



Former American, French and Arab officials defend Ashraf, urge removal of PMOI from U.S. blacklist

Rudy Giuliani, former New York Mayor:

The United States should be enthusiastically on the side of the Resistance. We should be supporting you rather than putting roadblocks in your way. For your organization to be described as a terrorist organization is just a disgrace.

Frances Townsend, Advisor to President George Bush on Homeland Security till 2009:

Ashraf is not an internal Iraqi problem, this is an American problem. The world must demand your fair treatment but the United States has a special responsibility.

Dr. Michael Mukasey, Attorney General till 2009:

PMOI was placed on that list to curry favor with Iran, and to use that designation as a way of entering into dialogue with the Iranian regime.

Tom Ridge, U.S. Homeland Security Secretary till 2005:

Their cause in Ashraf is our cause and that the most effective and important first step in achieving their goal is for the US to rid the PMOI of their status and to let them to unleash the power of freedom.

Maryam Rajavi:

The US was aware that the Maliki government was doing the bidding of the mullahs and enforcing its policies... the US must resume the protection of Ashraf residents and the UN must station its permanent monitoring there.

Yves Bonnet, former head of French Counter-Terrorism Organization:

The PMOI is not to even the slightest extent a terrorist organisation, it's a resistance organisation, or else the words are meaningless.

Sid Ahmed Ghozali, former Prime Minister of Algeria:

Ashraf is certainly not only at the heart of the question of popular resistance against the religious dictatorship in Iran, but also at the heart of the problem of peace and stability in Iran, the Muslim sphere, and in the world.

Alain Vivien, former French deputy minister for European Affairs:

We need to stop being soft on the regime of mullahs... it is necessary to take measures to protect Ashraf residents subjected daily to flagrant persecutions.





International Conference Camp Ashraf and Policy on Iran

December 22, 2010 – Paris

On December 22, 2010, senior former officials from the United States, France and Arab world attended an international conference to discuss a new policy on Iran and Camp Ashraf, home to 3,400 members of the main democratic opposition to the Iranian regime, the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI/MEK). The meeting was chaired by Jean-Pierre Spitzer, a prominent French jurist and lawyer who successfully fought for delisting of the PMOI in Europe. After speaking about the legal battle for the PMOI at the European Court of Justice, Mr. Spitzer introduced the speakers at the event. The speakers reaffirmed that the PMOI's terror designation by the US State Department is a major obstacle against change in Iran and serves as an unjustified concession to the clerical regime. Along with Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, the President-elect of the Iranian Resistance, distinguished speakers at the event included, Rudolph Giuliani, former Mayor of New York City and US presidential candidate in 2008; Frances Townsend, advisor to President George W. Bush on Homeland Security and Counterterrorism until 2009; Dr. Michael Mukasey, US Attorney General until 2009; Tom Ridge, US Homeland Security Secretary until 2005;

Sid Ahmed Ghazali, former Prime Minister of Algeria; Alain Vivien, former French Deputy Minister for European Affairs; Yves Bonnet, Chief of the French Counterterrorism Organization (DST) during the presidency of the late François Mitterrand; Anne-Marie Lizin, Honorary Speaker of Belgian Senate; Jean-Pierre Brard, a French member of Parliament; Maurice Boscavert, Mayor of Taverny; and Juan Garcès, international law expert from Spain. Among the prominent participants at the event were Allan Gerson, Counsel to the US Delegation to the United Nations and Jens Christian Lund, Senior Member of the Danish Parliament.

Current state of Iranian regime

Failure to quell people's uprising

Speaking about the state of the regime, Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, President-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), referred to the eruption of the popular uprisings following the sham presidential election in June 2009, and said that the development was a confirmation that the mullahs' rule had entered its final phase. She outlined the main parameters of

the situation in Iran briefly as follows:

1. The ruling regime in Iran suffers from fundamental weaknesses and has been fragmented;
2. The mullahs lack a social base;
3. A generation of young men and women, who will stop at nothing short of achieving freedom and democracy, has emerged;
4. The Iranian society is overwhelmingly supporting the primary slogan and demand of the organized resistance, namely fundamental change of the entire clerical regime.

Mrs. Rajavi underscored the regime's failure to quell the people's uprising despite ruthless suppression, torture and executions and said: The mullahs in recent months have failed to extinguish the uprisings and to contain their internal schisms. The nationwide protests by students on December 7 and the sudden recent dismissal of the mullahs' Foreign Minister and their President's first deputy both demonstrated this reality.

Ashraf

"Ashraf is an American problem"

Criticizing the handover of the protection of Ashraf to Iraqi authorities, Mrs. Rajavi





said, "The US was aware that the Nouri al-Maliki government was doing the bidding of the mullahs and implementing the regime's policies by committing atrocities and terrorizing the Iraqi public. Despite that, the US handed over the protection of Ashraf to Iraq."

Underlining the impact of Ashraf on the uprising in Iran, she said, "When the mullahs wanted to contain the uprisings, they attacked Ashraf first. They have fully recognized the link between a resistance movement and the percolating protests." She added, "No one has seen the pressures by the Iranian regime to close down Ashraf more than the Americans. Tehran raised the issue during three rounds of official negotiations between the State Department and the regime's envoys in Baghdad." Mrs. Rajavi then asked, "Why are the mullahs so afraid of an encircled and unarmed group 70 kilometers from the Iranian border?" She added, "Because they know that Ashraf holds the key to change. They know that with 1,000 pioneering women, Ashraf inspires equality and emancipation for women."

Mr. Ghozali drew the attention of the conference to the important role of Ashraf and said, "Ashraf is certainly at the heart of the question of popular resistance in Iran against a religious dictatorship. But it is also at the heart of the big problem of peace and stability not only in this region of the world (in Iran and what surrounds it) but also in the Muslim world in general."

Mr. Giuliani agreed with Mrs. Rajavi that, "The United States made a mistake in turning Camp Ashraf over to a government that is not ready to handle these responsibilities fairly and decently." He described it as "a horrible deprivation of human rights," and said, "Eleven people have already been killed since that happened and five hundred others have been injured."

Ms. Townsend also joined Mrs. Rajavi in criticizing the US approach to Ashraf residents and said, "Those who are charged in the Iraqi government with protecting Camp Ashraf are those who in July of 2009 were responsible for the incursion, the beating, the maiming and the killing. They

are not protecting them." She warned the Iraqi Prime Minister that, "The world is watching and will not stand by silently and watch you permit the Iranian regime in Tehran a victory that was denied to them in the eight years of war with Iraq." She then addressed Secretary Clinton and emphasized, "This is not an internal Iraqi problem, this is an American problem." Ms. Townsend also addressed Ashraf residents, and reiterated, "The world must demand your fair treatment but the United States has a special responsibility."

Mr. Vivien echoed similar sentiments, stressing the need "to take measures to protect the Iranian refugees in Ashraf subjected to daily flagrant rights violations." He reminded the US and the UN of their responsibilities towards the protection of Ashraf.

Mr. Ridge reassured Ashraf residents by saying, "Those of us who enjoy the blessings of freedom and liberty are united in support of their heroic and courageous quest for freedom." He emphasized his solidarity with the goal of Ashraf residents,

saying, "Their cause is our cause and the most effective and important first step in achieving their goal is for the US to rid the PMOI of the [terrorist designation] and to let them unleash the power of freedom."

Dr. Garcès, who is legally pursuing the case of Ashraf with respect to the psychological torture of the residents by means of 140 loudspeakers set up around the camp, said, "The acoustic method of bombardment is a way of applying torture. It was developed mainly in the 1950s. It has even a technical name, 'white sound.' International jurisprudence, particularly the tribunal set up by the United Nations for the former Yugoslavia, studied this acoustic form of bombardment and categorically considered it as a form of torture, prohibited as well by the Convention Against Torture and by the Geneva Conventions." He reiterated that those responsible for these tortures must be held accountable in a court of justice.

