

Mullahs behind 80% of roadside bomb attacks in Iraq

In a press conference at the British Parliament on June 10, it was revealed that the Iranian regime was behind more than 80 percent of all roadside bomb attacks across Iraq. Also exposed were the names and particulars as well as the methods used by 51 networks smuggling the weapons on behalf of Iran's Qods Force to terrorist militias in Iraq.

The conference was organized by the Representative Office of the NCRI in the UK and chaired by Lord Corbett of Castle Vale, Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee for Iran Freedom. Other speakers included Lord Waddington, former UK Home Secretary, and Hossein Abedini, member of the NCRI's Foreign Affairs Committee.

As the first speaker, Lord Waddington said that despite the clerical regime's claims, it did not want a stable Iraq and it was doing its utmost to destabilize the country by sending arms and in particular roadside bombs to be used against the Coalition Forces.

He noted that the regime's efforts to destabilize Iraq are taking place in conjunction with its efforts to acquire nuclear weapons in a bid to become a nuclear power.

He regretted the British government's continued policy of appeasement despite the fact that the ambitions of the clerical regime have been exposed for some time.

He emphasized that at a time when all attempts to appease the mullahs have failed and

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Tehran presses EU to Keep PMOI's terror listing in place



From left: Paulo Casaca, Jean-Pierre Spitzer, Mohammad Mohaddessin and Pii-Noora Kauppi

Mullahs are pushing France and other EU states to maintain the PMOI on EU terrorist

Any attempt by any country including France to keep terrorist designation of the PMOI will be unlawful

PMOI lawyer

"Mullahs' ploy to prevent implementation of rule of law in European Union" was the title of a press conference in Brussels on Wednesday, June 11, organized to unveil the clerical regime's back-door efforts to maintain the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI/MEK) in the EU's terrorist list. While condemning the regime's efforts,

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Order to deproscribe the PMOI submitted to the UK Parliament

On June 11, the British Government laid the draft order before the Parliament to remove the PMOI from the list of proscribed organizations.



Tehran presses EU to Keep PMOI's terror listing in place

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the speakers reiterated that after the decision by the UK Court of Appeal which ordered the government to remove the PMOI from its proscribed list of organizations, there remains no justification for the EU to continue keeping the PMOI on its blacklist.

The conference was chaired by Jean-Pierre Spitzer, the PMOI's lawyer at the EU Court in Luxembourg, and speakers included Mohammad Mohaddessin, Chairman of the National Council of Resistance of Iran's Foreign Affairs Committee, Piia-Noora Kauppi, MEP and the leader of the Finnish

PMOI on the list.

He reminded that the EU Council of Ministers refused to implement the ruling of the Court of First Instance of European Communities by unjustified excuses and did not comply with the ruling of the court to remove the PMOI from the terrorist list exploiting EU judicial procedures to circumvent the judgment. But, he added, a UK specialist court, the Proscribed Organizations Appeal Commission, in 2007 ordered the removal of the terror designation, and the Court of Appeal denied the government leave to appeal against POAC's decision. Thus, the British Home Secretary presented a draft order to the Parliament

Mullahs' foreign ministry officials met the French ambassador in Tehran three times in less than one month to pressure France to take steps to maintain the PMOI in the EU's terror list

delegation in the Group of the European People's Party and Paulo Casaca, MEP and Co-chair of the Friends of a Free Iran Inter-group at the European Parliament.

Maintaining PMOI in terror list is unlawful

Jean-Pierre Spitzer (*PMOI's lawyer at the EU Court in Luxembourg*):

Mr. Spitzer began the conference by stating that it was held in response to information received indicating that some of the EU officials are engaged in a new deal with the Iranian regime and France is part of that.

