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Victory of law and justice,
appeasement policy crushed

**EU
REMOVED
PMOI
FROM
BLACKLIST**

Winds of
democratic
change blow
in Iran



EU de-lists PMOI

On January 26, the seven-year legal campaign by parliamentarians, jurists and the Iranian Resistance succeeded when the EU removed the unjust terror label against the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI). The removal infuriated the mullahs and their backers.

The mullahs' regime and some European powers and large stakeholders, who had previously defied seven court rulings by the highest courts in Europe and Britain, continued to marshal their forces against the removal of the PMOI from the terror list by ignoring the rulings and influencing the votes of the 27 Member State foreign ministers.

In this regard, following the December 4, 2008 ruling of the Court of First Instance of the European Communities in favor of the PMOI and rejecting France's request to delay the implementation of the ruling, the mullahs' Supreme National Security Council, Foreign Ministry and the Ministry of Intelligence and Security, frantically employed all their diplomatic, economic and terrorist threats to resort to enticement and intimidation in compelling European countries to trample upon court rulings. During the days prior to the decision making regarding the new terror list, such attempts took unprecedented and hysterical proportions.

At the same time, the clerical regime summoned European ambassadors to Tehran and also during meetings between the regime's envoys and European officials, especially in Brussels, warned that removal of the PMOI from the terror list would have adverse consequences for economic and political ties. Additionally, in numerous letters to European leaders and in talks with various European national parliamentary visiting delegations or the regime's Majlis (Parliament) deputies' visits to European countries the main topic was basically the delisting of the PMOI.

The regime also resorted to terrorist blackmail of the European countries, especially Germany and reminded them that similar to the 1979 US embassy hostage taking in Tehran could happen to their embassy in Tehran. Thus, the regime attempted to thwart the delisting of the PMOI using every means at its disposal.

Former mullahs' President, Ali-Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani's meeting with the French ambassador in Tehran and the regime's deputy Foreign Minister's visit to various European capitals including Sweden and Belgium and his meetings with EU and European Parliament officials were all part of the effort to prevent the delisting of the PMOI. (IRNA, January 14,

2009).

According to information obtained from within the clerical regime by the Resistance, in a mid-January report, the regime's Foreign Ministry told mullahs' President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad as well as the regime's Supreme National Security Council that, "Currently, all Islamic Republic missions in European countries are active in preventing the Mojahedin's removal from the terror list." "They are presenting numerous documents to European countries to show that the Mojahedin are terrorists. In the midst of all this, France has committed to thwart the removal of the PMOI from the terror list."

The report added, "The reports drafted by intelligence circles of various European countries regarding the case that the Mojahedin are terrorists, rely on information that we have put together in Tehran and submitted to those countries."

Meanwhile, in the last moment, supporters of the unjust and failed policy of appeasement and mollifying the Iranian regime in France resorted to a futile appeal against the December 4 ruling of the EU Court in order to please the mullahs. But, in the end, the Iranian Resistance and justice triumphed over economic interests and the deplorable appeasement policy.

Following this huge victory, on January 27, 2009, in a press conference organized by the European committee "In Search of Justice" in Brussels, dozens of lawmakers from European national parliaments, jurists and human rights advocates of the EU called for the recognition of the Iranian Resistance. Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, President-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, was the keynote speaker. A large number of MEPs, political figures from various Member States, and prominent lawyers and jurists were also in attendance.

At the end of the press conference, the participants joined the victory celebrations in which 15,000 Iranians and PMOI supporters participated amidst the very cold winter weather at Brussels' Schuman square.

Mrs. Rajavi and a number of the figures spoke at this gathering. They described the victory as an important leap towards freedom of the Iranian people and stressed that the seven court rulings in the EU and the UK and removal of the terrorist label against the PMOI ushers in a new era in which the Iranian Resistance must be recognized and third option for bringing democratic change in Iran and the establishment of a democratic, popular and secular state based on the separation of church and state must be supported.

PMOI in brief

Foundation

The PMOI is the largest and most active opposition movement in Iran. It was founded in 1965 by three Muslim intellectuals with the aim of replacing the Shah's corrupt dictatorship with a democracy.

Ideology

Its ideology is based on a democratic and tolerant interpretation of Islam, according to which elections and public suffrage are the sole indicators of political legitimacy.

Platform

The PMOI believes that democracy and freedom are the hallmarks and guarantors of genuine social progress. It strives for a secular system of government and a pluralistic system which would represent the diverse Iranian society.

It advocates free elections, gender equality, and a ban on discrimination against ethnic and religious minorities.

Leadership Council

The organization is now led by a Leadership Council. And its Secretary General is elected every two years. Ms. Sedigheh Hosseini in the PMOI's Secretary General of the organization. She was elected on September 2005 for a two year term and re-elected in September 2007 for another term.

Victims of repression

The PMOI is the prime victim of human rights violations in Iran. Over the past two decades more than 120,000 of its members and supporters have been executed. Dozens have been assassinated abroad. In summer of 1988 alone, some 30,000 prisoners affiliated to the PMOI were massacred in prisons across the country. Amnesty International described the killing as a crime against humanity. Currently, hundreds of its members and supporters are under torture and prosecution.

Anti-thesis of Islamic fundamentalism

By virtue of espousing a tolerant and democratic Islam, the PMOI presents an ideological and cultural challenge to ruling mullahs. Some 5.2 million Iraqis and three million Shiites in that country consider the organization as the most effective bulwark against the Tehran-inspired fundamentalism that threatens the sovereignty and integrity of that country.

Press conference in Brussels

EU must recognize the Iranian Resistance

Parliamentarians across Europe, lawyers and human rights activists welcome removal of the PMOI from EU's blacklist, urge the bloc to recognize the Iranian Resistance



From left: Suad Sbaji, Italian MP; Jens Christian Lund, Danish MP; Struan Stevenson, Euro MP from Britain; Alejo Vidal-Quadras, Vice-President of European Parliament; Maryam Rajavi; Heidi Hautala, Chair of the Committee on Legal Affairs of the Finnish Parliament; The Rt. Hon. Lord Archer of Sandwell, former Solicitor General of the U.K.

Dozens of Parliamentarians from EU national parliaments and the European Parliament as well as jurists and human rights activists urged the European Union to recognize the Iranian Resistance. The announcement was made at a press conference in Brussels on January 27 following the decision by the EU Council to remove the PMOI from the 27-nation bloc's blacklist. The press conference was organized by the European committee "In Search of Justice" (ISJ) headed by Dr. Alejo Vidal-Quadras, Vice-President of the European Parliament, which represents some 2,000 Parliamentarians from all EU member states.

The keynote speaker, Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, President-elect of the Iranian Resistance, said that with the de-listing of the PMOI, the core of Europe's policy of appeasement was crushed and the strategic investment by the mullahs' regime to destroy the Iranian Resistance was lost.

Participants in the conference included: Lady Slynn representing Lord Slynn of Hadley, former judge at the European Court of Justice; Dr. Alejo Vidal-Quadras MEP, Vice-President of the European Parliament from Spain; Struan Stevenson MEP, Vice-President of the EPP-ED group in the European Parliament; Rt. Hon. Lord Archer of Sandwell QC, former Solicitor-General of the UK; Heidi Hautala, Chair of the Committee on Legal Affairs of the Finnish Parliament; Jens Christian Lund, Member of Parliament from Denmark; Jan Zahradil MEP, head of the EPP-ED delegation to the European Parliament from the Czech Republic; Janusz Onyszkiewicz MEP, Vice-Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the European Parliament; Senators Margriet Hermans and Dirk Claes from Belgium; Souad Sbaji, Italian MP; Jean-Pierre Brard, French MP; Prof. Henk De Haan, former Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Dutch Parliament; David Kilgour, former Canadian MP and Secretary of State for Asia-Pacific; Jean-Pierre Spitzer, the PMOI's lawyer at the European Court; William Bourdon, prominent French human rights lawyer; Alain Vivien, former French minister; and Francois Colcombet, former judge and French MP.

Washington will be my next port of call for delisting the PMOI

Struan Stevenson

Co-chair of the Friends of a Free Iran inter-group at the European Parliament

The conference was opened by Mr. Stevenson welcoming the participants. He said:

First of all a huge congratulation to Mrs. Rajavi and the NCRI now that we have the PMOI off the list.

It has been seven long years. It was back in 2001 that the EU decided after 9/11 that they create the EU terrorist list. In 2002, in an act of craven appeasement, the UK government, with Jack Straw as the Foreign Minister, agreed to a request by the mullahs to place the PMOI on the UK terror list. The UK government then asked the Council of Ministers to follow their lead.

Those seven years represented a dark period for the European Union. The rule of law is what we founded our European institutions on. When we are confronted with member states openly defying the rule of law, using it simply for political expediency to suit the demands of the moment and the commercial pressures being placed upon them by the mullahs, it is indeed shameful, disgraceful, and an embarrassment. I condemn France for the role they have played in this regard. They should be ashamed of themselves. But during those black years, we found our true friends. There are also member states who understand the importance of upholding the rule of law and



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upholding the judgement of the Court of First Instance. After seven consecutive court cases in the UK and Luxembourg, we have seen victory with the Council of Ministers yesterday agreeing that the new terror list should not include the PMOI.

I can tell you that my frustration during those seven years became so much that I recently declared to the world in general that if the PMOI is terrorist, then I too am a “terrorist” because I support them.