PMOI terror designation **"Roadblock for change"**

Some of the political reasons behind the unjust terror designation against the PMOI in the US, which remains in place to this day, were explained by Ms. Townsend, who had intimate knowledge of the designation process. Describing it as being part of the "failed policy of appeasement," she said, "The listing of the PMOI began in the Clinton administration under the delusion that such a goodwill gesture might be received and reciprocated [by the regime]. That clearly failed. ... We could have delisted the PMOI [in the Bush administration]."

"Let me put a sharper edge on why I think that did not happen. Let's be honest. After 2003, we were in a very difficult fight in Iraq. We were losing our men and women in uniform and I can assure you being in the administration that this was a very painful reality and if there was anything you could do to save one American life of one soldier you would have done it. It led perhaps to a bad judgment because, of course, if in the midst of that fight in Iraq we had delisted the PMOI, there was a fear that it could have provoked a reaction from Iran. Let's be honest about why we failed during the Bush administration to delist because we didn't think at the time that it was in our self interest. We were wrong."

Ms. Townsend added, "You know how I know we were wrong? It was not just because it was an unjust thing not to delist PMOI. But I know we were wrong because of Iran's reaction. What did they do as a result of our failure to delist the PMOI? It would have been progress if they had done nothing, but they didn't, the tyrannical regime in Iran believed that that failure to delist the PMOI was weakness not strength. And we know how the tyrannical regime in Iran reacts to a perceived weakness; they became more aggressive."

Highlighting the common values shared between the US and the PMOI, Mr. Giuliani criticized the decision to blacklist the organization and stressed, "It's about time that the United States lifts the designation... It is beyond doubt clear that you're not a terrorist organization... We should be supporting you rather than putting roadblocks in your way. For your organization to be

described as a terrorist organization is just a disgrace."

Mr. Ridge voiced the same reaction and called on the US to be "loud and clear and consistent that the PMOI is not a terrorist organization. It is a voice and a call for freedom."

Dr. Mukasey also admitted that "PMOI was placed on that list to curry favor with Iran, and to use that designation as a way of entering into dialogue with the Iranian regime." But he regretted that the "PMOI continued to remain on the list for the same misguided reason" even during the administration that he served in.

Mr. Vivien described the PMOI's terror listing as a "scandal" and said that it "was one of the saddest outcomes of the appeasement policy towards the mullahs."

Mr. Gerson referred to the negative implications of the PMOI's terror label and said, "The failure to immediately remove the politically motivated arbitrary FTO [Foreign Terrorist Organization] designation of the PMOI by the US Department of State undermines respect for the United States as a paragon of advancement of the rule of law."

Support for PMOI **"PMOI is the only organization for Iran"**

In his speech, former US Attorney General Mukasey talked about the PMOI's background and concluded that, "The PMOI is the only organization of Iranians, both inside Iran and outside Iran, that opposes the current regime and favors a government in Iran that is organized as a democratic, secular, non-nuclear republic. Again! This is not one of the few organizations of Iranians that fits that description; it is the only one."

Mr. Giuliani held a similar view and underlined the common principles shared between the US and the PMOI, saying, "The principles that you espouse are the principles that we espouse in America. You want freedom for your people. You want the ability to elect a government. You want economic freedom. You want women to be treated with equality and respect. You want a system of laws that are fair. You want freedom of religion so that people can practice maybe the most important thing they do, their relationship to their maker, the way they believe they should practice it. These are wonderful and beautiful things that you support. The United States should not just be on your side, the United States should be enthusiastically on your side. You support what we support. You're what we hope for in Iran. You're what we dream about for Iran. This is what we want for your country. We want a country that is built on the principles that you espouse."

Mr. Ridge noted, "No matter how ruthless, violent, despotic and repressive the regime in Tehran may be, it will never sear from hearts and minds of loyal democratic opposition and resistance personified and led by the PMOI that very notion, the goal, the aspiration, the dream to live in a free, tolerant and democratic Iran."

Mr. Boscavert highlighted the adverse impact of the terror

designation especially since it is used as a justification by Iraqi forces for abusing and harassing the residents of Ashraf. He stressed, "The siege on Ashraf has to end. It is necessary to free Ashraf. This starts immediately with a revision of the FTO list and acknowledging that the Iranian Resistance is a freedom loving and democratic movement, and as such must be recognized by the United States."

Speaking on behalf of his colleagues at the French Parliament, Mr. Brard said, "We will continue our work for this cause since your struggle is compatible with the Declaration of Philadelphia, with the French revolution as well as the principles of resistance and human rights. In order to liberate the Iranian people from dictatorship, our best support would be not military intervention but to assist those Iranians who are waging resistance."

What should be done?

Democratic change by people and Resistance

There was a consensus view among the speakers at the conference that the policy of appeasement vis-à-vis the regime has been a failure and that a new policy must lead to regime change in Iran.

In this regard, Mayor Giuliani said, "The United States should do what the people who were demonstrating in Iran and who will demonstrate in the future want ... The only way we're going to have a nuclear-free Iran, short of a massive military action or the possibility of it, is a strong possibility of regime change ... and the emphasis of our government should be on regime change."

Secretary Ridge dismissed the notion that "a terrorist-supporting, nuclear-armed and threatening Iran could somehow be restrained or controlled through a Cold War strategy of deterrence" as inconceivable and unacceptable. "It would not happen" he

stressed, urging, "Let's stand with the PMOI and support the effort of the democratic resistance to replace that clinched fist of tyranny with the open hand, open hearts, and open mind of a tolerant, peaceful and democrat Iran."

Attorney General Dr. Mukasey proposed two practical steps: "For an immediate thing, we must take off the list of terrorist organizations a group that is devoted to restoring freedom to Iran. For another, we can make it clear, even without being explicit, that we will offer all possible technical and covert support to those fighting to end oppression in Iran."

Former White House Advisor on Homeland Security and Counterterrorism, Ms. Townsend, suggested that "the greatest single step right now today that the United States government can take to really put pressure on the Iranian regime and really insist and enable change is delisting the PMOI."

The President-elect of the Iranian Resistance, Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, reiterated that "the correct solution to the Iranian problem is democratic change by the Iranian people and Resistance. This is the defining factor in the Iranian equation. Thus, any policy that blocks the Resistance ignores the most important actor for change in Iran and the regime's soft spot. This deficiency is at the heart of the mistaken policy of engagement."

Mrs. Rajavi concluded her remarks by outlining the following proposals:

1. Sanctions are necessary, especially if they evolve into an oil embargo. But they will have an impact only when coupled with support for the Iranian people's Resistance.
2. The solution to the Iranian problem is democratic change by the Iranian people and Resistance. It is therefore necessary for the US to remove the obstacles placed on the path to change, particularly the terrorist designation of the PMOI.
3. The US must resume the protection of Ashraf residents and the UN must station its permanent monitoring team there.





Jean-Pierre Spitzer

*French Lawyer
Expert on European Law*

Today, the French committee for a democratic Iran, with the support of a dozen national members of Parliament, is organising this conference during which politics will be debated as it concerns Iran, on

two themes: the situation in Ashraf, and the fact that in the United States, the PMOI still appears on the list of terrorist organisations.

I think I have no right to, except that I can find two reasons:

The first is that I find myself here, 35 years after being the student of economic science I used to be and who came here to find reasons to write his thesis on economic science on measuring the performance of stock exchange managers. You see that this can lead to anything.

The second reason that I can see is that since 2002, at the request of the President, and I still thank her for it, I am at her side, at the side of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, at the side of the PMOI in that battle which we have fought together so that the PMOI should no longer appear on the list of terrorist organisations.

