city of Shoosh in Iran. They are rejecting extremism and terrorism. They are rejecting the Iranian regime.

I have supported diplomatic and economic sanctions against them to end their nuclear weapons program.

Iran must join the international community in preventing the spread of terrorism and refusing to

harbor religious extremists so that we can all prevent further conflict.

I am confident that progress can be made through diplomatic avenues to help advance democracy and

uphold human rights in Iran. Again, I join you rallying for freedom and democracy and to help end

the brutal regime in Iran.



Congresswomen Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX)

I am greeting you with great celebration, with great excitement because this is five years after the victory of those who resisted and were arrested. But now we have the victory and the victory is for the Iranian people, is for freedom and democracy, and I am your sister and you have brothers and sisters who are here in the United States, who are standing along side of you, fighting for the freedom of the Iranian people.

I celebrate with Maryam Rajavi, the president-elect, a great heroine, a great friend of freedom, my friend, my sister, and I congratulate her for all that she has resisted. Isn't it wonderful to note that more and more countries around the world are understanding the bravery of the resistance fighters, those who fight in peace, and that resistance doesn't equal terrorism, resistance equals freedom, freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom to practice democracy. And so five years after those who are fighting resisted, who are now freed, we celebrate, and we celebrate the fact that as more nations learn about the heart of the organization movement, just as Great Britain has done, they will remove them from the list of terror. Even though I am not physically with you, I am there is spirit and I am moved and impressed by the greatness of your body, meaning that there are so many of you here, so many people who are here, this ... body of people, I am impressed, I am moved. Thank you for allowing me to greet you on behalf of the many members of Congress who respect and admire Maryam Rajavi for her freedom fighting, her peace loving, and her leadership of the people of Iran.

May the spirit of all of us be present with you and the blessings that are necessary be upon you as you go forward today in celebration and commemoration of those who stood tall and now are with you.



Congressman Lincoln Diaz-Balart (R-FL)

My best wishes to the Iranians at the meeting in Paris.

This is a historic opportunity, a historic occasion to come together and to think together on where we are

with regard to the terrorist regime in Iran. In our efforts to bring democracy, democratic transition to Iran; an end to the terror, an end to the mass murders, an end to the torture that the regime in Iran represents everyday. And so my best wishes are with you and my total solidarity is with you. You are going to win; your country is going to be free. Persevere, persevere. You have great friends, including the congress of the United States.



Congressman William Lacy Clay (D-MO)

You have come together to support and encourage freedom, democracy and human rights. You have come together to register your support for freedom, democracy, and human rights and to ask the free nations of the world to support the Iranian people and their resistance and to urge that there be no more appeasement of tyranny.

We in the United States Congress recognize the dangerous path Iran has chosen. It is a path that can lead to military conflict, but we are hoping

to avoid conflict and to this end have placed sanctions on Iran's financial transactions and its terrorist activities. Now as the world community is focused on Iran's efforts to develop nuclear weapons the regime has stepped up its regressive policies.

It is now well documented that Iran's meddling in Iraq has undermined all efforts to bring about a stable government. The turmoil in Iraq is not likely to end until there is secular democracy in Iran as those in the Iranian resistance have long understood, the Iranian regime does not desire a stable or sovereign Iraq. Iran has spent billions of dollars to foment violence in Iraq that has cost the lives of thousands of Iraqis and Americans. With the help of anti fundamentalists and secular Iranian resistance members living in Ashraf, Iraqis are standing up to Iran and its terrorist revolutionary guards. Iraq's leaders are confronting Islamic extremism coming into, coming from Iran. A few days ago, for example, over 3 million Iraqi Shiites called for the eviction of Iranian regime members, making it clear that they are not allied with Iran. I applaud your actions in support of democracy in Iran. Your efforts are especially significant now that the British courts have acknowledged the legitimacy of your organized resistance led by the Mojahedin. I was pleased when your brave resistance leaders, the people's Mojahedin of Iran was removed from the British list of terrorist organizations. Until now this issue has limited your effectiveness, as it has been in the forefront of western dialogue about Iran and given strength to that oppressive regime. Now, with Iran's definite nuclear stands continue exportations of terrorism the political rational behind the Mojahedin blacklisting has been exposed and nullified. No longer is there any reasonable or legal justification to diminish the influence of your resistance. I congratulate you as the British appeals court ruling offers hope for even bigger victory for the Iranian people and now the status of the Mojahedin in the US and EU system should be clarified and the United States should follow suit and remove the unjust limitations placed on the Mojahedin.

Those who protest inside Iran and the organized resistance outside Iran must remain united in order to overcome the remaining obstacles to a free Iranian nation. Mrs. Rajavi is committed to helping prevent a disastrous war and the Iranian people are allied with those who pursue peace. The Iranian resistance has promised to bring about democratic change in Iran. I share your vision of democratic rule in Iran, rest assured that peace is attainable. I wish you the best in your struggle for peace, freedom and democracy.

Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL)

First I would like to commend the Iranian community around the world for this great achievement, for getting together in Paris and talk about human

rights, to talk about the situation in Iran.

The terrorist regime is obviously a threat to security and peace around the entire world.

But nobody has suffered more than the Iranian people, the people who have to suffer from that daily oppression, from the murders, from the torture of that horrendous regime.

I know that some may say well this suppressing regime has been there so long, it seems like its going to be there forever. But it will not be there forever because the Iranian people deserve their freedom, deserve to live with human rights and with dignity and I am just so grateful to all the Iranians from around the world that keep the faith, that keep on fighting and working and struggling for freedom. Iran will be free, but it will be free because of the hard work, the sacrifice, and the efforts of the Iranian people within Iran, who want freedom. And all of you who are here at this gathering, who continue to work day in and day out for the freedom of that country that will be free due to your efforts.



Commonwealth and European delegates meet in Auvers-sur-Oise



On June 29, Parliamentarians and dignitaries from Britain, Canada, Australia, and Italy met with Mrs. Maryam Rajavi at her residence in Auvers-sur-Oise. She expressed her delight over the great victory achieved in Britain where finally the Parliament ratified the order to remove the PMOI from the UK proscribed list and praised the efforts of the British parliamentarians in this campaign. She also underscored the urgency of getting the PMOI out of the EU list.