We cannot rest easy until we have followed this example in the United States, too. The Clinton administration put the PMOI on the US terror list also at the direct request of Tehran. The mullahs’ hysteric reaction in the last couple of weeks as they understood that there was a move on foot to remove the PMOI from the list, shows how much they fear the return of freedom, democracy and Mrs Rajavi.

Appeasement will always fail in the end. We have seen its abject failure this week. It is incredible that the PMOI, at risk to their lives in Iran, were the ones who revealed to the West information showing that the Iranian regime had a clandestine nuclear program. How did the West reward the PMOI for risking their lives to reveal such information? We placed them on the terror list.

The fascist mullahs ruling Iran are the real terrorists, but we regard them in the West as our friends and our allies! It is an incredible paradox. And I hope the decision of the Council yesterday will reverse this process so that we now clearly understand who our real friends are and provide to the people of Ashraf City the protection that they require. When we regarded them as terrorist in the West, it made it easy for the mullahs, using their acolytes and the Iraqi government, to try to introduce new laws that would close Ashraf City and deport all the 3500 brave and courageous people there to Tehran where they would face certain torture and death.

Well they are no longer on the terror list and this excuse by some members of the Iraqi government and by the mullahs no longer holds water. They must now be regarded as people bona fide protected by the Geneva Conventions as has been the case all along. So, it has been a great victory but we have a much longer journey ahead of us, and a lot more work to do. Washington will be my next port of call. If the Obama administration and the State Department ask me ‘can we trust the PMOI,’ I want to be able to say, using Barack Obama’s own words, “yes, we can”.



The next step is to put the real terrorists on the list

Alejo Vidal-Quadras

Vice-President of the European Parliament

I think we have learned some lessons from this great victory. One lesson is a very practical one: if you resist long enough, you will win. We resisted and we fought for many years until this day finally arrived.

Today I feel proud to be European because during all these years of struggle I did not feel much pride at times. Today I have again inside me, my pride of being a European citizen because we have seen that our system of rule of law works.

The people who are not terrorists are out of the list now, and the ones that are the real terrorist are in government. The next step is to put the real terrorists on the list.

Mrs. President, I really want to congratulate you because your leadership has been a decisive factor in this fight and in this delightful victory. I decided to get involved in this campaign after I met you. You truly convinced me. By talking to you, listening to you, learning about you, your life, your accomplishments and your dreams for Iran, I really came to an understanding that I should also put my modest contribution to this.

There is another lesson to learn: team work. There were three components in such team work. Your organisation is really exemplary in how you organise things, your commitment, and your determination. You never seem to be tired of something. It is extraordinary. So this was essential. Another part that was decisive as well was the work of the legal team. I can only express my admiration for this legal team. It was really wonderful.

And the third leg of this victory was political action. This is where we in the European parliament and other national parliaments have done as much as we were able to. Thousands of parliamentarians have been putting political pressure on governments and giving you public support. Let me say modestly that we also had done our part.

So the combination of these three elements, which included your organisation, this extraordinary legal team and our modest political work, has led to this result in the end.

And now, Mrs. President, we start a new Iran. Your hands are free and your work will gain in efficiency and also our capacity to operate with you. Now there is only one thing to say to you, Mrs President: See you in Tehran.



We have to ensure that the brave people in Ashraf are safeguarded

The Rt Hon. Lord Archer of Sandwell

Former Solicitor General of the UK

Yesterday was a day which will remain in our memories, inscribed in our history books, and kept in our hearts. It did not mark the end, but represented a very important milestone in a significant saga. Please allow me on behalf of the United Kingdom delegation to say that we hope that we have done something to pay a debt. Because it was the United Kingdom which began the unhappy story by labelling the PMOI as terrorist. It was the United Kingdom which was the responsible member of the EEC

for a very long time. What we began must have been repaired, because it was the Proscribed Organisations Appeal Commission which first said that the PMOI are not to be labelled as terrorist. History will find it very difficult to comprehend why those who were at the forefront of resistance against the mullahs, sometimes at the cost of great sufferings and their lives, were labelled terrorists.

A British statesman once said, “This is not the end, it is not even the beginning of the end, but it is the end of the beginning.” We have still more tasks, as you said Madam Rajavi. We have to ensure that the brave people in Ashraf are safeguarded and their rights are secured.

PMOI is an integral part of the democratic opposition in Iran



Heidi Hautala

Chair of the Legal Affairs Committee at the Finnish Parliament

I was the president of the Green group in the European Parliament at the time of 9/11. I can assure you that the European Parliament, together with the legal community and some member states, tried their best to show that even those individuals and organisations who end up on international listings of terrorist organisations and terrorists must have legal protection against the abuse of these measures and instruments.

I know that a great number of parliamentarians who have signed appeals to the EU governments on removing the PMOI from the list of terrorist organisations are doing it because they find it of utmost importance that the rule of law is indeed obeyed and followed in the European Union.

Clearly, the PMOI, however you view at the case, has become an instrument in a political game.

Now it is clear to me that when we speak of Iran, we speak of a religious dictatorship. We have to recognise that it was indeed the PMOI who exposed the nuclear undertaking of this regime in 2002.

In my view, the day has come when the PMOI can indeed show the world that it is an integral part of the democratic opposition against the Iranian regime. It can look for partners, the human rights community in the world and other organisations who want to help it defend human rights and democracy in Iran.

I would like to congratulate Mrs Rajavi. I know that our struggle for the rule of law in the case of PMOI is not over.

Excerpts from Mrs. Maryam Rajavi's speech at the conference:

Finally, justice prevailed. The European Union conceded to the rule of law. The unjust label on the PMOI has been removed. Seven years of political and legal campaign by parliamentarians, jurists and the Iranian Resistance have borne fruit. A major obstacle for change and establishment of democracy in Iran has been removed

This is an exceptional moment in European history. Victory of law over petty economic interests. Victory of Justice over appeasing religious fascism. Removing the PMOI from the list, sends a strong signal to the Iranian people as it encourages them in their struggle for freedom.

I take this opportunity to commend pre-eminent European jurists, especially the Right Honourable Lord Slynn of Hadley, for their invaluable contribution to this campaign. I extend my profound gratitude to the European Committee of



Maryam Rajavi

Time has come to recognize the rights of Ashraf residents, remove unjust restrictions against them

“In Search of Justice”, led by European Parliament Vice President, Dr Alejo Vidal Quadras, and the British Parliamentary Committee for Iran Freedom led by Lord Corbett and other parliamentary committees in France, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Luxembourg, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, the European Parliament and members of parliaments in Finland, Czech Republic and other countries for supporting the Iranian Resistance in this campaign. In this historic moment Let us commemorate late Lord Russell Johnston and Lord Renton.

Allow me here to underscore some important issues:

- 1- The unjust terror label against the PMOI inflicted great damages to the people of Iran and the Middle East namely the arrest and execution of many youth, impeding democratic change in Iran and encouraging the religious fascism to more warmongering and export of terrorism in the region.
- 2- Now however, the time has come to turn this dark page. Time has come to think about the future. Yesterday's decision reflected the will of a strong majority in Europe who are no longer interested in continuing the policy of cracking down on the democratic Iranian opposition and continue appeasing the ruling mullahs. Thousands of Iranians, who have organized a victory rally not far from here, also seek a new chapter in the relations between the people of Iran in the relations and Europe.

- 3- After removal of the PMOI from British and European Union's lists, maintaining the PMOI on the US State Department's list has no justification and it is illegitimate more than ever before. I hope the new administration of the United States will make the most important aspect of change that is putting aside the policy of appeasement with the mullahs and delisting the PMOI.
- 4- Time has come for the Iraqi government to recognize the status of the residents of Ashraf as protected persons under the Fourth Geneva Convention and remove the unjust restrictions against them.
- 5- Time has come to recognize this Resistance movement as the democratic alternative to the illegitimate regime ruling Iran. Democratic change by the people of Iran and its Resistance is the key to the Iranian crisis and is the most efficient option to contain a regime which is the most serious threat to global peace and security.
- 6- Time has come to place this illegitimate regime in the terrorist list and imposing comprehensive sanctions against it. It is time to send the file of mullahs' crimes against people of Iran and the world, including 120.000 - one hundred twenty thousand political executions, to the Security Council of the United Nations.



My heart will work to create democracy in Iran

Jans Christian Lund

Danish member of Parliament

This day is a very special day for me and for a lot of people in the world. But my heart is divided into two. The left part knows that this may represent the best day for many, many years for me, because the PMOI is being taken off the terror list. Congratulations to you, Mrs Rajavi. You have been doing a marvellous job. I am happy for the Resistance movement in Iran. But especially I am happy for the people in Iran because I hope that this decision will lead to the possibility for Iran to have democracy, human rights, free and fair elections, rights for minorities, rights for women, free and independent press and freedom of speech.

The other part of my heart contains sorrow. I am sorry that we have kept the PMOI on the list for so many years. I am sorry that it has taken so many court decisions and yet we did not obey the rule of law. I am sorry that Iran was refused the chance to become a democratic country, because the history of this country demands this country to be a democracy.

I think it is really important that all of us, who have supported the PMOI and the NCRI, are working for democracy in the future. I am sure with Madam Rajavi as a leader, it will go on in a proper direction and I think that is especially important. I would also like to say a few words about Ashraf. It is of course extremely important that people are being treated well in Ashraf. I have a picture of a very, very beautiful lady in Ashraf. And everyday I take this picture and look at her and say: we will support you in your city in Ashraf. I said my heart was divided, but it is not. It is in one piece and my heart will work to create democracy in Iran.