It's true that I know this blacklist question well. We have pursued it under the aegis of Lord Slynn who is someone whom we miss very much today. I am honoured to have been his friend for 30 years, because I was referendary at the Court of Law in 1979 when he arrived as Attorney General. And also with the participation of another of my very dear friends, David Vaughan, with whom we fought and won four successive battles.

When we led this battle, we expressed more than our distress, it was our lawyer anger, by this sentence which I summarize for you: we said to the European leaders, since our adversary was the Council of the European Union and a certain number of Member States, UK, France, Germany, and the Netherlands ... We told them "A week does not pass by, without you in the media denouncing what you call the rogue state, the state of mullahs." And in same time, we told them "you do not hesitate to put name of PMOI, the organization that spearheads the opposition and resistance to this regime of mullahs, in the terror list." It is what we lived through 6 years and thanks God this was put to an end thanks to the European judge.

To those states that have pursued that policy of open hand towards Iran we kept on telling them: "You consider the mullahs' regime in a magical way. Like a magician you address yourselves to a thug state and you want that state, by your words, as if by a stroke of a wand, to become a democracy."

So, for ten years now, these entire attempts make one think inevitably of Churchill in 1938 because our Western states have undoubtedly lost their honour, by letting a people be sacrificed to the mullahs and unfortunately it isn't certain that that policy won't finish in war and Churchill might say again: "You have war with dishonour."



Sid Ahmed Ghozali

*Former prime minister
of Algeria*

The question of Ashraf, connected with the question of the unjust and scandalous inclusion of the People's Mojahedin Organisation of Iran in the US list of terrorist organisations, are questions

which are at the very heart of three types of issues: humanitarian, legal and political issues.

Ashraf is certainly not only at the heart of the question of popular resistance against the religious dictatorship in Iran, but also at the heart of the problem of peace and stability in Iran, the Muslim sphere, and in the world.

Ashraf has been the target of a veritable siege. Progressively the screws have tightened around Ashraf. The blockades, both in the economic and health spheres, have increased. There were the tragic events of July 2009 during which the Iraqi army, and certainly including representatives of the agents of the Iranian regime invaded Ashraf camp. They wounded 500 people, they killed 11 and took 36 hostages who remained hostage, tortured for almost 3 months.

Ashraf has become a centre of physical and psychological torture. 140 loudspeakers circle Ashraf day and night, every minute of every day. There is a legal problem of international law, there are people there whose right to protection has been officially recognised within the framework of the Fourth Geneva Convention. The convention is violated every day in spite of the guarantees which were given by the American administration that publicly took responsibility for the protection of Ashraf when its inhabitants were disarmed in return for protection.

And finally there is the political question. Ashraf is also directly connected to the problems of stability and peace in the area since there are those who want to mask the reality that is a problem of human rights in Iran. The Iranian regime has executed in 30 years 120,000 political opponents.

The Clinton's administration had thought (but he was proven to be wrong by what it followed) that it was possible to foster a moderate tendency in this regime. That is why he conceded into appeasement and at the request of the Iranian regime to some extent sacrificed the popular opposition namely PMOI. And now President Clinton himself with the sight of the demonstration which took place in Taverny last June and which has brought together 100,000 participants said that these 100,000 people who ask for freedom and democracy should be supported.

Also we can see within the U.S. Congress increasingly many voices are raised calling on the U.S. administration to ensure its responsibilities in regards to protection of Ashraf and to put an end to this unjust act of designation of PMOI on the FTO list.

Alain Vivien

Former French deputy minister for European Affairs



In a region as important as the Middle East from the point of view of geostrategy, there are three attitudes possible for democratic nations:

Nothing to do tacitly, hoping that with time, the regime of mullahs would end up being civilized. Today we see the result of these illusions. Others suggest a new intervention on the ground. The brilliant results noted in Iraq then in Afghanistan hardly encourage such a policy.

The third way remains then to help the Iranian people to take their destiny in their hand and to facilitate the way of establishment of a new government, quite different from what currently prevails in Teheran. Once again, in order for that to happen we need to stop shuffling with the regime of mullahs.

And is necessary to take measures to protect the Iranian refugees in Ashraf subjected daily to shameless persecutions. Why these refugees can't count on the protection promised by the American authorities? Why the United Nations does not send troops charged to permanently protect the UN mission that should be present every day there?

It is imperative that some people stop regarding the Iranian Resistance as terrorist. European Union's courts rendered justice of it; in fact they rendered justice of this nonsense tag by three final judgments. None of the countries, including France which supported this wrong cause, were able to produce evidence of any terrorist acts. The British Parliament had the honour of being the first to make its own government surrender on this regrettable dead end. This scandal, in fact, was no other thing than one of the most lugubrious aspects of appeasement policy towards mullahs.

Will the United States have, in their turn, the courage to remove the Iranian Resistance from its FTO list? The presence of important American personalities in Paris, this December 22, can make it happen soon, I hope. One will allow the French who I am to point out in 1940, General de Gaulle was himself also treated as terrorist by collaborationist propaganda. Four years later, he was marching on Champs-Élysées under the popular acclamations.

A US policy change towards the resistance would be welcomed.

Rudolph Giuliani

Former Mayor of New York City, U.S. presidential candidate in 2008



We could not be in a city that suffered more from appeasement than Paris. No city in Europe suffered more than Paris from the idiocy of appeasing Hitler. Appeasement of dictators leads to war, destruction and the loss of millions of human lives.

The principles that you espouse are the principles that we espouse in America. You want freedom for your people, the ability to elect a government, economic freedom, and for women to be treated with equality and respect. You want a system of laws that are fair. You want freedom of religion so that people can practice maybe the most important thing they do, their relationship to their maker, the way they believe they should practice it. These are wonderful and beautiful things that you support.

The things you support are the most important yearnings for the human soul. For your organization to be described as a terrorist organization is just a disgrace. And it came about for the worst of reasons, for a reason that is at the cause of the problem that we are having and perpetuating. You were described as a terrorist organization in an attempt to placate the Iranian regime, thinking that this would make the regime more reasonable and more like the normal people that we do business with and can bargain with in order to come up with the best arrangement.

Some people say it was done with the best of motives. In many ways, it may have been the best of motives but it was the worst of thinking, and it was a rejection of history I just described to you. It is absolutely the worst way to treat dictators and tyrants.

And now it is beyond doubt clear that you're not a terrorist organization. The highest court in England, the European Union, and many organizations have investigated you. You've been investigated so much it's almost like you're a politician in the United States (that was a joke). And unlike a politician in the United States you're innocent. You're not guilty and it's about time, it's about time the United States stood for that.

Over 100 members of Congress have supported that. It's clear that this has now become not just an embarrassment, not just something that you have to deal with which mischaracterizes the wonderful goals of your organization; It has now become a tactic that is keeping the Iranian regime in power. It is a tactic that the regime uses, just as is the case with Camp Ashraf, by which they perpetuate themselves and they demonize their enemies. And they cut their enemies off from sources of support that they might get which could lead to overthrowing the regime. So it is long overdue now with all these international organizations that have urged the lifting of this

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Maryam Rajavi

For long, proponents of appeasement advocated a view that insisted on the regime's stability and prowess and ignored the Iranian people's Resistance.

The uprisings in 2009, however, completely changed the nature of the debate as it confirmed that the ruling regime in Iran has entered its final phase.

Now, what should one do with a regime which has entered its final phase?

- The first option is engagement and more concessions in the hopes that it would abandon building nuclear weapons;

- The second option is firmness and standing with the Iranian people's resistance which seeks regime change.