The participants in this meeting chaired by Lord Corbett congratulated Mrs. Rajavi for the great achievement in Britain and expressed their determination to get the unjust terror label removed from the PMOI in the EU and other countries. They also expressed confidence that the final victory is imminent and reassured Mrs. Rajavi of the continuing of their support until Iran is freed.

Addressing the UK lawmakers, Mrs. Rajavi referred to the parliamentary debate on June 23 when it was decided unanimously by both Houses of Parliament to remove the PMOI from the UK's list, and said, "I watched the debate last Monday. My feeling was that what we witnessed in the Parliament was a historic and glorious defense of justice and the right of the Iranian people to resistance by the MPs and Peers. It was a formidable line up of proud parliamentarians, speaking out against the policy of appeasement. The Iranian regime had unsuccessfully tried, up to the very last minute, to prevent the deproscription of the PMOI. Not only did they fail, but you rightly reminded the British government of its obligation to seek the immediate removal of the PMOI from the EU terror list."

Mrs. Rajavi stressed, "You crushed the most difficult barrier and unjust measures. You demonstrated that belief in human ideals and values has no limit. Nothing is impossible. We have a saying in our movement, 'we can and we must'."

"I believe with this achievement, you have broken the backbone of the policy of appeasement. That is why I believe even at the European level and in the United States you will have a key role in pursuing the same objective," Mrs. Rajavi added.

She also noted, "Regarding the EU, Lord Bassam, British Home Office Minister, was very clear when he said in the debate that 'it would be strange if EU did not follow our lead. They will need to be advised again and reminded that we have now deproscribed and that that order is in effect'. Therefore, you are in a unique position to demand from the EU to end the injustice against the Iranian people."

Mrs. Rajavi reminded that, "The West has failed to change the mullahs' behavior or to contain them. Time is running out. The international community must take appropriate measures before it is too late. The solution for this crisis is an Iranian solution, and the Iranian Resistance is the answer to the mullahs. That is why the regime fears the Resistance so much. Two weeks ago, in a joint statement three million Shiites expressed support for the PMOI and demanded the eviction of the mullahs' regime from Iraq. The mullahs' angry reaction exhibited their utter weakness. Therefore, the West is making a mistake in propagating the false belief that if the PMOI is removed from the terror list, the mullahs would become more hostile. This is a miscalculation of the mullahs' capabilities. On the contrary, recognizing the Iranian Resistance will send a message of firmness to Tehran. I believe the time has come to make sure that Western governments recognize this reality."

After Mrs. Rajavi's speech, Lord Corbett of Castle Vale, Chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Peers and Chairman of the Iran Freedom Parliamentary Committee, addressed the meeting.

Lord Corbett

We believed that we will win when we started this battle in both Houses of our Parliament because we had the truth on our side and the government had nothing on its side. This really was a battle between truth and lies.

The facts presented to the courts in Britain spoke for themselves. They dictated one clear verdict and the real test for the British legal system was whether the independence which would like to claim for our judiciary in a highly charged political case like this was going itself to stand that test. Our courts did demonstrate their independence and I have to tell you that our government was deeply, deeply upset.

Last Monday in both Houses of Parliament the ministers were less than generous. They want to be grudging about that, ok, be grudging. Because as Mrs. Rajavi said, we have not finished yet.

It was the UK which talked the rest of the European Union into putting this copycat ban on the Iranian Resistance. Our courts have now swept that aside, therefore it has no legal basis in the rest of the European Union and we will do all we can to see that as soon as we are able that ban is lifted right across the European Union. And then altogether the whole of the EU can turn across to the United States.

Trying to appease the mad men in Tehran has done nothing except take them along the road acquiring nuclear weapons and allowing them murder more British and coalition troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Every time a coffin comes off a plane with the Union Jack draped over it, from Iraq or Afghanistan that is a shame on our government because they know who is behind it and the Iranian Resistance have provided the intelligence.

We are not going to go away Madam Rajavi, we are with you on doing our level best to ensure that that new dawn will come in Iran and that

proud nation from whom freedom has been stolen by these mullahs deserves better than this. I do not doubt that the overwhelming majority of the people of Iran want a new start, want a democratic country and can take their rightful place among the rest of the international community.

Lord Waddington, Former Home Secretary

We have got to make sure that the EU does act, the legal basis for the EU ban has disappeared. They must not be allowed to adjourn this matter. Time matters greatly to you, it matters greatly to those who are working to bring democracy to Iran.

I want you to be assured that we will continue working for a cause which we hold very dear. I hope certainly that I will live to see democracy brought to Iran.

Baroness Gould

I joined the parliamentary committee because I was extremely concerned about what was happening to women in Iran and it has been getting worse.

We look very much to you to give us advice and support to continue with the battle and hopefully the next time we hold this meeting it will be in Tehran.

Lord Dholakia

The real battle starts now. We have done the right things so far. We are not just talking about an organization which is genuinely interested in Iran, but we can say with full confidence that the only possible force which can replace the Iranian regime is the PMOI and we should not forget about that.

We do not want our government and the US to continue appeasement of the regime and we have to end that. I do this first of all because of the people in Ashraf City who are there waiting, and for those who have lost their lives and should never be forgotten why they died in the course of this battle.

I like to join you in celebration on streets of Tehran where I can raise my hands and say the victory is for those who are just and fair and that is you.

Joe Benton British MP

I am in total support of all you are endeavoring to do. I was deeply moved by the activities yesterday [in Villepinte]. I found myself very strangely in tune with everything, I felt a real empathy. I assure you on behalf of myself and colleagues in the House of Commons and House of Lords you will have our total support and I pray for you and your movement to proceed in the future

with success and bring justice back to Iran.

Lord King

It is important to note that all three major British political parties have come together to fight the evil mullahs who have committed so many crimes against Iranians. The sooner this regime goes the better it would be for everyone. Yesterday was a celebration for the PMOI coming off the list; the next step should be to get the PMOI and the NCRI recognized by the EU and finally I hope to see you in Iran to celebrate your victory.

Baroness Verma

I was hooked to your cause from the moment I heard about it through your representatives. When I first met you in February, I knew then that whatever was happening and we were working for in the UK was right. The world needs to have a different version of Islam and that is what you and all your representatives are showing that there is a very softer and a very approachable Islam. I hope to join you in Tehran very soon with the free people of Iran.