Based on two legal opinions presented by British and French legal experts, he said that any attempt to fill the vacuum left by UK withdrawal of terrorist label against the PMOI by any other country, including France, and demand the continuation of the terrorist designation, will be unlawful. He added that after the rulings by the Court of First Instance of European Communities and the UK courts, which explicitly stated that the PMOI "is not concerned in terrorism" by any definition, and also following the UK government's decision to comply with the rulings, France will not be able to present any proof to maintain the

to remove the PMOI from the terrorist list. Every legal expert, who had studied the case, strongly believes that in legal terms the EU cannot in any way maintain the PMOI on the list after the May 7 ruling of the UK Court of Appeal, Mr. Spitzer noted.

He also mentioned that as the court decided the PMOI was not concerned in terrorism, the British judicial authorities are adamant that the organization cannot be maintained on the EU's list any longer.

By referring to the shameful Munich agreement with Hitler before the Second World War, Mr. Spitzer stressed that Europe was not obliged to choose between either a mullahs' regime armed with nuclear weapons or following the rule of law. He concluded by saying that even if France intended to maintain the PMOI in the list, it could rely on no proof for such a decision.

Tehran's pressure on Europe to maintain terror label

Mohammad Mohaddessin (*Chairman of the NCRI's Foreign Affairs Committee*):

After the UK Court of Appeal's definitive ruling on May 7 ordering the government to remove the PMOI from the list of proscribed organizations

in Britain, the mullahs lost all their hopes on the UK and focused their efforts on the EU to prevent the removal of the PMOI from its terror list.

Tehran's main target has been the French government. Tehran has exerted enormous pressures on the French government to prevent the implementation of the rule of law in the EU. Tehran intends to force EU member states to violate the rule of law by using its economic leverages, hollow promises, and by resorting to terrorist threats.

To this effect, Tehran also intends to exploit Javier Solana's trip to Tehran and raise this issue in the negotiations.

In addition to the Foreign Ministry, the Ministry of Intelligence and Security, other security and intelligence agencies of the regime, the Special Office of the regime's Supreme Leadership (Ali Khamenei's office), the Supreme National Security Council, the Office of Strategic Studies of the President, and the Exigency Council are all involved in dealing with consequences of the removal of the PMOI from the UK's proscribed organizations list. Their objective is to prevent PMOI's removal from the EU and US blacklists. In a report on the UK Court of Appeal ruling and its impact, the Research Center of the President's Office stated:

"Given the current situation, removal of the PMOI from the UK list and the EU list after that would establish the fact that they are the alternative and would increase their impact on the society. This is especially so since the assessment of intelligence organs point to their social base. In addition to the members of the families of those who have been executed, they also have widespread support among the university students and young people. The Islamic Republic made a grave mistake by not launching an attack against them in Iraq to destroy them in Camp Ashraf, prior to the overthrow of the former Iraqi government."

Proposed actions

The report suggested:

"In our propaganda, we should show the ruling as a minor issue and pretend as though the PMOI is insignificant. In turn we should intensify our disinformation campaign against the PMOI. We should launch a series of diplomatic activities to prevent the removal of the PMOI from the EU and the US lists. We should ask the French officials to compensate for the UK ruling and to prevent the removal of the PMOI from the EU list. The French are aware of our sensitivities and our views but we have to emphasize the PMOI's illegal activities in France."

Attempts to make France play the previous role of the UK

According to the Foreign Ministry's assessment, the only country that could replace the authority of the UK is France. The other countries are either too small or have no justification for such a role. But in light of what happened in France on June 17, 2003, France could make such a request from the Council of Ministers. But in turn, after the ruling of the UK Court of Appeal, the French silence on the removal of the PMOI from the EU list would create no obstacle to the PMOI's delisting.

Meetings between clerical regime and French officials

According to reports from the clerical regime's Foreign Ministry, Ali Ahani, the regime's Ambassador in France, met with the Director of Middle Eastern Affairs from the French Foreign Ministry after the May 7 UK Court of Appeal ruling. Ahani asked France not to be influenced by the verdict and maintain the PMOI on the EU terror list.

According to minutes of the meeting from the regime's Foreign Ministry, the Director of Middle Eastern Affairs of the French Foreign Ministry said "The view of France is not positive on removal of the PMOI from the EU list but its removal from the UK list could have an impact on the EU."

