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## Euro MPs denounce Tehran's FM visit to European Parliament

*MEPs called Mottaki a “murderer” and a “liar” who “should have never been invited” to EU Parliament*

*Conservative MEP Struan Stevenson: “European Parliament is not the place to allow despots and representatives of fascist regimes to peddle their views”*



**MEPs protesting visit to European Parliament by Tehran's Foreign Minister**

Members of the European Parliament at the Parliament's gate holding photos of Neda Agha Soltan, a student killed last year during anti-regime demonstrations, showed their opposition to Mottaki's visit on June 1.

*Continued on page 4*

**On sidelines of Human Rights Council 14th Session**

## **NGOs, jurists underline UN, US obligation to protect Ashraf residents against Tehran-Baghdad plots**

**Eric Sottas, OMCT Secretary General:**

*Situation in Ashraf is critical, the residents have been facing systematic abuse and access to basic necessities restricted by Iraqi authorities*

**Steven Schneebaum, international law expert:**

*Iraqi government's deeds, which are meant to make life intolerable for Ashraf residents, constitute constructive refoulement which violates international laws*

**Gianfranco Fattorini, MRAP UN representative:**

*UN must seriously and actively assume the responsibility to protect Ashraf and the residents must be protected by the US forces*

**Erica Deuber-Ziegler, former Swiss MP:**

*We must ensure that the rights stipulated in the Geneva Conventions are respected with regards to Ashraf residents*



**From right: Gianfranco Fattorini, Erica Deuber-Ziegler, Eric Sottas, Steven Schneebaum and Ali Safavi**

On the sidelines of the fourteenth session of the UN Human Rights Council, a conference in support of the rights of the residents of Camp Ashraf in Iraq was held at the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva on June 3.

Camp Ashraf, Iraq, is home to some 3,400 members of the main Iranian opposition, the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI/MEK).

*Continued on page 3*

## Commander of U.S. Forces-Iraq: “Iran continues to be very much involved inside of Iraq”

In a press briefing at the U.S. Department of Defense on June 4, General Raymond Odierno, Commander of the U.S. Forces-Iraq, underlined the Iranian regime’s influence in Iraq. Excerpt from his revelations follow:

“Iran continues to be very much involved inside of Iraq. We understand that they’re a neighbor, and we want them to be – have a positive influence on Iraq, not one that we believe to be negative influence inside of Iraq. Their goals are that they don’t want to see the U.S. have a long-term relationship with Iraq. So, they’ll continue to fund surrogates and others who will attack U.S. forces and attack Iraqi security forces who are working with U.S. forces.

“Just yesterday, there was a rocket attack in southern Iraq near Amarah, where they killed three Iraqi security forces. And these

were Iranian surrogates who conducted these attacks.

“So they are not just attacking U.S. forces. They continue to infiltrate some of their security architecture into Iraq.

The Iraqis are stepping up their work at the borders. But they’re trying to infiltrate, so they can continue to try to influence outcomes inside of Iraq.

“So they make all the positive statements in the press saying, we just want to see a legitimate government, we’re for Iraq moving forward. But behind the scenes, they continue to interfere in my mind both from a political, economic and a military perspective.

“They – from 2007 and ‘08, have clearly moved away from a heavy lethal strategy to one that involves some lethal and then some



nonlethal, trying to almost gain monopolies in some economic areas as well as through heavy diplomatic and security collection influence inside of Iraq.

“So it’s shifted a little bit. But there are still EFPs going off in Iraq. There were 30 EFPs that we either found or exploded in the month of May. So they’re still there.

“There are still Katyusharockets that have been made in Iran that are being shot. There’s still training going on inside of Iran, of surrogates that come out of Iraq.”

## Iran is ‘special case’ for UN atomic watchdog



AFP, VIENNA June 7 - UN atomic watchdog chief Yukiya Amano described Iran on Monday as a “special case” in terms of the agency’s monitoring work owing to allegations of possible military dimensions to its contested atomic drive.

After more than seven years of intensive investigation, the International Atomic Energy Agency is still not in a position to state once and for all that the Islamic republic’s nuclear activities are entirely peaceful as Tehran claims.

Amano said: “Iran is a special case because, among other things, of the existence of issues related to possible military dimensions to its nuclear programme.”

“Iran has not provided the necessary cooperation to permit the agency to confirm that all nuclear material in Iran is in peaceful activities,” Amano told the closed-door session of the board of governors again on June 7.

## Iran using Dubai to smuggle nuclear components

**Sunday Telegraph** June 06 carried a report by Con Coughlin unveiling the Iranian regime’s secret nuclear weapons activities. The following are excerpts:

Iran is using the Gulf port of Dubai to smuggle sophisticated electronic and computer equipment for its controversial uranium enrichment programme that are banned under United Nations sanctions.

In the latest deal, an Iranian company associated with the regime’s nuclear programme has acquired control systems from one of Germany’s leading electronics manufacturers. The deal was negotiated with a prominent Dubai trading company, which then sold Iran a range of electronic equipment for use at its Natanz uranium enrichment facility.