Baroness Gibson

I noticed that there were many women in the rally yesterday. When women unite they can be very powerful. We are watching the mullahs and know what they are doing to our sisters in Iran and we do not like it. We will continue to work for the Iranian women and the men too. I have a message to the mullahs; we know you do not respect women, women do not respect you either, women of the world do not like you and they are watching you.

Edward Grieves

lawyer

The PMOI's case in POAC was tremendously a historic event on the legal front. If the rule of law does exist in the European Union, then it would have to de-proscribe the PMOI

Lord Cotter

People in the United Kingdom, the European Union and the United States are concerned about the way women and children are treated in Iran and we have to tell them exactly what is going on.

We also have to tell the world about the impact in which the regime has on Iraq and the death toll and what is exactly happening over there. I like to reassure you Madam President that I am with you solidly like many others. If I may represent many of those parliamentarians who had followed the fantastic lead from Lord

Corbett, Lord Waddington and many others by saying that I am sure the increasing support in the Parliament in going to be tremendous now that we have had this great success.

Thank you very much for your wonderful hospitality and all power to the campaign.

Raymonde Folco

Member of Parliament at the federal government in Ottawa in Canada

After the recent victory, we must shift our efforts to Europe, Canada, and the US to remove the PMOI's name from the terror lists. This is certainly a goal in line with the goal of democracy in Iran. It is in line with the aim of providing the Iranian women with the same democratic rights that, for example, Canadian women enjoy.

Antonio Stango

Chairman of the Italian Radical Party, and head of the human rights organization of Helsinki Watch in Italy

After the great success in the court in the United Kingdom we should urgently proceed in the European Union to achieve the same results. We are working on this and we should campaign in every EU country as soon as possible since time does matter. Europe should not only remove the PMOI from the terrorist list immediately but also has to compensate for the damages it has inflicted on the organization and the Iranian people.

It was a shame for Europe and it still exists and we should remove the shame from ourselves in Europe because freedom of Iran is the freedom of all of us. I personally do not feel completely free until 80 million Iranians are free. We will continue with our campaign until we achieve the final success.

Yasmin Ratansi,

Canadian MP

As the first Muslim female member of the Parliament in Canada I like to assure you that we will do everything possible to remove the PMOI from the terrorist list after your success across the Atlantic.

Tom Wappel

Canadian MP

I read the verdict by POAC very carefully line by line and I was very much impressed by it. Now that we have the Court of Appeal's decision and the order to remove the PMOI from the list is passed in both Houses of Parliament in Britain, I will go back to the minister responsible for this case with the help of my colleagues in Canada to push for a review to remove the PMOI from the list.

Maryam Rajavi receives Jordanian MPs

A number of Jordanian parliamentarians, including the Parliament's deputy speaker, as well as other dignitaries from Jordan, met with Mrs. Maryam Rajavi on Monday, June 30, 2008.

The Jordanian delegation was on a visit to Paris to attend the gathering of 70,000 Iranians on June 28 organized in support of Mrs. Rajavi and also democratic change in Iran.

Dr. Mamdouh Al-Abadi, deputy speaker of the Jordanian Parliament; Mr. Mufleh Al-Ruheimi, leader of the majority in the Parliament and former minister; Members of Parliament Mrs. Nareeman Al-Rousan, Mr. Munir Sobar, Mr. Ahmad Al-Atoum, Mr. Ibrahim Al-E'moush, Mr. Abdullah al-Ghoraibeh and Mr. Fakhri Iskandar Daoud; Mr. Soleiman Ubeidat, former MP and Mr. Fakhri Qaawar, another former MP, author, and former chair of the Arab Authors Union, were among the members of the delegation to visit Auvers-sur-Oise, the residence of Mrs. Rajavi.

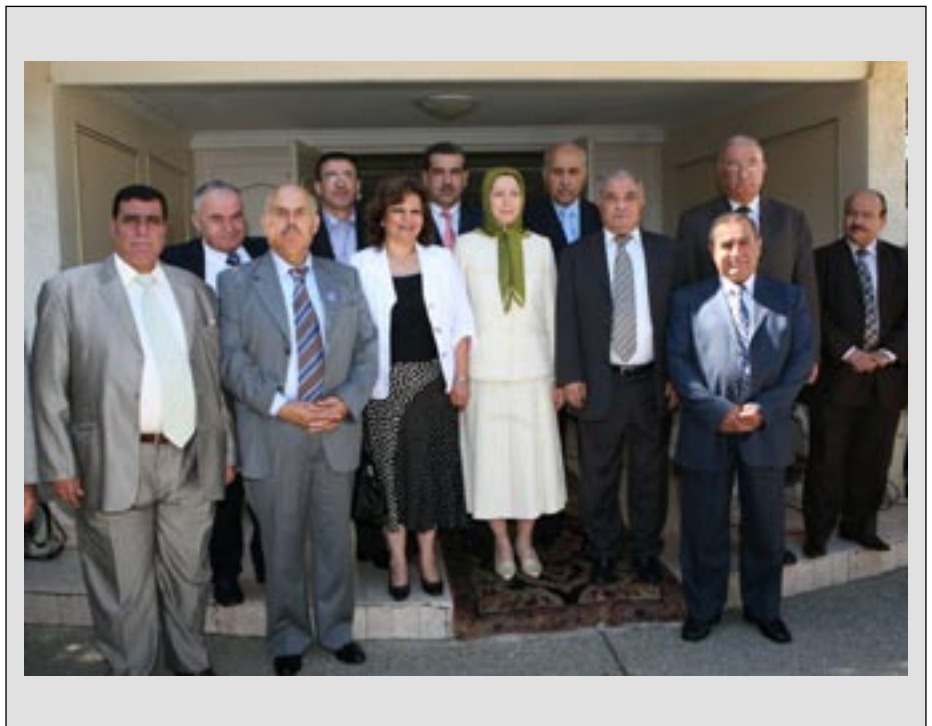
Addressing the situation in the Middle East and the threat of fundamentalism in the region, Mrs. Rajavi told the delegation that the root of most of the problems in the region today lies in an Iran ruled by the clerical regime. "It is the inhuman and anti-Islamic regime of Iran, which seeks division and actively pursues the expansion of fundamentalism. The regime is trying to cover up its historic weaknesses and incurable domestic crises by exporting terrorism and fundamentalism," Mrs. Rajavi said.