It is time to go into action

**Senator Marguerite Hermans
from Belgium**

I am a very emotional but a very happy person today. I know that the battle has been very long and I have joined you in several occasions sometimes unexpected. I was in Geneva a few weeks ago and I was really touched by your people sitting there with all the flags, with courage, in the cold and in the rain. So I am very delighted today.

I think this is not really a beginning, it is not the end, but now it is time to go into action and to follow the way you have already showed us.

Jean-Pierre Brard

*Member of French
National Assembly*



We will continue our solidarity with the Iranian people

The majority of French members of Parliament founded the parliamentary committee for a democratic and secular Iran, which aims to support the PMOI, and we welcome this great victory.

The battle is not over yet. What remains is to bring down the mullahs, but to also prevent the further actions of those who do not recognize the courts' rulings.

We have a special role regarding the French government in order to prevent it from being tempted to persist further. We want an end to what has been done since 1980 when PMOI moved to France. We want to continue our political efforts, because that is how we will win, faithful to our traditions, from the French Revolution, but also knowing that appeasement never leads anywhere. Our history has taught us that lesson.

In 1936 we agreed to appease Hitler, and there is a lot of similarity between Hitler and Ahmadinejad. We all know the events that followed. So with utmost energy, we must oppose such appeasement. We will remain faithful and we will continue our solidarity with the Iranian people who suffer so much, and are so wonderfully represented by you Madam President and your friends.

Mrs. Rajavi gave hope to all of us as Arab women



Souad Sbai

Italian MP, adviser to government on Islamic affairs

Thank you for this wonderful news. We have all gathered here with our colleagues and Italian parliamentarians. The decision yesterday by the EU Council of Ministers was a victory for the rule of law in Europe. But above all, it was a defeat for the Iranian regime which succeeded over too many years to blackmail a Europe that submitted to its demands.

This is not the final victory. We can even say that the hardships will increase from here onwards. We need to intensify our efforts for a democratic peaceful change. This is a victory for many women, women whom we see every day struggling to raise awareness. I sincerely wish to thank Mrs. Rajavi. She gave hope to all of us as Arab women and hope for freedom and the future.

France must close immediately the judicial case against Iranian opposition



William Bourdon

French lawyer

I would like to express my great satisfaction at the EU's decision that came after several decisions by the European judiciary which have signified blows to France each time.

Today, there is an arm-wrestling between France and the EU that must end quickly. It is a kind of stubbornness on the part of France that is not understandable. Until it does stop, Mrs. Rajavi and her friends remain as judicial hostages. For as long as this is the situation, they are all considered as levers and shameful pretexts for the mullahs' regime to put pressure on France.

There is only one solution left for France and that is to put an end to this shame and arm wrestling and close immediately the judicial case against the leaders of the Iranian opposition in France. Today there is nothing to justify this inexplicable obstinacy.

France must learn from the very strong EU message: the case of terrorism in France against the PMOI was absolutely empty six years ago. It is perhaps even emptier today. France would do well to join the European consensus and restore to Mrs. Rajavi and her friends the honour they deserve, being the infinitely respectable and worthy representatives of a fully democratic alternative to the mullahs' regime.

The 4 December court victory was a slap in the face of appeasers



Jean-Pierre Spitzer

French lawyer at the EU Court

It is an honour to be here. It will soon be seven years since the day you asked me to submit an application to the Court of First Instance in Luxembourg. Since then we have led this struggle for justice under the leadership of Lord Slynn and my friend David Vaughan.

I want to say first that I admire your courage. We must remember that in May 2002, almost seven years ago, you were facing the whole world and the entire system of institutions. You were on blacklists everywhere. Despite all that, you decided to begin your fight against that designation not by force but through the legal system. I found that decision to be admirable.

Secondly, you provided the opportunity for me to wage this struggle alongside my British friends. It is rare in the life of a lawyer to defend a cause and at the same time advance the rule of law for an entire continent.

The Court of First Instance had ten months to decide on the first case. We presented our arguments in February 2006 and the verdict was issued on 12 December. Then we were very clearly and strongly supported by the Proscribed Organizations Appeal Commission (POAC) and the Court of Appeal in the UK.

Another privilege in the life of a European lawyer is to see a European court deliver its judgment in less than 24 hours. We agreed to plead at 1 pm and the decision was delivered the next day at 11am. So it was a ruling issued in about 22 hours. The court had never before made a decision in less than 15 days in cases of an urgency.

This means that the system worked and it ended with a slap at all of our institutions. Indeed, the decision of 4 December, as I wrote to Mr Kouchner, was effectively a slap in the face. It was followed by another slap on 17 December. That day was wonderful because it was also my 60th birthday. I can never thank the European judges enough for that. We had not even responded to the new complaint which was filed on 4 December in order to come up with a new trick to try to circumvent the rule of law. On 17 December the judges told them enough is enough.

Mrs. Rajavi, you were wonderful with your whole team, which included Mr. Mohaddessin and my friend Farzin. We fought in this battle with you and for you. So, this is your victory and thank you for allowing me to lead it while at your side.

15,000 jubilant Iranians celebrate PMOI's victory outside EU headquarters in Brussels

European parliamentarians and dignitaries join Iranians in celebration together with Maryam Rajavi



Maryam Rajavi:

“Our struggle aims to bring democracy and freedom to Iran”

Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, President-elect of the Iranian Resistance attended the gathering of 15,000 Iranians in Brussels' Schuman Square on January 27 who had come across Europe to celebrate the historic victory. The following are excerpts from her speech at the rally:

The obstacle of the terrorist allegation has crumbled. The spell has at last been broken. With perseverance and determination, you courageously rose above the flames of injustice and rendered law and justice victorious. Your resistance established the right of the Iranian people to struggle for freedom. This marks a decisive turning point on the course of democratic change in Iran. It is the beginning of a momentous era and a prelude to the liberation of our enchained homeland.

You prevailed over the political motivation of European governments to appease the mullahs. So, you will certainly prevail against the mullahs' regime.

Throughout these years, those who instigated the label repeatedly stated that they listed the PMOI at the behest of the mullahs' regime. They disgraced themselves for the benefit of the mullahs and eventually had no choice but to accept the rule of justice.

But, if justice were to be implemented, then all the material and moral damages to the Iranian Resistance and the people of Iran must be compensated.

Do you remember those courageous men and women who were martyred during the most devastating bombing campaign? They were the martyrs of Iranian freedom and independence. Do you remember the June 17th fiasco? Recall the raids and arrests, the confiscation of documents, archives and assets, and the imposition of all sorts of blockades and restrictions.

Indeed, this label resulted in much harm to the Iranian people. It endowed the mullahs with a pretext to set up construction cranes to hang Iranian youth. Indeed, this listing was a decree to end the resistance.

However, you did not sit by and watch silently. Your campaign led to more than one hundred resolutions and statements from the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, as well as parliaments in various countries.

Your campaign led to dozens of inquiries and official parliamentary protests, non-stop flow of letters and complaints from 8500 lawyers and jurists across Europe, and drafting of 21 specific legal opinions by some of the most prominent legal minds such as Lord Slynn, Prof. Eric David, Prof. Antonio Cassese, and Prof. Henry LeBayle, among others. Hundreds of political, legal and press conferences took place. About 50 large-scale demonstrations and 800 protests were conducted by you across the globe; A thousand visits to embassies of European countries; Thousands of letters of protest and objection; And thousands upon thousands of hours of hard work.

But all these efforts and protests would meet the hard and black walls of oil and gas contracts, of geopolitical interests, of dormant senses of

conscience, and of hardened hearts.

During the past seven years, the courts continually and repeatedly ruled to annul the terror allegation against the PMOI. The [European Court of First Instance] in Luxembourg issued four rulings, and the UK High Court and Court of Appeal handed down three verdicts. But, regrettably, the EU Council of Ministers ignored all these.

What was the logic behind such defiance, and what were the methods utilized in the process? Their decision, according to the UK [High Court] tribunal, was “perverse.” Their methods, according to the Court of First Instance, were tantamount to abuse of powers. Through blatant schemes, the decision taken by some of the large EU governments were imposed on the rest of EU Member States.

Lastly, they resorted to confidential documents. But when these documents were presented in court, it became clear that the reason they were kept confidential was incidentally, to quote the UK Chief Justice, because they “reinforced the conclusion that the PMOI is not involved in terrorism.”

Indeed, it was the never-ending struggle of the Iranian Resistance, your inspirational persistence, the solidarity of parliamentarians and honorable European personalities, and the just court rulings which eventually compelled them to end the unjust label.

Take pride in your resistance which today has fulfilled a part of the Iranian nation's rights after an unfair and unequal battle. Yes, it was indeed a tough and unequal battle. On the one side, there you were without the support of any powers or governments, and on the other side the biggest powers of Europe from whom the regime had secured commitment and cooperation for suppressing the Iranian Resistance.

But, you did not surrender to any power. You upset the political balance of power. It was you who brought about what was right and just, and it will be you who will eventually establish freedom in Iran.

It was an unequal battle because the mullahs enjoyed the support of some of the biggest oil and gas companies in Europe lobbying at presidential palaces to keep the PMOI on the terror list. But, the power of the solidarity of the people of Europe defeated that agenda.