The US policy of engagement in the past two years has unfortunately followed the first option. It has done serious harm to the Iranian people's movement and helped keeping the regime on its feet.

It would prove helpful to review some of the harmful consequences of the policy of engagement in several respects: First, the uprisings:

You may have heard that during the uprisings in the streets of Tehran, the people were chanting, Obama, are you with us or mullahs? Instead of standing with the Iranian people, President Obama extended a hand to the leaders of the Iranian regime such that at the height of the uprising in October 2009, it directly negotiated with Ahmadinejad's envoys.

Second, the nuclear program:

While pursuing engagement, President Obama has stated publicly that he is opposed to nuclear weapons in the hands of the ruling mullahs. But in practice, his policy provides the opportunity to the mullahs through fruitless negotiations.

Today, many acknowledge that last year's talks were a step backwards and this year's talks were two steps backwards.

Third, the situation in Iraq:

Following the Iraq war, the United States brought in Iranian regime-backed parties into the Iraqi government. The new administration has worked to withdraw US soldiers from Iraq. But, that should not allow the mullahs to dominate Iraq. If this policy does not fundamentally change, Iraq will be handed over to the mullahs in a silver platter.

Fourth, Iranian people's organized resistance:

In order to mollify the mullahs, the United States has blocked the Iranian Resistance and consequently the path to change.

The correct solution to the Iranian problem is regime change, a democratic change by the Iranian people and Resistance. This is the defining factor in the Iranian equation. Thus, any policy that blocks the Resistance ignores the most important actor for change in Iran and the regime's soft spot. This deficiency is at the heart of a mistaken policy of engagement.

Nowhere is this mistake more apparent than in the situation of Ashraf.

The US was aware that the Maliki government was doing the bidding of the mullahs and enforcing its policies by committing atrocities and terrorizing the Iraqi public. It, nevertheless, handed over the protection of Ashraf to Iraq.

When the mullahs wanted to contain the uprisings, they attacked Ashraf first. They have fully recognized the relations between a resistance movement and the percolating protests. And no one more than the Americans have seen the pressures by the Iranian regime to close down Ashraf. Tehran raised the issue during three rounds of official negotiations between the State Department and the regime's envoys in Baghdad.

Truly, why are the mullahs so afraid of an encircled and unarmed group 70 kilometers from the Iranian border? Because they know that Ashraf holds the key to change. They know that with 1,000 pioneering women, Ashraf inspires equality and emancipation for women.

Now, we come to the biggest error in the policy of engagement,

Rudy Giuliani

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designation. These many organizations are not particularly favorable to our cause. But they are fair, honest and have come to the conclusion that this was an incorrect designation.

It is about time in this era that we have now of bipartisan cooperation in the United States, which we better take advantage of because I'm never sure how long that lasts, that the United States gets it done and lifts the designation.

The United States should not just be on your side, it should be enthusiastically on your side. You support what we support. You are what we hope for in Iran. You are what we dream about

for Iran. This is what we want for your country. We want a country that is built on the principles that you espouse. So, we should be supporting you rather putting roadblocks in your way.

The United States should not ignore demonstrations in the streets of Iran against this regime, because the people are demonstrating for the principles that are at the core of what the United States and the civilized world are all about. The United States should not look the other way. It should not worry about how the regime in Iran perceived what we say or do. The United States should do with the people who were demonstrating in Iran and who will demonstrate in the future, the same thing we did with the people of Poland when they established the Solidarity movement.

The United States made a mistake in turning Camp Ashraf over to a government [in Iraq] that is not ready to handle these responsibilities fairly and decently. This is a horrible deprivation of human rights. Eleven people have already been killed and five hundred injured since that happened. They have been imprisoned and cut off from being able to see their family and their lawyers. And in a world that seems to get terribly upset when the slightest little mistake is made by the United States in holding prisoners anywhere, where is the world outrage at what's being done? The world outrage isn't there. And this is also partially because the United States doesn't make this the kind of issue. We should be there protecting and helping these people and make sure they are

reflected specifically in the inclusion of the People's Mojahedin in the State Department's Foreign Terrorist Organization list. The focus of our discussion is the critical impact of this listing, which has resulted in shutting down the engine for change in Iran. When you block the engine for change in Iran, how do you expect sanctions to be effective?

To understand this point, I must in particular refer to the role of the PMOI as the antithesis of the fundamentalist regime ruling Iran.

Khomeini and his remnants have erected their dictatorship under the banner of Islam; an Islam which is identified with limb amputation, stoning, misogyny, lies, deception and export of terrorism. In diametric opposition, the PMOI has presented a tolerant and democratic understanding of Islam.

A tolerant and democratic Islam is the only viable antidote to religious fascism under the banner of Islam.

This cultural character and the deep roots in Iranian society have made the PMOI an effective antithesis to the mullahs.

They are not only the reason for the failure of fundamentalism in Iran, but also the main bulwark against the advance of fundamentalism, namely the mullahs, in the region.

When the PMOI was placed on the terrorist list, the only organized Muslim movement which could block the advance of Islamic fundamentalism was in effect suppressed.

From this perspective, Ashraf's unrivaled role becomes more prominent.

In a nutshell, in the past three decades, the United States has been standing on the wrong side, constantly assisting the mullahs. In order to accommodate the non-existent moderates within the regime, it repeatedly offered concessions to the mullahs. Inside Iraq, the target of Tehran's covetous designs, it opened the gates to mullahs' intervention. It subjected Ashraf to attacks and conspiracies by Iraqis, and through negotiations and appeasement brought the mullahs closer to nuclear weapons.

I conclude by underscoring following points:

First, sanctions are necessary, especially if they evolve into an oil embargo. But they will have an impact only when coupled with support for Iranian people's Resistance. It is imperative that the mullahs' human rights dossier is referred to the UN Security Council. Second, the solution to the Iranian problem is democratic change by the Iranian people and Resistance. It is therefore necessary for the US to remove the obstacles placed on the path to change, particularly the terrorist designation of the PMOI.

Third, the US must resume the protection of Ashraf residents and the UN must station its permanent monitoring there.

Fourth, we are seeking the establishment of a republic based on the separation of church and state, a pluralist system of government based on gender equality and women's active and equal participation in the leadership of the country. We also advocate human rights and the abolishment of medieval punishments and the mullahs' Sharia laws. We want a non-nuclear Iran that would institute amicable relations with all countries around the world.



treated at least with the basic norms of the Geneva Conventions and the basic norms of humanity. And that should change now.

The only way we are going to have a nuclear-free Iran short of a massive military action is if the regime in Iran is afraid to go forward with its nuclear program. And what will make them afraid of it? A massive nuclear attack or the possibility of it or a strong possibility of regime change.

I want to see a world without an Iran that has nuclear weapons. And it's not about Iran, it is about Ahmadinejad and the mullahs' regime. The only way he is not going to go forward with it is if he is afraid of extremely strong consequences: Military consequences or regime change. The emphasis of our

governments should be on regime change. There is no way in which we could hurt ourselves by taking that position. In fact we advance whatever dialogue is possible with the Iranian regime by being for regime change because the minute they start to believe that that is going to become the concerted effort of the United States and much of the rest of the world you might see a difference in their attitude.

It is all about exerting power and having leverage. And finally, Ahmadinejad and the regime simply have to be told by the President of the United States, in strong language, that he believes that under no circumstances will the regime be allowed to have nuclear weapons; That the United States will take any action necessary to prevent it and it

will be in our discretion to make certain that the regime will not obtain nuclear weapons.

Our answer to Ahmadinejad about nuclear weapons is "no, you're not going to get nuclear weapons." Our answer to the entire regime is for them to step aside and go away so that people can live in dignity and peace and with respect for each other.