The President-elect of the Iranian Resistance told her Jordanian guests that the regime is using deceptive methods and slogans to win support among Muslims and Arab nations, while its lobby is trying to convince the people of the region that an atom bomb in the hands of the mullahs would act as counterweight for Muslims and Arabs against Israel. "This is a big lie," she said, noting that Ali-Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, a former president and a senior figure within the regime, considered by some as a "moderate" and "pragmatic" figure, said two decades ago that if the regime acquired a nuclear weapon, no one would be able to stop the spread of "Islamic rule" to other countries in the region. This is the primary objective of the regime from working to acquire a nuclear bomb, she warned.

"The clerical regime cannot abandon the policy of export of terrorism due to its reactionary nature. Contrary to its propaganda, the regime is extremely vulnerable and is hated by

people inside the country. The recent Majlis (parliamentary) elections were boycotted by 95 percent of the people. The mullahs are unbelievably vulnerable when confronted by their main opposition, namely the PMOI. When the British courts ordered the removal of the PMOI's name from the terrorist list the regime made a furor. Western diplomats involved in negotiations with the regime said that in every meeting with the Iranian regime's delegation over the nuclear issue, cracking down

invitation extended by Mrs. Rajavi to him and the Jordanian delegation for the meeting. In his remarks, he underlined the importance of respect for democratic rights which contrasts the true Islam as opposed to dictatorship under the banner of religion, and added: "We wish Iran to be a free and democratic nation. Those who claim to defend Islam and revolution but promote sectarianism and religious discrimination are massacring people in Iraq on the basis of their religious identity. We in Jordan and in neighboring Iraq never experienced religious division and conflict and in many cases we never knew what religion our Jordanian or Iraqi friends were practicing. These kinds of divisions and religious demarcations are created by those who falsely claim to represent Islam."



From left: Mr. Ahmad al-Atoum, Mr. Fakhri Qaawar, Mr. Abdullah al-Ghoraibeh, Mr. Yahya Al Hammouri, Mrs. Nareeman Al-Rousan, Mr. Soleiman Ubeidat, Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, Mr. Fakhri Iskandar Daoud, Dr. Mamdouh Al-Abadi, Mr. Ibrahim Al-E'moush, Mr. Munir Sobar and Mr. Mufleh Al-Ruheimi

on the PMOI's activities was the top demand of the regime," Mrs. Rajavi told the visiting Jordanian delegation.

Appealing to the Jordanian dignitaries, she said, "As a Muslim woman and on behalf of a resistance with 120,000 of its members executed by the religious tyranny, I call on you to join the Iranian Resistance, the PMOI, and the Iraqi democratic forces and oppressed people, in their life or death struggle. This is essential to put an end to the threats of the religious fascism ruling Iran. This is our duty at this historical juncture and we are all responsible before future generations."

Dr. Al-Abadi expressed his appreciation for the

The deputy speaker of the Jordanian Parliament added that it was important to fight against dictatorship. "We wish you success in your struggle against dictatorship, especially in your fight against a religious dictatorship which does not allow any opposition or freedom of expression," Dr. Al-Abadi said.

Mrs. Nareeman Al-Rousan described Mrs. Rajavi as the symbol of Muslim women everywhere and also women of the Middle East and assured her that people in Arab countries would not be deceived by demagogic claims of the mullahs' regime. She said that patriotic forces in Jordan, Iraq, and other countries judge other forces by their democratic

Meeting Iraqi delegation in Auvers-sur-Oise



Iraqi political and tribal figures as well as leading authors and journalists expressed solidarity with the Iranian Resistance and in particular the PMOI. They pledged to continue defending residents of Ashraf City and denounced Iranian regime's meddling in their country.



A delegation of Iraqi tribal leaders, representatives of political groups and other dignitaries who had attended the June 28, 2008 gathering in Paris met with Mrs. Maryam Rajavi at her residence in Auvers-sur-Oise.

Members of the delegation included Mrs. Meisoon Majid Olyavi, the widow of the late Sheikh Faez Lefteh Olyavi who was murdered by the agents of the clerical regime; Mr. Dhia Sheikhli, member of the leadership of the Iraqi National Accord Movement; Mr. Khalid Hamdan, assistant to Dr. Adnan Duleimi, leader of the Iraqi People's Congress; Mr. Sadeq Mutlak, director of the Iraqi Babeliah TV and

brother of Dr. Saleh Mutlak, leader of the Iraqi Arab Nationalists in Parliament; Sheikh Mazen Habib Kheizaran, the senior sheikh of al-Ezeh tribe; Sheikh Feisal Hom Olyavi, senior sheikh of Neda tribe; Nouredin Mousavi, leader of the Iraqi National Front; Sheikh Matlab Almassari, head of the National Assembly of the Iraqi Sheikhs; Sheikh Abdulhalim Abdulkarim representing Albayati tribe; Dr. Reza Alreza, head of the Association of Iraqi Shiite Jafari; Dr. Minas Al-Yousefi, General Secretary of the Iraqi Christian Democratic Party and Safi Alyaseri, writer and journalist.

Mrs. Rajavi received the delegation warmly and praised them for their stance against the clerical regime and its meddling in Iraq. She thanked

the Iraqis for their help and support to the PMOI members residing in Ashraf City and said: "I pray to god to help the people of Iraq and relieve them from the evil of the mullahs and their meddling."

Based on the experiences in Iran and in Iraq, Mrs. Rajavi underscored the importance of a clear stance against the clerical regime for Muslim nations. She said the key to success in Iran was to concentrate on the threat of Islamic fundamentalism and religious dictatorship as the main enemy after the Iranian revolution.

Speaking to Mrs. Rajavi, members of the Iraqi delegation reaffirmed their solidarity with the Iranian Resistance and stressed the need to have a common strategy together with the Iranian people and their resistance in the struggle to achieve freedom and democracy. They also pledged to stand firm in defense of the PMOI members in Ashraf and reiterated that their solidarity in the fight against terrorism and fundamentalism spread by the clerical regime is before anything else in the interest of Iraq, peace and security in that country as well as its national conciliation. The Iraqi dignitaries emphasized that they considered the PMOI as the best friend and ally for the Iraqi people.

◀ inclinations. She wished Mrs. Rajavi every success in her endeavors.

Mr. Munir Sobar recalled his longtime support for the Iranian Resistance, which goes back to many years ago. He cautioned against conspiracies against the Resistance by the clerical regime and said that he and his colleagues were making every effort to help the PMOI win their battles, and wished them success.