One of the biggest European powers had hired an army of experts to discredit the court ruling. But your quest for justice defeated that agenda. The regime's officials and envoys in European capitals went back and forth to sign deals. They resorted to all sorts of threats and enticements. They, along with their allies, had marshaled a huge force. However, your faith and sense of resistance was much more superior.

You worked hard and vigorously all over Europe, from the east to the west and from the north to the south. There was no location left for you to visit and there was no door left for you to knock on. You brought those with an awakened conscience to your side and alerted the conscience of the rest.

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“The objectives of our struggle are justice, freedom and democracy for our country Iran; The establishment of a republic based on the separation of church and state, and a society in which women and men are equal; The abolishment of the death penalty, and ending the era of torture; The closing of the dark chapter of inquisition and compulsory veiling; The upholding of individual and social rights and equal economic opportunity; And a nuclear free and peace-seeking Iran”

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The removal of the PMOI from the EU's blacklist is a victory for law and justice. This is an accomplishment which belongs to all jurists, members of parliament, and honorable and esteemed personalities who rose up to defend the rule of law in solidarity with the Iranian people's Resistance.

These esteemed individuals include: Lord Slynn, who with his inspirational commitment and faith took the leading role in the legal battle of this Resistance in European and British courts; Madame Danielle Mitterrand, who during the toughest days strongly defended the Resistance against raids, attacks, and demonizing campaigns; Dr. Vidal Quadras, who with complete faith and strong abilities, led an international committee, encompassing two thousand parliamentarians, in support of the PMOI; Lord Robin Corbett, who rose up everywhere he could in defense of the democratic Iranian Resistance.

They were joined by other honorable and revered personalities such as Sid Ahmed Ghozali and Lord Archer of Sandwell, who during this enormous campaign proved their dedication to the ideals of justice and freedom with all their might.

Indeed, at the heart of this long and difficult battle to remove the terror label, a new Europe was born. This is a Europe that stands with the people and Resistance of Iran, and does not cooperate with the ruling fascism in Iran; A Europe which defends justice and law; A Europe which considers democracy and human rights in Iran as a necessary precondition for peace and security in the world and for safeguarding the European people's true interests.

These personalities represent dedication and commitment towards democracy, justice, and law in the contemporary world. They stood against and opposed Western governments' policy of appeasement. They exposed the wrong prevalent policies and undertook an awareness campaign for the adoption of the correct policy.

They finally cracked open the seemingly unsurpassable foreign policy barrier which was built upon economic interests. They endowed Europe with a monumental political and moral victory. This is the Europe that stands with the Iranian people.

Now is the time to reassess all policies that have been based on appeasing the religious fascism and suppression of its democratic opposition. Now is the time for this Resistance to be recognized as the democratic alternative to the illegitimate regime ruling Iran, and to return Iran's seats at international assemblies to its true representative, the Iranian Resistance.

And, now is the time for international condemnation of the ruling regime in Iran as the central banker of terrorism and an immediate threat to global peace and security.



“I hope that the new US President would fulfill the most important and vital aspect of change in American policy, which is to stop placating the mullahs and remove the terror label from the PMOI”

I hope that the new US President, who obtained victory through the slogan of change, would fulfill the most important and vital aspect of change in American policy, which is to stop placating the mullahs and remove the terror label from the PMOI.

Now there is no pretext left for the Iraqi government to avoid acknowledging the legal status of Ashraf City's residents. The Iranian Resistance, which respects the government and sovereignty of our brother neighbor Iraq, expects the Iraqi government to recognize the legal rights of Ashraf residents as protected persons under the Fourth Geneva Convention and lift the unjust restrictions against them, thus demonstrating its commitment towards democratic norms and standards, as well as law and justice, to the rest of the world.

I must take this opportunity to also thank the political parties, members of parliament, and religious leaders in various countries who rose up in support of Ashraf City. Ashraf City is the symbol of democracy in the Middle East and espouses novel moral and humanitarian norms.

Ashraf residents are inspirations to the people and especially the youth and women of Iran who demand freedom and equality.

Have you noticed the extent to which the ruling mullahs have in recent days lost control and are in agonizing pain? They are in shock that the terror label, the result of their years of diplomacy and foreign policy initiatives, has now been washed away. For this reason, the mullahs consider their investments to blockade and lock the resistance movement completely wiped out. They see the end of their psychological warfare, their 24-hour

propaganda to discredit the Resistance, and their claims that resistance has been finished. From this day forward, they will fear one hundred times more the courageous women and students who rise up with the chants of 'Death to dictator.'

From this day forward, they will fear one hundred times more the anger of workers and teachers who conduct protests and strikes against their lack of pay. And, we say to them: Tremble; Tremble because the end of your era has come.

Since the outset, the point of our struggle against the terror listing has been nothing but the fulfillment of the Iranian people's right to resist against a dictatorship. The objectives of our struggle are justice, freedom and democracy for our country Iran; The establishment of a republic based on the separation of church and state, and a society in which women and men are equal; The abolishment of the death penalty, and ending the era of torture; The closing of the dark chapter of inquisition and compulsory veiling; The upholding of individual and social rights and equal economic opportunity; And a nuclear free and peace-seeking Iran.

Indeed, our struggle aims to bring democracy and freedom to Iran, and this is a struggle which will continue until its inevitable triumph.

Expressing solidarity

The following are some of the messages of solidarity by dignitaries who took part in the Brussels' rally:

Rt. Hon. Lord Slynn of Hadley

Former judge at the European Court of Appeal and Law Lord

Lord Slynn's message was read out by Lady Slynn as he could not attend the rally due to health problem:

very much regret that for health reasons I'm not able to be here today. But my wife has been asked to read a brief message for me. This is an important day, not just for the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran but also for the principles of democracy and rule of law in Europe. European institutions and courts must, of course, like national bodies, control and restraint our activities. At the same time, such control must be maintained in the Union, according to the principles laid down by the law of the Union. This means that in the first place, the conditions to fulfill the test of what is terrorist activity are defined and satisfied. After much parliamentary activity, the Community pointed the way clearly. The judgment of the European Court of First Instance gave an important lead in the process. The judgment of the Proscribed Organizations Appeal Commission of the UK and the Court of Appeal showed firmly and definitively that on proper analysis there was no evidence or material upon which the decision to put the PMOI on the list could any longer be justified. Looking at all the material of recent years, to which PMOI members and supporters and those in and out of parliaments have contributed, it is quite plain that there is no justification for maintaining the PMOI on the proscribed list. The rule of law does not allow it. The rule of law requires it to be set aside. Those who have peacefully supported the rule of law in Europe and the brave and dedicated people of Ashraf have contributed so much do not merely deserve more; They are entitled to such results. As a lawyer, as a citizen, I am delighted that these results have been achieved. And I express my warmest congratulations to the PMOI members and to their inspirational leader, Mrs. Maryam Rajavi.



In all my political life, I have never seen such committed people as you, who have sacrificed everything for democracy and freedom. You really deserve this victory. You are the real guarantee for democracy, freedom, and human rights in the future of Iran.

And I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate a man, who I have never met but that I feel is very close to my heart. I want to congratulate Massoud Rajavi. I want to congratulate the historical leader of the Iranian Resistance, not just for today's victory, but also for bringing up and educating such a committed and dedicated generation, a generation of Iranian people which is leading this resistance against the regime worldwide. I am very happy that yesterday, the people in Ashraf heard the voice of Massoud Rajavi after six years. I hope to have the opportunity to meet Massoud Rajavi very soon and present to him our admiration and our friendship.

Today has been a great victory, but there is still a long and difficult road ahead of us. But we can accomplish our goals if we work together, as we have done until today, with faith in the future, with faith in freedom and democracy.



Rt. Hon. Lord Archer

I have a message to deliver. Someone whose name has not been mentioned this morning came to me last night and said, "would you please give our friends my warmest congratulations and best wishes." That was Lord Tony Clark. Time is against us, so I can't say all the things I loved to have said. May I say this, Madame Rajavi, that I believe in the future many books will be written about what you have done when you return to Iran. I believe that many books will be written about what kind of person you were. But only those of us who have met you, heard you, and loved you, will really know the secret of what you have achieved.



Dr. Alejo Vidal-Quadras

As a European citizen, who despises the appeasement policy with the ruling totalitarian regime in Iran, I feel the debt we owe to the Iranian people and its Resistance has today been in part paid. I would like to congratulate my good friends in Ashraf City and especially Ms. Parsai, the head of Camp Ashraf. I had such beautiful days in Ashraf City with all of you, which I will never forget.

We know that this unjust terrorist tag has created so many problems for people in Ashraf. It is a shame for Western countries to have sided with the religious totalitarian regime against the legitimate resistance of the PMOI. I would like to declare today that we will be with Ashraf with all our force, and we will support it. After the removal of the PMOI from the blacklist, any violation of the rights of Ashraf residents is unacceptable, and we will not accept it.

Abusing Ashraf is an abuse of democracy, an abuse of the sacred right of asylum, an abuse of international law, and an abuse of humanitarian values. We will confront all such violations.

Henrik Sjarrel

Former Swedish MP

In my view, there was absolutely no other way for the EU Council of Ministers to honestly choose yesterday than the pure rule of law in respect of many similar judgments by the European Court of First Instance, namely to at last remove the PMOI from its terrorist list. Any other made up stories would in fact have been shameful and ridiculous. So, we celebrate it if late, but better be late than never. Today is the victory of truth, justice and honesty.