You have one of the greatest and one of the oldest civilizations; a civilization about which you should be very proud. It is a civilization that is now being desecrated by madmen. And those of us who prize freedom stand with you.

When it comes to the issue of freedom, every single one of us is like you, an Iranian and proud to be one, and we are going to win this battle.



Frances Townsend

*Former advisor to President George W. Bush
on Homeland Security and Counterterrorism till 2009*

The listing of the PMOI began in the Clinton administration under the delusion that such goodwill gesture might be received and reciprocated. That thinking clearly failed. The subsequent Bush administration could have delisted the PMOI. Let me put a sharper edge on why I think that did not happen and let us be honest. After 2003 we were in a very difficult fight in Iraq. We were losing our men and women in uniform and I can assure you, being in the administration, that that was a very painful reality. If there was anything you could do to save one American life or one soldier you would have done it. It led perhaps to a bad judgment, because of course, if in the midst of that fight in Iraq we had delisted the MEK, there was fear that it could have provoked a reaction from Iran.

Let's be honest about why we failed during the Bush administration to delist. We were wrong. I know we were wrong not just because it was an unjust thing not to delist PMOI; I know we were wrong because of Iran's reaction. What did they do as a result of our failure to delist the MEK? It would have been progress if they had done nothing but they didn't because the tyrannical regime in Iran believed that that failure to delist the PMOI was weakness not strength.

We know how the tyrannical regime in Iran reacts to a perceived weakness. They became more aggressive and they

permitted, encouraged and actually enabled the transfer of parts for electronically formed projectile weapons produced in Iran across the border into Iraq which killed our soldiers. So, they do not understand good will. Their response to goodwill is direct aggression against US forces. If the United States really and truly wants to put pressure on the current regime in Iran, we need more than talk and we need more than sanctions. The greatest single step right now today that I believe the United States government can take to really put pressure on the Iranian regime and really insist and enable change is to delist the MEK. We should do that because the listing is not warranted by the evidence that is public or anything that is classified. We should delist because it is not only inconsistent with our values and with our Declaration of Independence, but because it is inconsistent with the commitment that we made to the residents in Camp Ashraf when they turned over their weapons. We should delist because, as I have said, it is in the national security interest of the United States to do so and to make the MEK our ally. And, we need to do more than merely to delist the MEK. We must also lift all the restrictions that result from the listing.

Make no mistake, it needs to be a fact that the PMOI can come to the United States. I should not have to travel to Paris to see Mrs. Rajavi. She should be able to come to Washington to speak to the American people. They need to hear her voice, your voices, and voices of the oppressed people in Camp Ashraf and those fighting for freedom inside Iran.

Today, those who in the Iraqi government are charged with protecting Camp Ashraf are the same people who in July of 2009 were responsible for the incursion, the beating, the maiming and the killing of the residents. They are clearly not protecting the residents of Ashraf. Let me say this to Prime Minister Maliki

that not only is the world watching and will not stand by silently and watch you permit the Iranian regime in Tehran a victory denied them in eight years of war with Iraq. Since 2003, the US has spent its most precious resource, its people, it has shed blood and treasure on your soil and that gives us the God-given right to demand for the people of Ashraf the very democratic freedoms we died to make sure you had.

Secretary Clinton, if you are listening, with all due respect, this is not an internal Iraqi problem, this is an American problem. And to those in Camp Ashraf, the world must demand your fair treatment but the United States has a special responsibility. Since the US turnover in Iraq, mothers cannot visit their children or their grandparents or parents. Families are separated, some of them are in this room.

So, to those in Camp Ashraf, let me say that you must have access to lawyers and healthcare. You must have access to western journalists who can document your cause and your voices.

We have power to alleviate your suffering and give wings to your voices because your voices are both the memory of freedom before the revolution and witnesses to the horrors of tyranny.

Ashraf, you are the heart of Iran's future and you hold the key. Ashraf holds the key to the return of a great culture and a historical legacy of a peaceful and moderate Iran. You have advocates and friends in the US besides the luminaries that are here with you today. There are many strong advocates for you around the world. They hear your cry for freedom and they are with you.

The world must support a courageous patriot and freedom fighter like Mrs. Rajavi. We have that as our obligation by virtue of the blessing of the freedom we enjoy in the United States. So we must demand justice, freedom and action, not just words, for if we don't, history will judge us very harshly.

Tom Ridge

U.S. Homeland Security Secretary till 2005

It is a true privilege to be among the very distinguished guests who appear today united in public support of the democratic resistance in Iran, led by the MEK and to call for the removal of the MEK from the US State Department's Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTO) list.

Time is not our ally in our collective efforts in preventing the tyrannical regime in Iran from becoming a nuclear power. Time is running out.

The western world faces no greater foreign threat than that of Iran. In several decades, the slowly emerging regional and international influences of the radical regime, with its anti-western, anti-American, anti-Semitic actions, have certainly been the subject of debates, discussions and occasional actions, but there is no evidence that their conduct has in anyway been mollified or modified.

The West is running out of time to prevent the extremist, religious leadership of Iran from achieving their goals of nuclear extortion. Let's be very clear about the continued deception of the Iranian government, in their assertions that their intentions are peaceful and that the enrichment is strictly for nuclear energy, not weaponries.

No nation on Earth provides more financial aid and military support to Islamic terrorists than Iran. Iran and its surrogates, such as Hamas, Hezbollah, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, the militants in Iraq, Afghanistan and yet even Al-Qaida, threatening the region and the world as it proceeds to build its nuclear arsenal.

Frankly, if one looks back over the past 20-30 years to the United Nations' efforts in passing sanctions either related to human rights abuses or trying to stop Iran from becoming a nuclear power, I think it is only fair to conclude that those efforts have been futile and will continue to be futile unless a democratic resistance in Iran is allowed to thrive and flourish and to speak their minds and arouse the passions of its fellow citizens.

The challenge embodied by the radical messianic president of Iran is unlike anything

the western world has yet confronted. In the 20th century, our enemies were evil but they were rational; they cared little for human life but a great deal about self-preservation.

Those realities allowed for a window for compromise and negotiations to exist. Today, with the radical mullahs' regime those realities are non-existent. We face enemies who are strategic actors who do not accept the principles and values of a democratic and civil society. We are fighting an ideology, not just an ideologue.

The approach taken by the United States and some of its western allies has generally evolved over the past 30 years and with the passage of time has occasioned the need to consider in one form or another a variety of strategies to deal with Iran. In retrospect, I think it is easy to criticize the initial approach of the West but criticism is justified. Some analysts have described the strategy as based upon naïve optimism. There was a time, and to a lesser but still troubling extent it does exist today, that the well-intentioned belief appealing to the forces of moderation within the region (some would say impossible to do because they are impossible to find) of engaging with dialogue to confront and resolve the most challenging issues was the best and most enlightened approach, and the best way for reconciling the differences between the regime and the western world. If the past is a prologue, there is no reason whatsoever to be optimistic that this approach will ever succeed.

In the late 1990s, to curry favor with the regime in Tehran, the United States declared the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI/MEK) to be a terrorist organization and many of our allies followed suit. It is clear that the designation was intended to be strictly a concession, as many have reported, and a good will measure based upon a strategic goal of entering some form of illusory productive talks that might resolve our differences. A foreign policy aspiration and engagement, instead of a counterterrorism objective, was the



rationale. Goodwill gestures have no impact on those individuals or countries that have no good will.

We know that your brothers and sisters and sons and daughters and those that you support at Camp Ashraf disarmed and consolidated themselves under the protection of the United States troops. We know that the men, women and children in this group were given protected persons status under international law. They remained under protection of US troops until the Iraqi forces pledged their protection in 2008. We know that the 16 month review by the United State found no basis to charge any single member of the Iranian opposition group with any violation of American law. We know that the decision and the designation by the United States has been the justification used by the tyrannical regime for imprisonment, torture, mutilation and murder. We know that after a thorough investigation led by distinguished jurists throughout Europe, including classified information, both the EU and the United Kingdom no longer view the MEK as a terrorist organization. And we know that this designation is again under review by the State Department after a federal court said the government failed to provide sufficient support for the classification.