Mr. Fakhri Iskandar Daoud followed his colleagues and said: "I am truly astonished by your organizational capabilities. I am a Christian Arab and as my colleague said, we as Christians or Muslims are working together for one goal and that is to bring about democracy and progress for our people. I am confident that we, Christians and Muslims, can and must live together in peace, and your struggle is in line with this goal. I wish you every success."

Sunday 29 July 2008

Tribal leaders backing Iranian dissidents

Blacklisted group hailed at rally

Some Iraqi tribal leaders have reached out to an Iranian dissident group blacklisted by the United States and the European Union as a bulwark against Tehran's interference in their country's affairs.

The Iraqi leaders were among supporters from Europe and the Middle East who joined a thousands-strong rally organized by the group, the People's Mujahedeen Organization of Iran [PMOI/MEK], outside Paris on Saturday.

"The People's Mujahedeen [PMOI/MEK] is the true friend of the Iraqi people. It is the bulwark against Iranian meddling in Iraq. This is a fact," said Sheik Matlab Ali Abbas al-Massari, president of the National Council of Tribes of Iraq, speaking by phone in the French capital ahead of the rally.

On June 17, the Iraqi government led by Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki banned any dealings with the Mujahedeen.

A prominent Sunni lawmaker, Saleh al-Mutlaq, said the government decision shows how much influence Iran wields over the al-Maliki government.

Mr. al-Mutlaq, who heads an 11-member bloc in parliament, said the People's Mujahedeen [PMOI/MEK] should be used to counter Iran's "destructive role" in Iraq.

"It is an organization that opposes a regime that interferes in our affairs and wants to settle old scores with America on our soil," he said.

Today, PMOI's political branch periodically hosts press conferences, usually to announce new information it claims to have gathered about Iran's nuclear activities. In 2002, it claimed Tehran was pursuing a secret uranium-enrichment program, which proved to be true.

Its supporters are lobbying the U.S. and the European Union to follow Britain's example and remove it from their lists of terrorist organizations.

"Once these restrictions are removed, there will be a tremendous outpouring of support," said Ali Safavi, a member of the foreign-affairs committee of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, or NCRI, the Mujahedeen's political arm, which is based in France.

Sheik al-Massari suggested the People's Mujahedeen could prove effective in battling the Iranian presence in Iraq, particularly if the group was removed from Western terrorist lists.

"They have a lot of restrictions because of this list," he said. "That's why we want this list to be revised so they'll have more direct impact against Iranians in Iraq."

"We have a common interest against Islamic fundamentalism and against Iran," said Hawas Showkat Hassan, head of an anti-terrorist association in central Iraq, who is also in Paris for the Mujahedeen rally.

On Saturday, thousands of young and old supporters packed a vast exhibition hall near the Charles de Gaulle airport outside Paris, demanding the European Union remove the group from its terrorist list.

By labelling the group as terrorists, Western governments "have



WARM WELCOME: Maryam Rajavi (left), leader of the Iranian resistance, is greeted by supporters in Paris on Saturday at a rally against the Tehran government organized by the opposition National Council of Resistance of Iran.

helped the world's most powerful supporter of terrorism," the group's leader, Maryam Rajavi, told supporters.

"Remove this chain with which you have bound the hands and feet of the resistance against the religious dictatorship" in Tehran, Agence France-Presse quoted her as saying.

Those present at the rally included Western politicians, such as Robin Corbett of Britain's Labor Party.

"The sole reason PMOI was on the terrorist list was because the mullahs made it the price of opening talks with Britain and the EU over their nuclear deceit," Mr. Corbett said. "It's not a terrorist organization, and it has never done any harm in Britain."

The Sunday Telegraph

By Christopher Booker
13/07/2008

'Divide and fool' is Iran's plan

While our media have been preoccupied with faked pictures of rockets put out by Iran's sabre-rattling Revolutionary Guards, Tehran's equivalent of the Gestapo, there have been extraordinary developments behind the scenes, in the ongoing drama over the West's outlawing of Iran's main opposition movement, the only real hope of a democratic, secular alternative to that fundamentalist tyranny.

Last month the British Government was forced by the Lord Chief Justice and the Court of Appeal to remove the People's Mujahideen of Iran (PMOI) from its list of banned terrorist organisations.

Britain had only outlawed the PMOI, part of the National Council of Resistance in Iran (NCRI), in a bid to appease Tehran - even though the Revolutionary Guards themselves help to spread terror through the Middle East, from Lebanon and Gaza to Iraq and Afghanistan.

For the mullahs, the lifting of the ban was a serious defeat, since they used this proscription (which Britain persuaded the EU to copy) as evidence to the Iranian people that the West regarded their chief popular opposition as terrorists.

The PMOI is still banned by the EU, however, and Tehran has therefore gone into overdrive to ensure that ban remains.

Having lost Britain's support, Tehran has been focusing its efforts on the French government, which now holds the EU presidency.

Two weeks ago the NCRI staged a huge rally in Paris, attended by 70,000 Iranian exiles, supported by hundreds of MPs and Euro-MPs from across the EU, calling for the EU to follow Britain's lead.

But at a series of secret meetings involving the French foreign ministry and both countries' intelligence services, Tehran has prevailed on the French government to maintain the EU's ban.

With the EU's "foreign minister", Javier Solana, due to meet senior Iranian officials in Geneva next Saturday, to plead with Tehran yet again not to proceed with its nuclear weapons programme, it seems the EU is as bent on appeasement as ever.

This leaves our Government in an extraordinary position. Unless it can persuade the EU to change its mind, thanks to Britain's courts having explicitly ruled that the PMOI is not involved in terrorism, it is now in serious breach of EU law.

And this mess has all come about through a vain bid to appease a regime that, as our Foreign Office admits, has been responsible for killing British troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Isn't it time that this scandalous and humiliating farce was noticed in other parts of the media, and not just this column?



More than 70,000 opposition supporters protest near Paris against ban on opposition group

PARIS - 28 June 2008 - More than 70,000 supporters of Iran's



opposition protested near Paris on Saturday, urging the international community to remove bans on the country's opposition group, organisers said.

Delegations of Iranian PMOI supporters from Germany, Australia, Belgium, Canada, the United States, Britain, Iraq and Jordan took part in the assembly in a hall in the Villepinte suburb of Paris, according to organisers.