Alain Vivien

Former French Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs



The mullahs are now trying to demonstrate in front the embassies of EU countries which have put an end to the inclusion of PMOI on the list of terrorist movements. They probably intend to

continue their efforts, but they will not be able to maintain their religious dictatorship. On the contrary, Iran's future is being decided today. Thank you for what you do, and be sure of our support.

Prof. Dr. Henk De Haan

Former Chair of Dutch Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee



Congratulations to you, Madame Rajavi. We have great festivities here today. But, we have to keep in mind that we have to look to the future to the people without all the festivities in your beautiful country, in Iran,

and also in Ashraf City. And we should now show the strengths that we have to protect the people of Ashraf City. The ultimate goal is, of course, a free and democratic Iran. Thank you for coming.

Hon. David Kilgour

Former Canadian Foreign Minister



Greetings from Canada. We all know that the terrorists are in Tehran. Canada will remove the PMOI from its list very soon and so will the United States. God bless.

Support from Belgian Christian Democrats



Iranian opposition movement removed from the EU terrorist list. Dirk Claes is pleased

(27-01-2009)

Dirk Claes today attended festivities at the Schuman square in Brussels, where more than 10,000 supporters of the Iranian opposition celebrated the decision of the Council of EU Foreign Ministers to end the designation of the Iranian opposition, PMOI, as a terrorist organization.

Dirk Claes is particularly pleased with this decision. For the past seven years, CD & V, has supported the PMOI (People's Mujahideen Organization of Iran), which has fought for a secular, free and peaceful Iran where human rights are respected. Mr. Claes, some of his fellow senators like Bethune and Schelfhout, and other CD & V - MPs have been following the issue closely for a long time. At the Schuman square, Dirk Claes expressed delight over the decision describing it as a major step forward for the democratization of Iran.

The totalitarian rulers of Iran are so far guilty of torture, stoning and public mass execution of people who protest against the regime. In such circumstances, lack of freedom of expression constrained the PMOI's activities.

In recent years, the movement has gained increasing support from various European countries. The European Parliament has also weighed in and more than 2,000 parliamentarians from Europe have given support to the PMOI. The ruling of the European Court of Justice has played a decisive role in the removal of the PMOI from the EU terrorist list. The Court saw no factual or objective reasons for the Iranian opposition movement to be designated as a terrorist organization.





The British Parliamentary Committee for Iran Freedom



Eight Parliamentary Committees in Europe Call for Recognition of the Iranian Resistance

The following committees congratulate Mrs. Maryam Rajavi on the removal of the PMOI from the EU terrorist list and call it a victory for law and justice in Europe.

The committees recall:

1. The seven-year long victorious campaign of the Iranian Resistance was not only aimed at restoring the rights of the Iranian people, but it was a great service to democracy in Europe and it was a unique opportunity for us to be a part of it.
2. Supporting the Iranian Resistance was an integral part of our mandate as European lawmakers. We will stand by your endeavours to achieve democracy in Iran and offer unequivocal support for Mrs. Maryam Rajavi's Third Option as the only viable solution for democratic change in Iran by the Iranian people and their resistance movement. Such an alternative is not only a desire of the Iranian people but is an urgent need for a Europe faced with a great threat arising from fundamentalism and terrorism led by the Iranian regime.
3. Following delisting of the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI) from the EU terror list, there will not be any excuse for imposing restrictions on Ashraf residents in Iraq. We and all other democratic forces will not allow their rights to be violated. The U.S. and Iraqi governments must honour their rights within the framework of international law, International Humanitarian Law and Common Article three of the Geneva Conventions and the principle of non-refoulement.
4. The terrorist tag has been part and parcel of the appeasement policy towards the Tehran regime. At the end of the seven-year-long campaign, we call on the EU to set aside all memories of the appeasement policy and to compensate for the great losses inflicted on the Iranian Resistance. The terrorist label was a significant gift to the ruling religious fascists in Tehran to sustain the oppression and misery of the Iranian people and prolong its rule of terror. Recognition of the Iranian Resistance and their primary objective of restoring human rights and democracy in Iran, is a necessary part of the compensation process.

The British Parliamentary Committee for Iran Freedom

Friends of a Free Iran, European Parliament

Deutsches Solidaritätskomitee für einen freien Iran

Comitato Italiano di parlamentari e cittadini Iran Libero

Friends of a Free Iran - Danish branch

Friends of a Free Iran - Swedish branch

Friends of a Free Iran - Dutch Group

Comite Luxembourgeois pour un Iran Libre et Démocratique (CLILD)

4 February 2009

Honorary President: The Rt. Hon. Lord Slynn of Hadley, <i>Former Judge European Court of Justice</i>	Alain Vivien, <i>Former Minister of Europe, France;</i>	Jacek Orszelkiewicz, MEP <i>Vice-President, Foreign Affairs Committee, European Parliament</i>	Jurists: David Vaughan, CBE QC Jean-Pierre Spitzer
Presidents: Alejo Vidal-Quadras, <i>Vice-President, European Parliament</i>	The Rt. Hon. Lord Archer of Sandwell <i>QC, Former UK Solicitor General</i>	Paolo Casaccia, MEP <i>Co-Chair, Friends of a Free Iran, European Parliament</i>	Sponsors: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- British Parliamentary Committee for Iran Freedom- Friends of a Free Iran Inter-group, European Parliament- Comité Français pour un Iran Démocratique- Friends of a Free Iran, Italy- Friends of a Free Iran, Netherlands- Friends of a Free Iran, Nordic- Comité Luxembourgeois pour un Iran Libre et Démocratique
Lord Corbett of Castle Vale, <i>Chairman, British Parliamentary Committee for Iran Freedom</i>	Cristiana Muscardini, MEP <i>President, LEN Group European Parliament</i>	Morten Hauglund, MP <i>Member, Foreign Affairs Committee, Norway</i>	
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		Yves Bonnet, <i>Former Director of D.S.I, France</i>	



The PMOI is no longer on the EU terror list

The ISJ views the removal of the terror label from the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI) as the victory of rule of law, logic and the end of injustice against Iranian people and the legitimate opposition to the totalitarian regime ruling Iran.

The ISJ congratulates Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, the Iranian Resistance's President-elect, the residents of Ashraf City and all those who took part in this campaign for the victory.

The Iranian regime was the only side which benefited from the terror label placed on its legitimate opposition. The label has deprived the Iranian Resistance of many opportunities and has provided the Iranian regime the chance to extend suppression of its opposition while expanding fundamentalism and terrorism to the entire region as well as expediting its nuclear projects.

The clerical regime as the main sponsor of terrorism in the world must be placed on the blacklist.

The ISJ pledges its full support for the residents of Camp Ashraf in Iraq. It calls on the U.S. and Iraqi governments to reaffirm their rights as protected persons under the Fourth Geneva Convention and lift all restriction imposed on them.

As the ISJ has indicated to the former U.S. administration, following the seven court rulings in favor of delisting the PMOI in Europe and its official removal from the EU terrorist list today, there remains no justification to maintain the Iranian opposition on the U.S. list of Foreign Terrorist Organizations. We hope that the U.S. Administration removes the PMOI from its terrorist list as soon as possible.

The ISJ expresses its full support for the democratic opposition, the National Council of Resistance of Iran, under the leadership of Mrs. Maryam Rajavi which advocates a democratic change as the only appropriate policy capable of freeing people of that nation from the terror regime as well as the rest of the region and the world from fundamentalists armed with atomic bomb.

Alejo Vidal-Quadras
Vice-president of the European Parliament
President of ISJ
26 January 2009

European Parliament, ASP 11E205, 60 rue Wiertz, B-1047, Brussels, Belgium; 40 rue Madeleine Michelis, 92200 Neuilly sur Seine, France;
Email: isj@isjcommittee.com



EU lifts ban on Iranian group

By Stephen Castle
Monday, January 26, 2009

BRUSSELS: In a decision that could worsen tension with Tehran, the European Union on Monday removed a prominent Iranian OPPOSITION group from its list of banned terrorist organizations.

The People's Mujahedeen said it would now focus its attention on persuading the United States to follow the European example and remove it from America's terrorist list.

The 27-nation bloc Monday sought to play down the political implications of its action, arguing that it was the result of decisions by the European Court of Justice, the EU's highest court, which had been asked to rule on the inclusion of the group on the list of terrorist organizations. Relations with Tehran already are strained because of its nuclear program.

Alexandr Vondra, deputy prime minister of the Czech Republic, which holds the EU presidency, said the bloc had no alternative but to abide by the interpretations of the European court that had been asked to rule on whether the inclusion of the People's Mujahedeen on the list was legal. The court concluded that the EU had failed to properly explain why it froze the assets of the group.

"We complied with the judgment," Vondra said. The move marked the first time an organization has been removed from the list of groups banned by the EU and, as of Tuesday, the assets of the People's Mujahedeen of Iran will be unfrozen within the 27-nation bloc.

Shahin Gobadi, a spokesman for the group, said \$9 million had been frozen in France, the group's base in exile, and "tens of millions of dollars" more had been frozen in other EU countries.

He added that the group would now lobby in Washington for an end to its status as a terrorist organization.

"We believe there is no justification for the U.S. to maintain" the group on the terror list, Gobadi said.

Maryam Rajavi, president-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, said in a statement that removing the organization was "a crushing defeat to Europe's policy of appeasement."

"The blacklisting of the Iranian Resistance contributed to the prolongation of the rule of religious fascism in Iran," she added in a statement. "The most important part of a changed policy in the U.S. by the new president toward Iran is to set aside appeasement of the Mullahs and take the terror label off" the People's Mujahedeen.