I join with all of you in believing that the United States must lift the designation immediately. Time is running out.

Over the years, the list of concessions made by the United States and our western allies

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Michael Mukasey

Former Attorney General till 2009

The militant Islamism threatens to destroy civilization as we know it. At the very center of that threat is the regime now in control in Iran, which oppresses its own people and threatens its neighbors and the world at large in pursuing a program to develop nuclear weapons that it has said repeatedly it will not hesitate to use.

The question that we have to ask ourselves is what have we done, what are we doing, to bring about the only end to this threat that can be permanent, and that is regime change in Iran.

Just as I did not have to review in detail the whole story of the US government's attempts to engage the regime of the mullahs in Tehran, I do not have to review the entire history of the PMOI. We are, however, entitled to ask, what is PMOI, and what has it been in recent years?

To put it quite simply, the PMOI is the only organization of Iranians, both inside and outside of Iran, that opposes the current regime and favors a government in Iran that is organized as a democratic, secular, non-nuclear republic. Again, this is not one of the few organizations of Iranians that fits that description; it is the only one.

There are about 3,500 PMOI members who live in Camp Ashraf near the border of Iran, in Iraq. Although it is referred to as a camp, I think "city" would probably be a better description. These people set themselves up near the Iran-Iraq border so that they could live and support efforts to free their country. In 2003, when the United States invaded Iraq, the residents of Camp Ashraf surrendered the weapons that

they had available to defend themselves, and accepted a written confirmation from the then Deputy Commander of Multi-National Forces in Iraq, General Geoffrey Miller, on behalf of the United States, that they were "protected persons" under the Geneva Conventions.

From 2003 to 2009, the United States protected the residents of Ashraf and fulfilled the solemn obligation we had undertaken in 2003. But in January 2009, the United States turned over the responsibility for security to Iraqi security forces. Before that transfer took place, General David Petraeus said that the United States had been assured by the government of Iraq that the residents of Ashraf would be protected, and that he was proceeding with the transfer of security responsibility based on that assurance.

The residents of Ashraf have been a great source of anxiety to Iran, which would like nothing better than to see them repatriated to Iran, or at least crippled so that they cannot pose a threat to the regime.

It is certainly helpful to the cause of freedom for the PMOI to remain a bone in the throat of Iran, and a diversion to that regime, because of its potential to undermine the regime. However, the PMOI has been much more than that. It has helped the United States affirmatively by providing enormously valuable intelligence from its own sources within Iran about the Iranian nuclear program.

If the PMOI has in fact renounced violence - as it has -; if in fact it presents no threat to US personnel or interest, and in fact has been of affirmative assistance to the United States - as it has -; and if it is not regarded as a terrorist organization in the United Kingdom or the EU, then why was it placed on the list and why does it continue to remain on the list of such organizations that is kept by the Secretary of State?

I think it is pretty openly acknowledged that the reason PMOI was placed on that list initially under the Clinton administration was to curry favor with

Iran, and to use that designation as a way of entering into dialogue with the Iranian regime. I am sorry to say that even during the administration that I served in, it is reported that the PMOI continued to remain on the list for the same misguided reason, that if we kept it on the list of terrorist organizations - which, by the way, includes the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, the IRGC - then somehow the Iranians would be more willing to engage in constructive negotiations to end their nuclear program.

That did not work, and it is a sorry and cynical reason for branding as terrorists a group of people who, in so far as anyone can tell, are interested only in bringing to their country the blessing of the kind of liberty that we enjoy in the United States. It is pretty obvious also that the reasoning underlining that strategy, which was to curry favor with the Iranian regime and make it more accommodating, does not work. The Iranian regime is now in the enviable position of having the United States designate as a terrorist organization a group of Iranians who are a threat to that regime, and of limiting that group's activities. In other words, the Iranians have the "Great Satan" helping them.

This designation also undermines the image of the United States as a country that follows the rule of law, because it has been attached to an organization for hollow and baseless political reasons.

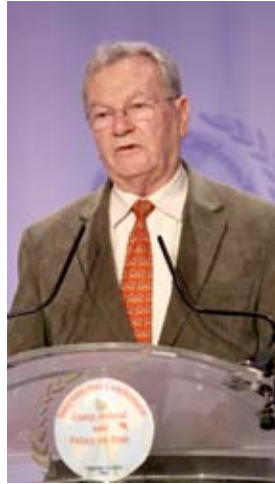
In July, the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit in the United States issued an opinion essentially sending the matter back to the State Department, asking the Secretary of State to re-evaluate whether PMOI should be on that list. But the court did something more than just sending it back. It expressed a great deal of skepticism about at least the non-classified information that was submitted to the court and shared with the PMOI, and which PMOI therefore could rebut.

The Secretary of State may choose to base her determination entirely on classified information, but she did not do that in

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Yves Bonnet

Former director of French anti-terrorism organization and MP



I should simply like, at the end of all these interventions which were political rather than technical, to bring back the debate to what it should be, that is to say the consideration of terrorism and resistance. The confusion which reigns at present between terrorism and resistance is never denounced, while it's the very basis of the problem.

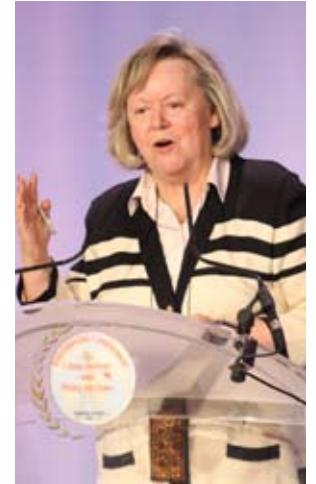
I think I have some competence as regards counter-terrorism, because of course, it was my job, I think I can speak with some knowledge. The PMOI is not to even the slightest extent a terrorist organisation, it's a resistance organisation, or else the words are meaningless.

Besides, what one must classify are not organisations, not States, but actions. There are few states that have never committed terrorist acts, if one is willing to consider that, all forms of action that aim at either a civilian population or the export of violence are terrorism. I think there is nothing more to say on that point, and PMOI has never targeted the civilian population in Iran, and that it has never exported violence.

One cannot, evidently, say the same about Iran, but our American friends, since they appreciate frankness, will allow me to say that, which embassy was invaded in 1979? Which is the only country that has ever dared to invade an embassy? Which is the only country that insults the United States by name, not only by calling it the Great Satan, which is rather, rather ridiculous, but by insulting American citizens?

Anne Marie Lizin

Former Speaker of Belgian Senate



Today is devoted to speaking about Iran, of the abuses, tortures and at the same time also of a true political combat. Today we would like to address a friendly message

to Mrs. Clinton, since the interest of PMOI today is not to explain why PMOI was maintained in the FTO list in the Bush period. The interest of PMOI today is to address in a friendly way to Mrs. Clinton and tell her that it was an error.

As U.S. Secretary of State to manage this period, and what today interests us; I will say very friendly to Mrs. Clinton, please, listen. Listen to what we have to say, from here, Paris: We want you listen to us, please listen to the responsibility that USA has taken towards PMOI people in Ashraf.

You have to follow the international law, to follow your responsibility.

And in fact, before moving out of here, we have to make an appeal to Mrs. Pily in Geneva. She is a High Commissioner for Human Rights. She knows a lot about what is happening there and the danger.