Western officials have been conducting a rigorous re-assessment of Iran’s nuclear programme since the CIA published its controversial National Intelligence Estimate in 2007 which questioned whether Iran still had an active weapons programme.

Following an exhaustive investigation of the reports on Iran compiled by UN nuclear inspectors working for the IAEA, Western officials are convinced that Iran has secretly resumed work on building an atom bomb.

“When you look in detail at Iran’s declarations on its nuclear programme, the only logical conclusion that can be drawn is that Iran has only one aim, and that is to build nuclear weapons,” said a senior Western counter-proliferation official.

## Resistance sympathizers protest Mottaki’s visit to Luxembourg parliament

Exiled Iranians and sympathizers of the Iranian Resistance staged a short-notice demonstration in front of the Luxembourg Parliament and prevented the Iranian regime’s Foreign Minister from entering the building.

According to reports, on June 3, after Iranian exiles heard about Manouchehr Mottaki’s plan to visit the Luxembourg Parliament, they rushed to the scene and started chanting slogans against the clerical regime ruling Iran. Chants of “death to dictator” and “death to [mullahs’ Supreme Leader Ali] Khamenei,” soon filled the air around the building.

Upon arriving at the scene with his motorcade, Mottaki decided to flee immediately and instead used the back entrance to enter the Parliament building.

Jean Huss and Marc Angel, two of the Luxembourg lawmakers, said during an interview with the press at the scene that they plan to vote on an upcoming parliamentary resolution condemning the regime’s human rights violations. They strongly condemned their government for inviting Mottaki, a terrorist-turned-diplomat, and declared that they will question the Luxembourg Foreign Minister in this regard in Parliament.

Immediately after his talks with Mottaki, the Speaker of the Parliament released a statement saying: “The Speaker of Luxembourg’s Parliament referred to the great worries expressed by the international community and called on Iran to bring its laws in compliance with international human rights conventions.”

The parliament’s official website also wrote, “The Speaker questioned the Iranian Foreign Minister about the hanging of 390 people in 2009, to which Mottaki responded that a working group is busy reviewing the matter.”

The conference was organized after invitations from the World Organization Against Torture, the Foundation of Danielle Mitterrand, former French First Lady and Director of France-Liberté, and MRAP (Movement Against Racism and for Friendship between Peoples).

The Secretary General of the World Organization Against Torture (OMCT), Mr. Eric Sottas, chaired the conference. The OMCT is one of the most credible global non-government organizations dedicated to the advancement of human rights in the world. Professor Steven Schneebaum, lecturer of international law at the School of Advanced International Studies at John Hopkins University in Washington; Mrs. Erica Deuber-Ziegler, a prominent human rights figure and former parliamentarian from Geneva; Mr. Gianfranco Fattorini, representative of MRAP at the United Nations; and Dr. Ali Safavi, member of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), spoke at the event.

Also present at the conference were delegations from participating governments at the Human Rights Council session, a representative from the office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, a representative from the secretariat of the UN Human Rights Council, as well as a large number of NGOs at the Council, including the International Federation for Human Rights, the Arab Union of Jurists, the International Federation for Women's Rights, in addition to a number of journalists.

**Mr. Eric Sottas** told the audience in his opening remarks, "The OMCT is greatly concerned about the serious threats facing the 3,400 members of the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran in Ashraf."

Mr. Sottas referred to the deadly July 2009 raid of Iraqi forces against Ashraf and said, "The situation in Ashraf is critical. In recent months, the residents have been facing systematic abuse both by Iraqi authorities and also by the Iranian regime. The OMCT believes that persistent warnings about expulsion simultaneous with repeated threats regarding hanging and encouraging the murder of the residents, in addition to the serious restrictions imposed against accessing basic necessities, are all examples of grave violations of the rights of Ashraf residents."

**Prof. Steven Schneebaum** underscored the commitments of the UN and the US towards the residents of Ashraf on the basis of international laws and conventions. He added, "What we are now witnessing are gross violations of the rights of Ashraf residents as stipulated in the International Humanitarian Law. The Iraqi government's deeds, which are meant to make life intolerable for the residents, constitute constructive refolement which violates international laws to the same extent that the act of refolement itself would."

The Johns Hopkins scholar introduced a legal opinion, entitled, "The United Nations Must Work to Prevent the Illegal Constructive Refoulement of the People of Ashraf," in which he underscored that the current conduct of the Iraqi government amounts to constructive refolement, which is, similar to actual refolement, a violation of international humanitarian law. Mr. Schneebaum also made reference to the Iraqi government's attempts to relocate Ashraf residents to an uninhabitable detention

## NGOs, jurists underline UN, US obligation to protect Ashraf residents against Tehran-Baghdad plots

*Continued from page 1*

center located in the southern Iraqi desert, stressing, "The July 2009 and April 2010 attacks, coupled with the psychological warfare which we have witnessed since last

February, shows that the Iraqi government is neither willing nor able to protect the residents of Ashraf, and on that basis, Article 45 of the Fourth Geneva Convention puts the onus on the US to reassume protection of Ashraf residents. Therefore, the US bears a responsibility not only on moral grounds but also with respect to international law in this regard."