The New York Times

January 27, 2009

Europe Takes Terrorist Label Off Iranian Resistance Group

By STEPHEN CASTLE

BRUSSELS — The European Union removed a prominent Iranian opposition group from its list of banned terrorist organizations on Monday, a step that could worsen its relations with Tehran, which strongly opposed the move.

The decision, by the foreign ministers of the 27-nation bloc, ended a long battle by the group, the People's Mujahedeen of Iran, to be removed from Europe's list of proscribed organizations. It was placed on the list in 2002.

The group advocates the overthrow of Iran's religious leaders and the creation of a democratic, secular government. After the 1979 revolution, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini turned against the group, executing many of its members. The group's funds in Europe, which it estimates to be in the tens of millions of dollars, will be unfrozen on Tuesday.

Several thousand of the group's members live in a camp north of Baghdad, where they have had American military protection since 2003. Iraq has been under pressure from Iran to expel the group, but if its members are sent back to Iran they will probably be accused of treason and almost certainly be executed.

In 2002, the group provided intelligence on Iran's secret nuclear program that helped lead to United Nations sanctions.

The People's Mujahedeen has been on Washington's list of terrorist organizations since 1997. Shahin Gobadi, a spokesman for the group, said it would now lobby Washington to end its status as a terrorist group.

He indicated that the Obama administration was not likely to take up the question until a formal review was required.

European officials said they were following recent rulings by the European Court of Justice, which concluded that the bloc had failed to explain why it had frozen the group's assets.

The Washington Times

Opposition group off EU terror list

January 27, 2009

BRUSSELS | The European Union decided Monday to remove an Iranian opposition group from the EU's terrorist list and lift the restrictions on its funds, a move likely to further damage relations strained over Tehran's nuclear program.

The decision by the 27-nation bloc's foreign ministers means that as of Tuesday, the assets of the People's Mujahedeen Organization of Iran, or PMOI, will be unfrozen. It is the first time an organization has been "de-listed" by the EU.

Shahin Gobadi, a spokesman for the group said \$9 million had been frozen in France alone, with "tens of millions of dollars" worth of assets also locked away in other EU countries.

The group had been blacklisted as a terrorist organization by the EU since 2002, but waged a long legal battle in the EU's court of justice to reverse that decision. It remains on the U.S. terrorist list.

FINANCIAL TIMES

24 January 2009

Brussels to remove exiled Iranian group from terror list

By Tony Barber in Brussels

The European Union is set to strike an exiled Iranian opposition movement off its list of banned terrorist groups, a step likely to anger the authorities in Tehran. At a meeting on Monday, EU foreign ministers are poised to remove the People's Mojahedin Organisation of Iran from the 27-nation bloc's blacklist in order to comply with two EU court rulings issued last month. The PMOI, founded in 1965, advocates the overthrow of Iran's Islamic republic and was designated a terrorist group in 2002, when the EU drew up its blacklist after the September 11 2001 attacks on the US.

Since then, the PMOI has fought a long battle in the European courts to clear its name, shadowing Iranian government representatives who have done their best to persuade EU member states that it would be unwise to take the group off the list.

The US government named the PMOI as a terrorist organisation in 1997 and has kept it on its list ever since. In Europe, however, the group's restoration to legal respectability could hardly come at a more sensitive time.

It would risk complicating western relations with Iran just as the administration of Barack Obama, the US president, is expected to consider discreet approaches to Tehran as a way of containing its nuclear ambitions and reshaping its policies on Israel, Lebanon and Iraq. In recent years, EU governments have chosen to keep the PMOI on their blacklist partly as a favour to Iran, in return for which a channel has remained open for diplomatic contacts over the nuclear issue. The US, EU and Israel suspect Iran of using its uranium enrichment programme to develop nuclear weapons and are fearful the first Iranian device may be ready in three years or less.

Some EU countries, especially France, have been reluctant to remove the PMOI from the EU's blacklist on the grounds that such a decision will infuriate Iran's leaders and reduce the EU's ability to influence Tehran's behaviour.

But the EU's hand was forced when the European Court of First Instance, a Luxembourg-based court that forms part of the EU's judicial system, ruled on December 4 that EU governments had been wrong to freeze the PMOI's funds.

Two weeks later the court rejected as "manifestly inadmissible" an attempt by EU governments to delay implementation of the December 4 judgment. As a result, ambassadors of the 27 member states agreed in Brussels on Thursday that the next update of the EU's terrorism blacklist should not include the PMOI.

It would be the first time any organisation had been removed from the list.

The envoys forwarded their recommendation to Monday's foreign ministers' meeting, whose agenda lists it as an item set to be approved without debate. But some diplomats warned that a discussion might still take place.

Los Angeles Times

EU removes Iranian group from terrorism list

January 27, 2009

Reporting from Paris and Beirut -- The European Union on Monday announced the removal of a high-profile Iranian opposition group from its list of terrorists, a victory for a movement that European governments have described as a dangerous sect and prosecuted on terrorism charges. The decision, announced at a meeting of EU foreign ministers in Brussels, results from recent legal and diplomatic developments combined with intense lobbying by the group, whose leader, Maryam Rajavi, lives in France.

Analysts said European leaders probably acted out of diplomatic expediency because of the impending expulsion from Iraq of nearly 3,000 members of the opposition group's military wing. Europe may find itself providing refuge for some of those fighters, and could not do so if the terrorist label persisted.

Opposition leader Rajavi described the decision as a "stinging defeat for the European policy of complacency" toward the Iranian regime. "The inscription of the Iranian resistance on the blacklist has helped prolong the regime of religious fascism in Iran," she said, according to a report by Agence France-Presse.

Rajavi and other leaders were arrested in 2003, when more than 1,000 police officers raided their compound outside Paris. France's top anti-terrorism judge charged that they were involved in terrorism in Iran and plotting violence in Europe as well.

The investigation, which was assisted by the FBI in the United States, did not turn up powerful proof. A lawyer for the group said Monday that prosecutors should throw out the still-pending case.

"One finds oneself confronting a judicial dossier that is empty of substance after the removal from the list," said the lawyer, Patrick Badouin, according to French reports.

AP Associated Press

The Washington Post

EU takes Iranian group off terror blacklist

By CONSTANT BRAND

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP), 26 January _ The European Union decided Monday to remove an Iranian opposition group from the EU's terror list and lift the restrictions on its funds, a move likely to further damage relations strained over Tehran's nuclear program.

The group had been blacklisted as a terror organization by the EU since 2002, but waged a long legal battle in the EU's court of justice to reverse that decision. Several EU court decisions went in the group's favor, concluding the EU had failed to properly explain why it froze the assets of the Paris-based group.

"What we are doing today is abiding by the decision of the court, there is nothing we can do about the decision," said Javier Solana, the EU's foreign policy chief.

The People's Mujahedeen, also known as the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq, is the military wing of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, which is based in Paris. The council said it is dedicated to a democratic, secular government in Iran.

The group said however, it has renounced violence in 2001 and hasn't kept any arms since 2003.

Maryam Rajavi, who heads the Paris-based National Council of Resistance, the political wing of the PMOI, said Monday's decision was "a crushing defeat to Europe's policy of appeasement" with Iran.

"The blacklisting of the Iranian Resistance contributed to the prolongation of the rule of religious fascism in Iran," she said in a statement. "The Iranian regime did not refrain from using all political and diplomatic pressures to maintain the PMOI on the list."

Rajavi said her group would now focus its attention on getting the United States to drop the PMOI from its terror list.

The group had established a camp for about 3,500 members in Iraq, which its forces used to launch cross-border attacks into Iran.

THE IRISH TIMES

Iranian opposition group removed from EU's terror list

JAMIE SMYTH in Brussels
Wed, Jan 28, 2009

AN EXILED Iranian opposition group called for its name to be taken off the US terrorist list yesterday following a landmark legal victory in Europe.

"The European Union has conceded to the rule of law," said Maryam Rajavi, president of the People's Mujahideen of Iran (PMOI), which fought a seven-year battle through the European courts to force EU states to remove the group from its terror list.

"The time has come to place the illegitimate [Iranian] regime on the terrorist list," said Ms Rajavi at a celebratory rally with thousands of PMOI supporters in Brussels.

The EU placed the PMOI on its terror list in 2002 and has stubbornly resisted attempts by the group to be removed from it.

The group won three cases at the European Court of First Instance – one of the EU's highest courts – but each time EU foreign ministers simply drew up a new terrorist list and included the group in an effort to circumvent the ruling. This week EU foreign ministers complied with the decision and removed the PMOI from the list, even though this could complicate delicate talks over Iran's nuclear programme.

It means some €7 million in frozen assets belonging to the PMOI will be unblocked.

It also sets a legal precedent whereby any group placed on the terror list must be told why it is placed on the list and be given an opportunity to appeal the decision in the courts.

Iran strongly criticised the EU decision, which it said would "encourage terrorism". But Ms Rajavi said the EU decision may help the talks with Tehran and called for President Barack Obama to do the same. "The PMOI should be removed from the United States terror list; this is the best policy even for negotiations with the mullah regime," she said.

The PMOI was founded in 1965 with the aim of overthrowing the first Shah, and later the radical Islamic regime in Iran. Alejo Vidal-Quadras, a Spanish MEP, said the removal of the group from the EU list put an end to an ignominious chapter in EU history.