"I call on the Council of Ministers of the European Union to erase the name of the PMOI from the list of terrorist organisations," opposition leader Maryam Rajavi told supporters. By labelling the group as terrorists, Western governments "have helped the world's most powerful supporter of terrorism," said Rajavi.

"Remove this chain with which you have bound the hands and feet of the Resistance against the religious dictatorship" in Tehran, she said.



INTERNATIONAL
Herald Tribune

Thousands rally in France in support of Iranian resistance group

Ap Associated Press

Sunday, June 29, 2008

PARIS: Thousands of supporters of an Iranian opposition group called on the European Union and the United States to remove the organization from terror blacklists at a large weekend rally outside Paris.

The National Council of Resistance of Iran - an umbrella group based in Paris that includes the blacklisted People's Mujahideen, or PMOI - held the rally at an exhibition center in the northern suburb of Villepinte just days after Britain removed the group from its list of banned terrorist organizations.

A leader of the National Council, Maryam Rajavi, said the status of the member group in the United States and the EU was hindering its ability to fight for regime change in Iran.



Supporters attended a rally in support of Maryam Rajavi, head of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, and the People's Mujahideen Organisation of Iran near Paris on Saturday. (Handout via Reuters)

In a speech at the rally Saturday, she called the terrorist labels "unjust."

"Do not deprive the world of the most effective means to combat the religious fascism and terrorism," Rajavi said. "Instead, side with those who can bring the Iranian people freedom."

The National Council that said more than 70,000 people had attended the rally, including many based in from neighboring countries in Europe. Some participants arrived from the United States,

Canada and countries in the Middle East and Northern Africa, it said.

Fifteen British lawmakers came to France for the rally, including former Home Secretary David Waddington, organizers said.

Waddington said in a speech at the rally that the British decision was "an important step" and that he had attended to "celebrate." "Now the PMOI can get on with its work," he said later in an interview by telephone.

Tens of thousands call for lifting ban on Iran opposition

By Hugh Schofield
In Paris

BBC NEWS

2008/06/28 - Tens of thousands of supporters

of the Iranian opposition have attended a rally in France organised by the National Council of Resistance of Iran.

It is calling for the lifting of international bans on their movement's armed wing, the People's Mujahideen.

The US and the EU list the wing as a terror organisation, although Britain lifted its own ban in the past week.

The Iranian opposition leader said banning the People's Mujahideen played into the hands of Iran's government.

Organisers said 70,000 people from across Europe attended the rally at an exhibition centre in the northern Paris suburbs.

Among those present were delegations from several European parliaments.

They heard an address from the Iranian opposition leader, Maryam Rajavi, calling on the European Union to remove the designation of "terrorist group" that it applies to the People's Mujahideen.

This week the People's Mujahideen achieved a major breakthrough, when it was dropped from a list of terrorist organisations in Britain, and supporters now say there is no legal justification for maintaining the European ban.





Hurriyet Turkish national daily published a front page photo of the Villepinte gathering and quoted speech by Mrs. Rajavi calling for removal of the PMOI from the terror list in Europe. It noted, "Last week Britain removed the PMOI from its terror list."



Aljazeera Arab satellite TV network



Aljazeera - The annual congress of the Iranian opposition organized by the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran was held in Paris. Hundreds of European and American dignitaries and thousands of Iranian exiles participated in this gathering. The PMOI called on EU to adopt a new policy to counter the Iranian regime.

70,000 gathered near Paris to call on the EU to remove the PMOI from the terror list



Al-Arabia TV, June 29, 2008 – Thousands gathered near Paris to call on the EU to remove the PMOI from its list of terrorist organizations. Parliamentary delegations from Germany, Australia, Belgium, Canada, US, Britain, Iraq and Jordan attended the gathering.

70,000 Iranians gathered in Paris in support of the opposition



Al-Babeliah Iraqi TV network



Alseyassah Kuwaiti daily, June 29, 2008 - Maryam Rajavi, President-elect of the Iranian opposition called on the United States and the European Union on Saturday to remove the PMOI from their terror lists. She was speaking to a gathering of 70,000 Iranians who had come from various European countries, the US and Canada to Paris to express their support to the Iranian Resistance and its President-elect.

Thousands of Iranians called on Europe to remove the PMOI from the terror list



Al-Mostaqbal Lebanese daily, June 29, 2008 – The Iranian opposition in exile gathered tens of thousands near Paris to call on the EU to remove the PMOI out of the terror list. Parliamentary delegates from Germany, Australia, Belgium, Canada, United States, Britain and Jordan attended the gathering of 70,000 according to the organizers.

Frankfurter Allgemeine

Iraner protestieren nahe Paris

mic. PARIS, 29. Juni. Eine Verschärfung der Sanktionen gegen Iran haben Zehntausende Iraner am Wochenende auf einer Kundgebung bei Paris gefordert. Der Nationale Widerstandsrat Irans hatte den Protest organisiert, um die EU-Staaten vor einer Beschwichtigungspolitik gegenüber dem Mullah-Regime zu warnen und für einen demokratischen Machtwechsel in Iran einzutreten. Nach Angaben der Organisatoren nahmen an der Kundgebung in Villepinte, einem Pariser Vorort, 70.000 Exil-Iraner aus ganz Europa teil. Das französische Außenministerium hatte die Kundgebung zugelassen, obwohl die iranische Volksmudschahedin seit 2002 auf der EU-Liste der Terrororganisationen stehen. Im Außenministerium hieß es, die Protestveranstaltung sei vom Widerstandsrat angemeldet worden und deshalb legal. Der Widerstandsrat bildet das politische Schaufenster der Volksmudschahedin. Großbritannien hat in der vergangenen Woche beschlossen, die Volksmudschahedin von der britischen Terrorliste zu streichen. Der Nationale Widerstandsrat hofft, dass das dieses Vorgehen Nachahmer in den EU-Staaten findet. Irans amtierender Finanzminister Hosein Samsami hat derweil laut der Nachrichtenagentur Irna eine Klage gegen die EU eingereicht. Sie hatte vorige Woche beschlossen, der größten iranischen Bank, der Bank Mellat, die Geschäftstätigkeit in Europa zu untersagen.