**Mr. Gianfranco Fattorini** also spoke about the situation in Ashraf at the conference, saying, "Our organization has requested the UN special rapporteur on torture to conduct urgent investigations about the situation in Ashraf. In particular, a special rapporteur from the office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights must be sent to Ashraf and later present their findings to the Human Rights Council."

"Moreover," Mr. Fattorini added, "we are of the opinion that the UN must seriously and actively assume the responsibility to protect Camp Ashraf and that the residents must also be protected by the US forces stationed in the camp."



**Ms. Erica Deuber-Ziegler** said, "We must launch a stern campaign with regards to the families of Ashraf who have made sacrifices for the sake of their ideals. Recently, six Ashraf family members were sentenced to death in Iran and I have with me a list of close to 200 relatives of Ashraf residents who are currently imprisoned by the Iranian regime. As a Swiss citizen, I believe that the Swiss government is also responsible for Ashraf residents and their families. We must ensure that the rights stipulated in the Geneva Conventions are respected with regards to Ashraf."



**Dr. Ali Safavi** said, "The increasing pressures on Ashraf and the inhumane treatment of the residents by the Iraqi government have to be seen, one, in the context of the People's Mojahedin (PMOI) and the Iranian regime, and two, in the context of the Iraq-Iran equation.

It is undisputed that the Tehran views the PMOI, in particular the residents of Ashraf, as an existential threat. When the post-election uprising erupted, and millions in the streets of Tehran and elsewhere began to call for fundamental change, repeating the very demands and slogans of the PMOI and Ashraf, the regime recognized the critical role of Ashraf in inspiring and offering guidance to the young men and women in Iran.

Tehran also views Ashraf as a major barrier to its fundamentalist designs for Iraq. Since February 2010, in collusion with Iraqi government, it has dispatched a couple of dozen Iranians, purporting to be family members of the residents, to gate of Ashraf. These individuals have been engaged in a non-stop propaganda campaign against the residents.

These developments obviously require greater vigilance on the part of the international community, in particular the United Nations and the US.



# Euro MPs denounce Tehran's FM visit to European Parliament

Continued from page 1

Marietje Schaake (D66, Netherlands), ALDE (Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe) spokesperson on Iran, said after Mottaki's speech that he had come to Brussels requesting dialogue, but "was only really interested in monologue, refusing to answer any question related to human rights and sticking blindly to the script that the elections in Iran had been free and fair... The qualification of Iran as a democracy, supported by the people, as Minister Mottaki portrayed his country, indicates a grossly misleading picture of the reality we have witnessed since the contested presidential elections," Shaake said.

In a press release, the S&D group (The Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament) said Martin Schulz, President of the group, had condemned "the unacceptable human rights situation in Iran."

## EU lawmakers called Iranian FM 'MURDERER'



dpa, June 1 - A closed-door hearing of the Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki in front of the European Parliament's foreign committee Tuesday was preceded by an angry protest in defence of human rights, staged by a dozen EU lawmakers.

British conservative Struan Stevenson shouted "murderer" at Mottaki while holding a picture of Neda Agha Soltan.

A brief tussle between EU lawmakers and the European Parliament's guards ensued, but no injuries were reported.

As the Iranian delegation managed to slip through the door, another British conservative EU deputy, Charles Tannock, shook his head. "He should have never been invited in the first place," he said.

## MEP shouted at Mottaki: "It was a shame you are here"



AFP, June 1 - On his arrival Mottaki was greeted by a group of 10 conservative Euro MPs, from Britain and particularly Italy, who protested at his very presence in the parliament building in Brussels. The protesting MEPs denounced Iranian violations of human rights.

Scottish Conservative Struan Stevenson shouted that it was "a shame you are here".

"No murderer in parliament," and "fascist regime", he yelled as he and his fellow protesters held up pictures of Neda Agha-Soltan, who became an opposition icon after images of her death at a Tehran protest last year spread across the Internet.

## MEPs' anger at Mottaki visit



Euro News, June 2 - A group of MEPs briefly blocked the arrival of the Iranian Foreign Minister to the European Parliament in Brussels. Cries of 'murderer' reflected their outrage that Manouchehr Mottaki had been invited.

There was anger that the parliament's president refused a request to hang a large photo of a young music student, Neda Agha Soltan. "They abuse women. They execute women and children and men. They execute political prisoners. They execute peaceful protesters," said British MEP Struan Stevenson. "I want to ask him how many people they have executed this week. This is a man who brings disgrace to this Parliament by coming here."

## Maryam Rajavi lauds Euro MPs' initiative

Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, President-elect of the Iranian Resistance, lauded the MEPs' unprecedented move and congratulated them for their freedom-seeking bold gesture.

Mrs. Rajavi said protest by the EP Vice President and a large number of Euro MPs against the clerical regime and its criminal foreign minister and their support for the Iranian people's uprising illustrates the European people's desire to see freedom and democracy in Iran. She hoped that the European Union and its member states would pursue the wishes of the European people and their representatives and abandon their policy of appeasement of the regime. She called for total rejection of the regime and asked European states to stand by the Iranian Resistance for democracy and human rights.