EU agrees to take Iran group off terror list

By Mark John

BRUSSELS, Jan 26 (Reuters) - The European Union agreed on Monday to remove the exiled Iranian OPPOSITION group that exposed Tehran's covert nuclear programme in 2002 from a list of banned terrorist organisations.

The EU decision affecting the People's Mujahideen Organisation of Iran (PMOI) followed a years-long legal row and Iran's state radio immediately branded it an "irresponsible move".

Foreign ministers of the 27-nation EU, which has unsuccessfully tried to persuade Iran to curb nuclear activities suspected as part of a bomb programme, approved the removal of the PMOI from a list of terror groups.

The decision follows a number of EU court rulings against its seven-year inclusion on the blacklist.

"What we are doing today is abiding by the resolution of the European court," EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana, the official leading diplomacy with Tehran, told reporters just before the ministers finalised the decision.

Maryam Rajavi, president-elect of the PMOI's political wing, the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), said the delisting was a "stinging defeat for Europe's policy of appeasement" of Tehran and urged Washington to follow.

"The most important part of any change in policy by the new (U.S.) president ... would be the removal of the terrorist label of the PMOI," she said in a statement.

The December court ruling said the EU had breached the PMOI's right to self-defence because it did not inform the group of some new information it had used to keep the organisation

on the blacklist, which is reviewed every six months.

British Foreign Secretary David Miliband insisted that the delisting of the PMOI should have no effect on international diplomacy aimed at persuading Iran to curb uranium enrichment.

"We have to find a way to respect the court judgment ... I think the Iranian standoff with the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) is very clear. During 2009 there will and should be significant focus on this issue.



Maryam Rajavi, president-elect of the People's Mujahideen Organisation of Iran's (PMOI) political wing, the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), takes part in a rally in Brussels January 27, 2009. The European Union agreed on Monday to remove the exiled Iranian OPPOSITION group that exposed Tehran's covert nuclear programme in 2002 from a list of banned terrorist organisations. REUTERS/Eric Vidal (BELGIUM)



Iran condemns EU for taking exiled group off terrorist list

European court rulings force EU to take People's Mujahideen of Iran off terrorist list and unfreeze its assets

The European Union has removed an exiled Iranian opposition group from its list of terrorist organisations, in a decision immediately criticised as "irresponsible" by Tehran.

The decision to take the People's Mujahideen Organisation of Iran, or PMOI, off the list and

unfreeze its assets was the first of its kind and followed a protracted legal row.

The PMOI is the military wing of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCR), which is based in Paris and claims to have renounced violence in 2001. Maryam Rajavi, the NCR leader, called the EU decision "a crushing defeat to Europe's policy of appeasement" with Iran. But Javier Solana, the EU's foreign policy chief, sought to play down any political significance: "What we are doing today is abiding by the decision of the court," he said. "There is nothing we can do about the decision."

Several EU court rulings went in favour of the PMOI, concluding that the EU had failed to properly explain why it froze the group's assets. Rajavi told Reuters: "The funds will be used to increase our political activities ... including to further disclose the Mullah regime's secret nuclear weapons sites."



Iranian OPPOSITION celebrates losing EU 'terror' tag

BRUSSELS, Jan 27, 2009 (AFP) - The exiled Iranian opposition on Tuesday celebrated being taken off the EU's terror list and called for the United States to do the same, arguing it is Tehran that should be sanctioned.

"The European Union has conceded to the rule of law," Maryam Rajavi, the president of the People's Mujahedeen of Iran (PMOI), told reporters as a crowd of supporters thronged to celebrate victory outside the main EU buildings in Brussels.

"The time has come to place the illegitimate regime on the terrorist list," she added.

The European Union struck the main Iranian opposition group in exile from its list of terrorist organisations Monday but refused to rule out future action against it.

EU foreign ministers, meeting in Brussels, rubber-stamped a decision to drop the PMOI from the blacklist, bringing an end to a long legal battle, even though the move has angered Tehran.

The Luxembourg-based Court of First Instance ruled last month that the EU had wrongly

frozen the funds of the OPPOSITION group and violated its rights by not justifying why it was placed on the list.

The EU's move to drop the PMOI from its terror list followed a similar legal battle and result in Britain which has done the same.

However, the group remains on the US list and is now turning its eyes to the new US administration of President Barack Obama to remove the "unjust label" of terrorist group.

"The PMOI should be removed from the United States terror list, this is the best policy even for negotiations with the Mullah regime," said Rajavi, referring to Iran.

"The new US administration must not give more concessions to the Mullah regime. The new government must stop them with regard to their project for nuclear weapons and the war-mongering in the Middle East and the oppression of the Iranian people." One of the organisers, Shahin Gobadi, estimated that 15,000 supporters had taken part in the celebrations throughout the day.

"I think the policy of appeasement has been crushed," he said. "The wheels of change will start now."

Rajavi was joined at her platform by European parliamentarians who have supported her



group's cause over the years, with interventions from British, Belgian, French and Italian lawmakers among others.

For one of those, European Parliament vice president Alejandro Vidal-Quadras, the removal of the group from the EU's black list put an end to an ignominious chapter in EU history.

"Today I feel proud to be a European, because during all this fight I was not so proud sometimes," he said.

Founded in 1965 with the aim of replacing first the shah and then the Islamic clerical regime in Iran, the PMOI -- led by Rajavi, who lives in France -- has in the past operated an armed group inside Iran.

It was the armed wing of the France-based National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI) but it renounced violence in June 2001.



Iran group taken off 'terror' list

Aljazeera TV, January 26 - The European Union (EU) has removed an Iranian opposition group from its list of terrorist groups and lifted restrictions on the group's funds.

The decision by the 27-nation bloc's foreign ministers means that as of Tuesday, the assets of the People's Mujahedeen Organisation of Iran, or PMOI, will be unfrozen.

It is the first time an organisation has been "de-listed" by the EU.

Shahin Gobadi, a spokesman for the group, said \$9m had been frozen in France alone, with "tens of millions of dollars" worth of assets also locked away in other EU countries.

Court victories

The group had been blacklisted as a terrorist organisation by the EU since 2002, but waged a long legal battle in the EU's court of justice to reverse that decision.

Several EU court decisions went in the group's favour. One ruling held that the EU had failed to properly explain why it froze the assets of the Paris-based group.

Javier Solana, the EU's foreign policy chief, said: "What we are doing today is abiding by the decision of the court. There is nothing we can do about the decision."



EU failed to prove PMOI was terrorist

BBC World
26 January 2009

Following the decision by the EU Council of Ministers, the BBC World Satellite TV reported that the EU Foreign Ministers agreed to remove the PMOI from the list of terrorist organizations. It added that the decision was made following a court ruling which said that the EU failed to prove that the group was a terrorist organization and it was wrong to freeze its assets.

26.1.2009

EU streicht Volksmudschahedin von der Terrorliste

Die Europäische Union stuft die iranische Exil-Organisation Volksmudschahedin (OMPI) nicht länger als Terrorgruppe ein. Die EU-Außenminister strichen die Iraner am Montag von der Liste Terrorverdächtiger, wie EU-Diplomaten mitteilten. Die Organisation hatte zuvor mehrere Klagen in Großbritannien und beim Europäischen Gerichtshof gegen die Einstufung als Terroristen gewonnen. Deutschland setzte sich vergeblich für eine weitere Terror-Einstufung ein. Die notwendige einstimmige Entscheidung, die Mudschahedin auf der Liste zu belassen, sei aber nicht zustande gekommen, weil es keine juristischen Beweise für terroristische Absichten der Volksmudschahedin gebe, hieß es weiter.

Frankfurter Rundschau

27.1.2009

Terrorliste

Iranische Opposition atmet auf

VON EDGAR AUTH

Die "Volksmudschahedin Iran" (PMOI) haben ein wichtiges politisches Ziel erreicht: Die EU-Außenminister beschlossen am Montag in Brüssel, die am besten organisierte iranische Exil-Oppositionsgruppe von der Terrorliste der Europäischen Union zu streichen. Damit zogen die Minister die Konsequenz aus mehreren Urteilen des Europäischen Gerichtshofes. Zugleich dürfte die Beschlagnahme des PMOI-Vermögens hinfallig sein, die unter Berufung auf die UN-Resolution gegen Terrorismus nach den Anschlägen in den USA vom September 2001 verhängt worden war. Der EU-Gerichtshof hatte in mehreren Urteilen, zuletzt im vergangenen Dezember, die Aufnahme der Rebellen in die EU-Terrorliste als unrechtmäßig bezeichnet, weil den Volksmudschahedin rechtliches Gehör verweigert worden und die Begründung der Entscheidung nicht nachprüfbar sei. Derzeit stehen fast 50 Personen und knapp 50 Organisationen auf der Liste. Ihre Vermögen in der EU sind eingefroren.

Hoffnung im Irak

Mariam Radschawi, Präsidentin des "Nationalen Widerstandsrats Iran" (NWR) - einem Bündnis

27.1.2009

Iranische Volksmudschahedin nicht mehr auf EU-Terrorliste

Brüssel (dpa) - Die «Volksmudschahedin des Iran» sind von einer «Terrorliste» der Europäischen Union gestrichen worden. Mit diesem Beschluss setzten die EU-Außenminister ohne weitere Diskussionen in Brüssel mehrere Urteile des Europäischen Gerichtshofes um. Die «Volksmudschahedin», die das Regime der Mullahs im Iran bekämpfen, hatten sich erfolgreich gegen die Beschlagnahme ihres Vermögens gewehrt. Die Regierung in Teheran verurteilte den Beschluss als «inakzeptabel».

unter Führung der Volksmudschahedin - forderte eine Wiedergutmachung für den entstandenen Schaden sowie die Aufnahme des "mittelalterlichen Regimes im Iran" auf die Terrorliste. Mit dem Beschluss sei "der Kern der europäischen Appeasement-Politik (gegenüber dem Iran) zerbrochen".