Frankfurter Rundschau

Demo der Iran-Opposition

Die iranische Exilopposition geht in die Offensive: Bis zu 70.000 Anhänger warben auf einer volksfestartigen Kundgebung bei Paris für einen Sturz des Regimes in Teheran. Nachdem Großbritannien die Volksmudschahedin, eine der wichtigsten Exil-Gruppen, von seiner Terror-Liste gestrichen hat, sieht die Dachorganisation Nationaler Iranischer Widerstandsrat (NCRI) die Zeit für internationale Unterstützung gegen Präsident Mahmud Ahmadinedschad gekommen. Noch stehen die Volksmudschahedin (PMOI) aber auf der Schwarzen Liste von EU und USA.

German national and local media widely reported the June 28 gathering of 70,000 Iranians in Villepinte-Paris. The following are some of the main ones:

Volksfest gegen die Mullahs

SPIEGEL ONLINE Von Stefan Simons, Villepinte
Irans Exil-

Opposition will weg vom Schmuttel-Image: Zehntausende Anhänger warben bei Paris für einen Regimesturz in Teheran. Nachdem Großbritannien die Volksmudschahedin von der Liste der Terror-Organisationen gestrichen hat, erhofft sich der Nationale Widerstandsrat Hilfe von EU und USA.

Villepinte - Fahnen und Wimpel in den Nationalfarben Irans, das Wappentier – roter Löwe vor roter Sonne -, welches hundertfach von der Decke baumelt. Flugblätter, Souvenirs und Propaganda-DVDs, dazu röhrende patriotische Weisen und eine Konfetti-Parade, würdig eines US-Parteitags: So zieht Mariam Radschawi, die "Madonna des Widerstandes", in die Ausstellungshalle von Villepinte einzieht: Vor den Toren von Paris versammeln sich an diesem Wochenende zehntausende Exil-Iraner zu einer Großkundgebung – im Beisein von fast tausend Politikern aus Nordamerika, Europa, Australien und der arabischen Welt.

Die Demonstration der Solidarität, eine Mischung aus Volksfest, Familientreffen und politischem Hochamt, wird organisiert vom sogenannten "Nationalen Widerstandsrat" (NCRI), der hier einen Durchbruch feiert: Das Oppositionsbündnis, das verschiedene Gruppen und Organisationen von Regimegegnern umfasst, hat einen entscheidenden juristischen Sieg errungen: Nach zehnjährigem Marsch durch die Instanzen der britischen Justiz wurden die "Iranischen Volksmudschahedin" (PMOI) – die die stärkste Fraktion im Widerstandsrat ausmachen, vor drei Wochen vom Vorwurf des Terrorismus freigesprochen. Das britische Parlament entschied daraufhin, die einst übel beleumdeten Untergrundkämpfer von der "schwarzen Liste" illegaler Organisationen zu streichen.

DIE WELT

70 000 demonstrieren bei Paris gegen Irans Präsidenten

PARIS - Die iranische Exilopposition geht in die Offensive: Bis zu 70.000 Anhänger warben auf einer volksfestartigen Kundgebung bei Paris für einen Sturz des Regimes in Teheran. Nachdem Großbritannien die Volksmudschahedin (PMOI), eine der wichtigsten Exil-Gruppen, nach siebenjährigen juristischem Kampf vor einer Woche von seiner Terrorliste gestrichen hat, sieht die Dachorganisation Nationaler Iranischer Widerstandsrat (NCRI) die Zeit für internationale Unterstützung gegen Präsident Mahmud Ahmadinedschad gekommen. NCRI hat den Vereinten Nationen mehrfach Informationen über das geheime Atomprogramm Teherans geliefert. Noch stehen die Volksmudschahedin auf den schwarzen Listen von EU und USA. Die Gruppe hatte zusätzlich die islamische Revolution im Iran unterstützt, startete in den 80er Jahren aber vom Irak aus den gewaltsamen Widerstand gegen das Mullah-Regime. AP

Versammlung von 70.000 Oppositionellen in Paris



Der Nationale Widerstandsrat des Irans (NCRI) wirbt in Paris für einen Sturz des

Regimes in Teheran. 70.000 Menschen nehmen an der Versammlung teil. NCRI-Präsidentin Marjam Radschawi fordert die Streichung der iranischen Volksmudschahedin (PMOI), der wichtigsten Organisation des NCRI. Zehntausende Anhänger des Nationalen Widerstandsrates des Irans (NCRI) haben am Samstag bei Paris um Unterstützung für einen Regimesturz in Teheran geworben. Nach Angaben von NCRI-Sprecher Shahin Gobadi nahmen 70.000 Menschen aus aller Welt an der Kundgebung in Villepinte teil. Der Widerstandsrat ist die größte Koalition iranischer Oppositionsgruppen im Exil und hat mehrfach Informationen über ein geheimes Atomprogramm Teherans an die UN weitergeleitet. Der NCRI forderte am Samstag insbesondere die Streichung seiner wichtigsten Organisation, der iranischen Volksmudschahedin (PMOI), von den Terrorlisten der EU und der USA. Großbritannien hatte die PMOI am Montag formell von der Liste gestrichen, nachdem das Berufungsgericht einen Einspruch des Innenministeriums dagegen zurückgewiesen hatte. „Es gibt keinen Grund, dass Brüssel und Washington dem britischen Beispiel nicht folgen“, sagte Gobadi der AP. Die in den 60er Jahren gegründeten Volksmudschahedin bekämpften die Teheraner Regierung jahrzehntelang mit Gewalt vom Irak aus. Der NCRI mit seiner Präsidentin Marjam Radschawi an der Spitze will den iranischen Präsidenten Mahmud Ahmadinedschad stürzen. „Der Widerstandsrat wäre eine Alternative zum Regime, er ist liberaler, was Menschenrechte oder den Umgang mit Frauen angeht“, sagte der Bundestagsabgeordnete Volker Schneider (Die Linke), der am Samstag an dem NCRI-Kongress teilnahm.



Thousands Rally Against Iranian Government Outside Paris

By Lisa Bryant

Paris - 28 June 2008 - Days after the British Parliament voted to remove a prominent Iranian opposition group from Britain's terrorist list, thousands of supporters of the People's Mujahedeen of Iran staged a massive rally outside Paris, Saturday, urging the European Union to follow suite -- and calling for the peaceful overthrow of the Iranian regime.