We have to also make an appeal to Mr. Melkert. He must put observer of UN inside Ashraf, day to day. That's very important. And we have to say to Mrs. Clinton, please invite Mrs. Radjavi to Washington, as a friend. And she is a friend, because she is a woman; Iranian, and a freedom fighter.

Michael Mukasey

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this case. She said she based her decision on both the classified information and the non-classified information. The court discussed some of the non-classified information, and revealed that a great deal of it consisted of unsubstantiated and anonymous rumor, the reliability of which was unknown and could not be tested. If the classified part of the record, which the PMOI has not been given access to and to which it cannot therefore respond, is as unreliable as the non-classified part, then this designation has no basis whatsoever. When Iranians go into the streets and put their lives on the line for freedom, as they are doing now and as they did after the fraudulent elections in June 2009,

the response of the United States must be more than to remind the mullahs, as we did on that occasion, that the world is watching.

What is necessary is to make it clear in word and in deed that we offer more than condolences when things go wrong to people who are willing to put their lives on the line for freedom. We must offer support and encouragement. One immediate step is that we must take off the list of terrorist organizations a group that is devoted to restoring freedom to Iran. For another, we can make it clear, even without being explicit, that we will offer all possible technical and covert support to those fighting to end oppression in Iran.

People do not sacrifice and take risks like that in order to adjust the fine tuning

of a tyrannical regime. This is about fundamental change that in Iran can be accomplished only by regime change. The best way to achieve that is at the hands of the Iranian people themselves.

It has been said that that is not a favor to organizations like the PMOI because they can then be accused by the Iranian government of acting as tools of the United States. There are two answers to that. The first is that whoever opposes the current Iranian regime will be attacked as a tool of the United States, whether or not they receive assistance from the United States, so they might as well get the help. And second, I think we ought to let organizations like the PMOI decide what is best for them rather than trying to decide it for them.



Juan Garcès

*International Lawyer
from Spain*

I am working on one of the most tragic dimensions of what has been mentioned, that is to say the torture that is now being used on the residents of Ashraf. For it must be said that this method of

acoustic bombardment, a means of torture. It was developed, especially since the 50s, it even has a name, white sound, and the application of this torture has above all been to persons in closed boxes or cells, or in specially soundproofed rooms. But what one sees now is the application of this torture in the open air, on a whole people, a whole town.

Now I must tell you that international jurisprudence, particularly the court created by the United Nations in the former Yugoslavia, has studied this form of acoustic bombardment and categorically considered it a form of torture, forbidden by the international Convention against torture as well as the Geneva Conventions.

So, we already have international law on our side, and now international jurisprudence. We need a law court before which those responsible must appear, especially those who gave the orders or who, knowing what is happening and able to prevent it, but don't prevent it.

And I think we shall soon have news, and will be able to say that we have been heard, and a first court of law will open a trial to demand responsibility from those people who ordered or allowed this kind of torture for the inhabitants of Ashraf.



Jean-Pierre Brard

*Member of French
Parliament*

Madam President, you have succeeded in bringing together today those old allies, let us not forget that before the French Revolution, there was 4 July 1776, the Philadelphia Declaration. You will permit me to

quote three lines from it: "governments are established by Men to guarantee their rights and their just power emanates from the consent of the governed. Every time a form of government becomes destructive of this aim, the people have the right to change it or abolish it and to establish a new government."

I shall simply say two things: one which concerns the resistance. General Eisenhower, when he came in 1944 to the Normandy beaches, discovered the French resistance and the role it played in facilitating the advance of the Allied troops. Because a resistance member, as Yves Bonnet said just now, is not a terrorist. It's a man, or woman, fighting for a cause, for their country, to eliminate a tyrant or his representative is an act of resistance. Those who forget that are not patriots.

We shall continue this work, Madam President Maryam Rajavi, because the battle you are fighting is in the tradition of the Philadelphia Declaration. It is in the tradition of the French Revolution. It is in the tradition of the resistance. It is in the tradition of the Rights of Man and as Jean Jaures said at the time of the Dreyfus case: "if an injustice only concerned one Man, it still remains an injustice and must be fought with the last degree of ardour."

Tom Ridge

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is as long as it is discouraging. We dropped our opposition to Iran's entry into the World Trade Organization, we lifted import restrictions on several items, in the late 1990s we dropped the designation of Iran as the world's leading sponsor of terror, and we no longer refer to Iran as a rogue state. Yet despite all these accommodations conciliations and reaching out our hands, we have made no progress.

We must reject as inconceivable and unacceptable the notion that a terrorist-supporting, nuclear-armed and threatening Iran could somehow be restrained or controlled through a Cold War strategy of deterrence. It would not happen.

After 30 years of pondering, the recent two-day meeting between Iran and western

powers is a timely reminder of how ineffective the strategy of engagement has been.

The parties, with much fanfare, agreed that they have reached consensus to meet again in January. And, at the same time, Iran made it very clear, as it did before the December talks, that at the next meeting, too, their nuclear ambitions are not part of the conversation. They are masters of deception and delay. While the West waits for the next part of conversation, Iran moves closer and closer to its nuclear goals. Time is running out.

So, we are here today in support of your efforts and in support of the resistance and call for action. To a certain extent, this is to challenge the rest of the world, particularly the western world, specifically the United States when it comes to removing MEK

from the list of terrorist organizations.

Let us be loud, clear and consistent that the MEK is not a terrorist organization; it is a voice and a call for freedom.

So, no matter how ruthless, violent, despotic and repressive the regime in Tehran may be, it will never sear from the hearts and minds of the loyal democratic opposition and resistance personified and led by the MEK, that very notion, goal, the, and dream to live in a free, tolerant and democratic Iran.

The United States must follow the lead of United Kingdom and the European Union and lift the designation of MEK as a foreign terrorist organization.

I was a soldier a long time ago in a different place on the other side of the world. So, I appreciate the sacrifices our young and old countrymen have made in Iraq and Afghanistan. This message is for the

Maurice Boscavert

*Mayor of
Taverny,
France*



It is the time for the United States to join the European Union in removing the Iranian Resistance from its blacklist.

The U.S. understands that they must align themselves on the wisest, most reasonable and the most fruitful position; to recognize Iranian Resistance movement as the only partner for progress and advancement of freedom in Iran.

As for my small town of 28,000 inhabitants, I can definitely say on behalf of its citizens, the Iranian Resistance represents a single chance that France could resurface in what it is basically, "the nation of the Lights", that of freedom, equality, secularity and the fight against any authoritarianism. Our brothers in Ashraf are suffering, they have to be freed and we must free Ashraf. This starts immediately with an update of the FTO list and acknowledging that the Iranian Resistance is a freedom loving and democratic movement, and as such must be recognized by the United States.

government of Iraq. I would like to think that you would join with me as I join with you in saying to that government to tear down those loudspeakers and to end the psychological torment afflicted on these men and women and children every hour of every single day; Put an end to the medical embargo and stop the provocative incursion into the camp.

I read some of the communications among our generals as the Iraqi security forces agreed to take over the security and protection of the camp, and I believe it is incumbent upon the Maliki government to honor those assurances every step of the way.

The men and women of Camp Ashraf need to know that those of us who enjoy the blessings of freedom and liberty are united in support of their heroic and courageous

Allan Gerson

Senior Counsel for U.S. Delegation to United Nations during Reagan Administration



I do want to dwell on what it means to Know -- in terms of moral responsibility and legal culpability -- when you know something awful is about to occur, and is occurring, and you stand idle with your hands folded behind your back?

It is clear and unquestioned that US law and international law have evolved to the point where two things can be said: knowledge can be imputed from circumstances, and where there is knowledge by responsible directors there is a duty to act to prevent a wrong from occurring.