Mit großem Argwohn hatten die PMOI die rege Reisetätigkeit iranischer Diplomaten in den vergangenen Tagen beobachtet. Diese hätten versucht, die EU von ihrem Beschluss abzuhalten. Die Oppositionsgruppe hatte vor allem in Frankreich die Neigung ausgemacht, diesem Ansinnen aus Teheran nachzugeben, um gute Wirtschaftsbeziehungen zu pflegen, wie der NWR-Sprecher Saïd Yeganeh der FR sagte. Mit der Brüsseler Entscheidung verbessern sich nach Meinung des NWR auch die Aussichten für die Bewohner des Camps Ashraf im Irak. Dort halten sich etwa 3500 PMOI-Angehörige auf, die gegen die Mullah-Regierung in Teheran arbeiten. Bei der irakischen Regierung hatte sich der Iran dafür stark gemacht, das Camp aufzulösen und die Bewohner auszuweisen. Der irakische Premierminister Nuri Al-Maliki hatte nach Kontakten zum Nachbarland unter ausdrücklichem Hinweis auf die EU-Terrorliste angekündigt, das Lager aufzulösen und den Bewohnern die Rückkehr in den Iran oder die Ausreise in ein Land ihrer Wahl nahezulegen. Im Iran aber droht ihnen der Tod, und bislang hatte sich kein Drittland bereit erklärt, sie aufzunehmen. Die Ashraf-Bewohner wollen nach Angaben Yeganehs dort bleiben. Das sei ihre "letzte Hoffnung", sie wollten vom Irak aus aber auch weiter auf einen Regierungswechsel im Iran hinarbeiten. Mit Billigung des irakischen Diktators Saddam Hussein hatten die PMOI von Ashraf aus vor über einem Jahrzehnt bewaffnete Feldzüge gegen den Iran unternommen.

LA STAMPA

Giustizia per l'opposizione iraniana

La Stampa, 26 gennaio - I ministri degli Esteri dei Ventisette hanno approvato una nuova 'lista nera' delle organizzazioni terroristiche che non include i Muhajeddin del Popolo (Pmo), il principale movimento d'opposizione in Iran. Lo riferisce la presidenza ceca dell'Ue. I Muhajeddin vedono così coronata una battaglia legale durata tre anni. L'ultima sentenza a loro favore risale a dicembre, quando il Tribunale di primo grado della Corte di giustizia Ue ha stabilito che il Consiglio dell'Ue ha "violato il diritto alla difesa" dei Muhajeddin perché non ha comunicato i motivi per cui l'organizzazione è stata iscritta nella lista delle organizzazioni terroristiche dell'Ue, rifiutando di fornire informazioni perfino allo stesso Tribunale.

La revisione della lista Ue delle organizzazioni terroristiche è stata adottata come 'punto A', ovvero senza discussione. I Muhajeddin del Popolo sono stati fondati nel 1965 con l'obiettivo di combattere contro il regime dello Scià. Con l'arrivo dell'Ayatollah Khomeini nel 1979, sono diventati nemici del regime islamico, e sono stati accusati di aver collaborato con Saddam Hussein durante la guerra Iran-Iraq del 1980-1988. La Corte di giustizia europea aveva dichiarato illegittimo il loro inserimento nella 'lista nera' Ue, avvenuto nel 2002, nel dicembre 2006.



Iran: Migliaia di sostenitori dei Mujahedin del popolo in piazza a Bruxelles

Bruxelles, 27 gen. - (Adnkronos/Aki) - Migliaia di sostenitori dei Mujahedin del Popolo, la più nota organizzazione della resistenza iraniana, hanno festeggiato in piazza a Bruxelles la cancellazione del movimento dalla lista delle organizzazioni terroristiche. Una cancellazione decisa ieri dai ministri degli Esteri dei Ventisette in seguito a una sentenza della Corte Ue. La manifestazione ha luogo nel cuore del quartiere europeo, nei pressi del Rondpoint Schuman, tra il Berlaymont, sede della Commissione Europea, e il palazzo Justus Lipsius, sede del Consiglio Ue. Non manca un grande palco su cui si succedono gli oratori. Secondo gli organizzatori presenti sono 20 mila persone. La manifestazione si è svolta finora nella calma, sotto le bandiere tricolori dell'Iran e i vessilli gialli dei Mujahedin. Su un grande schermo scorrono immagini di incontri organizzati nei campi di Mujahedin as Ashraf, in Iraq, mentre gli altoparlanti diffondono le parole del leader, Massoud Rajavi.

Victory Lunch reception at the European Parliament in the honor of Maryam Rajavi

On the invitation of Dr. Alejo Vidal-Quadras, Vice President of the European Parliament, Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, the Iranian Resistance's President-elect, took part in a meeting with members of European committee *In Search of Justice* (ISJ) and other MEPs at the EP headquarters in Brussels. The meeting celebrated the victory of law and resistance after the removal of the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI) from the EU terror list. MEPs in attendance included Jean Spautz, former speaker of Luxembourg's parliament, Prof. Vytautas Landsbergis, former President of Lithuania, José Ignacio Salafranca, MEP from Spain and coordinator of foreign policy in the EPP-ED group, which is the largest parliamentary group; Luisa Morgantini, MEP from Italy, Tunne Kelam, MEP from Estonia, André Brie, MEP from Germany, and other MEPs from other Member States.

At the beginning of the meeting, Dr. Vidal-Quadras welcomed Mrs. Rajavi and presented her

welcome him to the European Parliament at the first possible opportunity."

In her speech, Mrs. Rajavi thanked and congratulated the EP Vice-President and other MEPs, and said:

We had a long and difficult journey together. In this battle, we overcame those governments who pursued the policy of appeasement out of economic interests.

During this campaign, powerful parliamentary committees in support of the Resistance were formed. I believe this campaign also highlighted the important role that the European Parliament can play in foreign policy.

Now, the main obstacle has been removed. But this is not yet the end of the road. Indeed, a new chapter has begun. We can now focus more energy to bring-about democratic change in Iran.

The urgent issue before us is the situation of Ashraf. The mullahs' regime has employed all

After Mrs. Rajavi, Mr. Jan Zahradil MEP from Czech Republic addressed the meeting and in part said:

I am deeply honored that the last drop in the puddle of justice fell during my country's presidency of the EU. We succeeded in delisting the PMOI after so many years of legal battle. It was not easy.



with a plaque to greet her on behalf of ISJ which is comprised of 2,000 parliamentarians from across Europe. The plaque in part read:

"The seven-year-long successful campaign led by you was not just in defense of the rights of the Iranian people, but also a major contribution to democracy and the rule of law in Europe. For us, this was a unique opportunity to be part of this great campaign and to stand alongside you.

We assure you that we will continue to be with you in your struggle for democracy and human rights. We believe that Parliaments in Europe and the ISJ have a duty to support Ashraf City residents and to achieve guarantees for their rights. We will not allow any kind of aggression against the residents of Ashraf.

I would like to ask you to convey my best regards and congratulations to Mr. Massoud Rajavi, the leader of the Iranian Resistance. His role in creating a deeply democratic and responsible movement is admirable. I hope that my colleagues and I could

its resources to destroy Ashraf. Because in Ashraf the mullahs see the end of their regime. Ashraf is the concerted energy for change in Iran. And the mullahs fear the unleashing of this energy.

Defending Ashraf and recognizing the rights of its residents consistent with international law is an ethical and humanitarian matter. But in addition it is a political necessity; The political need to confront Islamic fundamentalism and the mullahs' increasing meddling in the region. It is also necessary for preventing the mullahs getting armed with nuclear weapons. We must ensure that European governments have a correct understanding of the situation of Ashraf and the threats it faces and also of the responsibilities they bear. They should also be made aware of the role of Ashraf in confronting the most serious problem the world is facing.

If we were able to overcome the terrorist label, I have no doubt we shall also remove all the obstacles in the campaign in defense of Ashraf. There is no obstacle that we cannot overcome.

There were attempts to spoil the issue until the very last minute. There were pressures from various parties, from Europe and from the regime. But, in the end we were able to resist and find the truth. So, I am very satisfied and I think that it is a good clue that when we join forces and go in the right direction, offering our energy and activities for a good cause, in the end we will find a good solution, justice and truth. That is probably the best experience we could have got from that. Thank you for all your efforts because this was a very complex work.

Finally Mr. Struan Stevenson, Vice President of the EPP-ED Group expressed his delight over the big victory and said:

I remember that we had a lot of meetings and many speeches and demonstrations by Iranians. We had a lot of ups and downs. I recall receiving phone calls during these meetings from some prime ministers and foreign ministers or Mr. Solana from Tehran, who wanted to prevent us. I remember going to Berlin to speak at a gathering of Iranians. The protest was banned but I told the police that you cannot prevent me from speaking for the people. I started speaking on the street. An hour later, the court annulled the ban order of the protests, and we spoke again at Brandenburg... But, in the end we were successful and finally justice and the rule of law prevailed. We will try to do the same in the U.S.