Young and old packed a cavernous exhibition hall north of Paris, waving blue flags and cheering their support for Maryam Rajavi, leader of the political wing of the People's Muhajedeen of Iran. Rajavi hailed the vote by Britain's parliament to remove the Iranian resistance group from that country's terrorist list, saying it was the end of a period of shame. The People's Muhajedeen is a controversial group, but most people agree it is by far the largest Iranian resistance movement outside that country. Supporters at the Paris rally included several western politicians, including Lord Robin Corbett, a Labor politician in Britain's House of Lords. "The sole reason the PMOI (People's Muhajedeen of Iran) is on the terrorist list was because the Mullahs made it the price of opening talks with Britain and the EU over their nuclear deceit," he said.

But Marie Agnes Kopp, of Strasbourg France, who attended the rally, believes the group offers an alternative to the Iranian government. "I support democracy and peace. I hope the Mujahedeen will work in that sense," she said.



Euro News, 28 June 2008
- Around 70,000 exiled members of the People's Mojahedin of Iran, attended the event in Paris.
Led by Maryam Rajavi, the PMOI says it wants to establish a secular democracy in Iran.



Part of French TV coverages of the Villepinte-Paris gathering of Iranians

TF1

A huge gathering of the Iranian opposition



FR 3

An incredible enthusiasm. Vivas, cheers! a little more this year, because the traditional gathering of the Iranian Resistance, at the end of June, has a scent of victory.



BFM

A few days before the start of the French presidency of the European Union, the People's Mujahideen would like to remind Europeans their determination to overthrow the mullahs' regime in Tehran. They also would like you to stop to be considered as terrorists in Europe.



TV5Monde

A huge emotion for the supporters of Maryam Rajavi who embodies the hopes of the Iranian Resistance.



In a unanimous vote

The British Houses of Parliament deproscribe the PMOI

UK Government spokesman: It would be strange if EU Council of Ministers did not follow the UK lead to deproscribe the PMOI

On June 23, 2008, the House of Commons and the House of Lords unanimously voted to remove the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI) from the list of proscribed organizations. The order was laid before both houses of Parliament by the Home Secretary on the order of the British Court of Appeal in May 2008. Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, President-elect of the Iranian Resistance, congratulated British lawmakers, particularly the 35 parliamentarians who brought a legal challenge against the PMOI's proscription. She described them as the awakened conscience of the British people who rose up against a great injustice to the Iranian people and their Resistance.

During the parliamentary debate before the vote, honorable lawmakers strongly criticized the UK government for proscribing Iran's main opposition in the first place as well as the unlawful continuance of the proscription.

Labour MP Andrew Mackinlay described the decision to proscribe the PMOI as a foolish act of appeasement. "The decision was based on political considerations rather than being taken to protect us against terrorist activity. That is why we have now come to this embarrassing day for the Government," he said, and added, "This continued proscription has been at the bidding and request of the Tehran regime, without any evidence having been produced to justify it. That is not my view, but that of POAC, of the High Court and of the Court of Appeal."

The Conservative MP David Amess said: "The Government must take immediate steps to ensure that the PMOI is removed from the European Union asset freeze list."

Labour MP David Drew also pointed out to the EU listing, saying, "I hope that the Government say that under no circumstances will they carry on with any proscription and that they will say categorically that the de-proscription should take effect in the EU. That should be our diplomatic position as well as our political position here."

The Home Office Minister of State, Tony McNulty, responding to concerns and questions with regards to the EU listing at the Commons, reassured MPs that "We will discuss with our European Union partners the implications of the United Kingdom de-proscription on the EU list." At the House of Lords, Baroness Harris of Richmond referred to PMOI members residing in

Ashraf City, Iraq, and said: "I thank the Minister for coming to this House tonight and beginning a process that I hope will rapidly see the European Union, too, deproscribing the PMOI and supporting those brave Iranians, especially those in Ashraf City, who are fighting for the freedom of their country and who hope, one day soon, to be able to live there in peace."

Lord Slynn of Hadley warned that failing to approve the recent court judgments annulling the terror label against the PMOI would be "the most dreadful attack on the concept of the rule of law." He said: "The very strong judgments of the Proscribed Organisations Appeal Commission, the Court of Appeal and indeed the European Court of First Instance made it utterly plain that justice required the PMOI to be taken off the list. To have two such excellent judgments in this country by eminent judges so clearly stated and not to approve them would be the most dreadful attack on the concept of the rule of law."

Referring to the November 30, 2007 ruling at the Proscribed Organizations Appeal Commission (POAC), Lord Corbett of Castle Vale said: "What the POAC decided was that the Government had got the

law wrong, ignored the evidence and asked the wrong questions, which led them to come to this perverse and flawed decision... The Government now have a duty to ask the EU to remove the ban on the PMOI imposed at their request, and I want to ask the Minister [Lord Bassam of Brighton] to tell me tonight how and when and how soon this will be done."

Former Home Secretary, Lord Waddington, said, "One thing is left to be done. It is now surely up to the Government to see that the EU listing, which was based on the then Home Secretary's original order to proscribe, is also brought to an end."

Lord Archer of Sandwell joined his colleagues and said: "The Government have suffered a humiliating defeat in the courts. Their attitude has been labeled as 'perverse'... I believe that the conclusions reached by all three of the

distinguished courts will be vindicated by the verdict of history."

Calling on the UK government to persuade the EU to lift its ban on the PMOI, Lord Clarke of Hampstead said: "It was clear that the lead given by the British Government, which has now been proved to have been unlawful, motivated other countries to put the PMOI on the European list. The Government should work now to redeem themselves. They can do a penance by saying to our friends in Europe 'We got in wrong.'"

Baroness Turner of Camden said: "It really is disgraceful that the Government were able to persuade the EU to adopt the line it did."

Government Spokesperson for the Home Office, Lord Bassam of Brighton, responded to what he referred to as the Peers' "very strong passions"



and "urgings to democracy in Iran" by saying: "I would be foolish to deny that very strong passions are evoked by the history of the proscription of the PMOI—that much is evident from all sides of your Lordships' House. But we are where we are, and we should proceed.

"We have now moved to deproscription; We have already advised them [EU Council of Ministers] of the POAC decision and said that we intend deproscribing the PMOI. The fact that we were the national competent authority which originally made the decision will be weighing on Council Ministers when they reach their decision. It would be strange if they did not follow our lead. They will need to be advised again and reminded that we have now deproscribed and that that order is in effect. I understand full well the passions, enthusiasms and urgings to democracy in Iran."