Now apply these tests to the US government, which has ruled Iraq since the recent military intervention and which still exercises considerable influence and military might in that country.

I would like in this regard to stress a number of other points:

1. International law violations if not crimes are being committed in Ashraf on a daily basis. Washington and the international community knows in any sense of the word about these happenings. Failure

quest for freedom; that their cause is our cause, and that the most effective and important first step in achieving their goal is for the US to rid the MEK of their status and to let them unleash the power of freedom. To the mullahs, that is a very radical idea, one that they have sought and have been unable to repress no matter how hard they have tried.

Let's stand with MEK and support the effort of the democratic resistance to replace that clinched fist of tyranny with the open hand, open hearts, and open minds of a tolerant, peaceful and democratic Iran.

Life, liberty and the pursuit of their own happiness are the inalienable rights for Iranian citizens.

This must be more than a dream, it must be a reality that you and I must do work every day to try to accomplish it on their behalf.

to act responsibly by those in a position to influence events only makes them complicit in the eyes of the law, individually and collectively, in these human rights violations.

2. Clearly, these human rights deprivations if not crimes are being committed by the Iraqi authorities in conjunction with the Iranian regime. The US government has both legal and moral obligations to protect residents of Ashraf.

3. The USG, like international community, has obligations that extend beyond international law to the issue of which policies it wishes to further: ones based on the dignity of the individual or political expediency? Here both law and the collective conscience compel action to prevent the immediate suffering and enable long term protection which only UN observers and extended US military presence, at least in terms of a security blanket, can provide.

4. At the core lies the perennial problem of appeasing Iran, which has spanned political parties and administrations. The hope that the world can change Iran's behavior by turning the other cheek now runs counter to every shred of evidence. Yet, the FTO designation of the MEK manifests this logically faulty and morally reprehensible policy.

5. to conclude: failing to protect residents of Ashraf undermines the reputation of the United States as an agent for freedom and fundamental human rights. The failure to immediately remove the politically motivated arbitrary FTO designation of the MEK by the US Dept. Of State undermines respect for the United States as a paragon of advancement of the rule of law. It is time to put an end to this disgraceful policy. It is time to remove the MEK from the terror list. They deserve unfettered support rather than being shackled in their struggle for a democratic Iran. That goal is not only in the US national interest but in the interest of global security.

53 former Prime Ministers and Ministers call for firm policy on mullahs, removal of PMOI from U.S. blacklist, support for Ashraf

As many as 53 former senior office holders from European and Islamic countries, including several former prime ministers and ministers have signed statements underlining the need to adopt a firm policy against the Iranian regime and the case for the removal of the People's Mojahedin Organisation of Iran (PMOI), the main Iranian democratic opposition, from the U.S. blacklist. They also call on the U.S. to support the residents of Ashraf in Iraq.

In a letter to Mrs. Hillary Clinton, U.S. Secretary of State, which was attached with the list of 53 former senior officials, Rt. Hon. Lord Waddington, former UK Home Secretary, said, "sanctions against the regime have been useful but insufficient," and emphasized, "no one believes that sanctions on their own will lead to any serious change in Tehran's policies. What will really count is the Iranian people's desire for regime change."

He finally underscored the general view of the senior ex-officials that "the Iranians themselves have the capacity to bring about democratic change without any foreign military intervention." While reminding that the U.S. must "show that it is on the side of the Iranian people and is not prepared to see the annihilation of the democratic opposition to the regime based in Ashraf," he underlined the need to adopt a new policy towards the regime that should include:

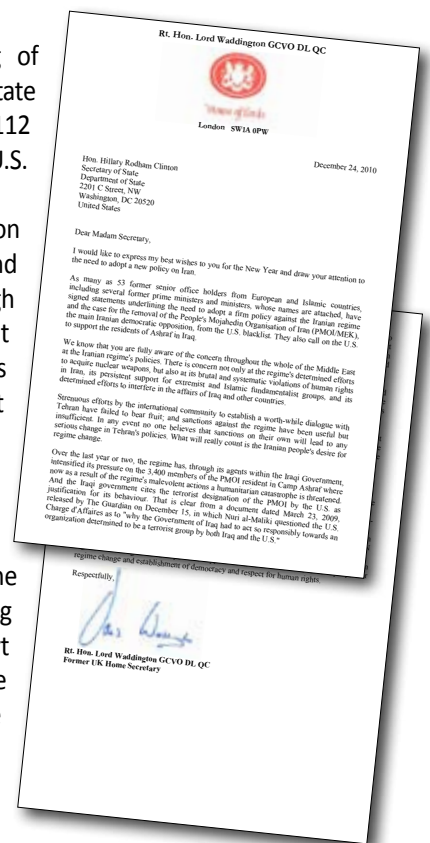
- The imposition of comprehensive oil, technological and weapons sanctions against the regime, especially the Islamic Revolutionary

Guard (IRGC),

- The immediate delisting of the PMOI by the U.S. State Department, as urged by 112 bi-Partisan members of the U.S. House of Representatives,

- U.S. guarantees of protection for the Ashraf residents and respect for their rights through the stationing of a permanent unit of the American forces in Ashraf and a permanent UN monitoring team in the camp,

- Strong condemnation of the brutal violations of human rights practised by the Iranian regime and strong moral and political support for the demands of the Iranian people for regime change and establishment of democracy and respect for human rights.



GOP figures criticize Obama's Iran policy in rally for exile group

Excerpts from the Washington Post, 23 December 2010 - A group of prominent U.S. Republicans associated with homeland security told a forum of cheering Iranian exiles here Wednesday that President Obama's policy toward Iran amounts to futile appeasement that will never persuade Tehran to abandon its nuclear projects.

The Americans - former New York mayor Rudolph Giuliani, former secretary of homeland security Tom Ridge, former White House homeland security adviser Frances Fragos Townsend and former attorney general Michael Mukasey - demanded that Obama instead take the controversial Mujaheddin-e Khalq (MEK) opposition group off the U.S. list of foreign terrorist organizations and incorporate it into efforts to overturn the mullah-led government in Tehran.

"Appeasement of dictators leads to war, destruction and the loss of human lives," Giuliani declared. "For your organization to be described as a terrorist organization is just really a disgrace."

The four GOP figures appeared at a rally

organized by the French Committee for a Democratic Iran, a pressure group formed to support MEK.

Their crowd-pleasing appeals, they said, reflected growing bipartisan sentiment in the U.S. Congress and elsewhere that the 13-year-old terrorist designation of the Paris-based dissident group should be ended because it is unfounded and has not made the Iranian government easier to deal with or halt its nuclear program. In addition, they noted, a Washington federal appeals court in July ordered Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton to review the listing and cast doubt on some of the information brought forward to support it.

The group, the largest and most active Iranian exile organization, was added to the list in 1997 as part of a Clinton administration effort to reach out to Tehran. It has been maintained since then apparently to avoid antagonizing the Iranian leadership while the United States fought wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"If the United States truly wants to put

pressure on the Iranian regime, it takes more than talk and it takes more than sanctions," Townsend declared, without saying what should be done. More explicit, Mukasey urged the Obama administration to offer "all possible technical and covert support to those fighting to end oppression in Iran." He added, "What it has done and what it is doing is nothing less than an embarrassment."

"I join with all of you in believing the United States must lift the [terrorism] designation immediately," Ridge said. "Goodwill gestures have no effect on countries or individuals that have no goodwill."

All four speakers equated the exile group with the Iranian opposition, saying it must be supported to help get rid of the government headed by President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and overseen by a committee of senior Shiite Muslim scholars. Only then, they said, can the world be certain that Iran will not develop nuclear weapons and threaten the Middle East.

"The United States should not just be on your side," Giuliani said. "It should be enthusiastically on your side. You want the same things we want."