Mehdi Safari, the Deputy Foreign Minister in charge of Europe and North American Affairs has held three meetings with Bernard Poletti, the French Ambassador in Tehran, since the UK court ruling:

- The first meeting took place about a month ago in which Mr. Poletti reiterated that the French position on the PMOI has not changed.
- The second meeting was on May 20, 2008. In that meeting the discussion was also centered on the PMOI and its EU listing.
- The third meeting took place on June 2, 2008. In the first part of the meeting Mr. Mohammad Yahya Maroufi, the ambassador of Afghanistan in Tehran also took part and the discussion was on Afghanistan. After that, Safari and Poletti continued their meeting, with one of the topics being once again the PMOI and its EU listing.

In some of the meetings in Tehran, while referring to the developments in Lebanon and its influence in that country, the regime pointed out to the French side that it could influence the

developments against French interests.

These pressures are not limited to the French and include other European countries as well.

The directorate of the EU affairs of the regime's Foreign Ministry in a report on the activities of this directorate to prevent the removal of the PMOI from the EU list wrote: "In every meeting that we have held with EU member states in recent weeks, the issue of preventing the removal of the PMOI from the list was one of the main topics." The report added, "We gave an official memo to the British Foreign Office and underscored that the UK government bears the responsibility for any consequences of the UK Court ruling and in Tehran's view, this ruling is equivalent to cooperation with terrorists. We have held many meetings with the EU member states and with EU officials on the need to maintain the PMOI on the list. The Europeans have asked for documents to prove the PMOI's involvement in terrorism. We had none to offer them."

Maintaining PMOI in terror list is complicity in regime's crimes

By removing the PMOI from the EU list, France and the Council of Ministers should not allow the clerical regime to continue its dirty plots. Any concessions to the mullahs or giving in to their pressures set a dangerous precedence in the EU.

This matter should be reviewed at the next session of the EU Foreign Ministers meeting and the PMOI should be removed from the EU terror list once and for all.

Maintaining the PMOI on the terror list amounts to complicity in crimes of the regime, whose conducts against the Iranian people constitutes crime against humanity, by any standard.

EU should start having relations with PMOI

Piia-Noora Kauppi (MEP and the leader of the Finnish delegation in the Group of the European People's Party):

The majority of the European Parliament wants us to stand by our democratic principles. I think it is totally absurd for the Iranian regime to announce that the court verdicts in Britain and in Europe which have ruled in favor of the PMOI are politically motivated. These courts have studied all the classified documents and every data available before issuing their ruling which stated there is no justification to keep the PMOI on the list.

We at the European Parliament are very surprised and disappointed by the attitude of the Council of European Union.

In the past few years we have requested many times that the PMOI should be removed from the list. It has already taken too much time and the organization has been kept on the list without any grounds.

The only reason the PMOI was placed on the EU list was the British government's authority, and after the court ruling in that country the PMOI cannot be kept on the list. I have very little respect for any government, be it the British government, the French government or any other government which tries to keep this organization on the blacklist.

We in the European Union share this view that the PMOI should be removed from the EU terrorist list immediately. We must also cooperate much more with this organization. The EU should start having real relations with the PMOI, because the PMOI and the National Council of Resistance of Iran have the capacity for implementing democratic change in Iran.

I have met Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, President-elect of the NCRI, and other officials of the





Iranian Resistance many times and I can assure you that they are fully committed to democratic principles. This is the only organization that can bring change to Iran. Therefore, I think it is only natural and logical for the EU to start cooperating with this organization.

So, once again I emphasize that we should get the PMOI out of the EU list immediately and not give in to pressures imposed by the Iranian regime to influence EU decision-making.

Removal of the PMOI from the terrorist list represents the will of the majority of the European Parliament as stipulated in its January 31, 2008 resolution.

Europe would gain nothing in dealing with mullahs

Paulo Casaca (*MEP and Co-chair of the Friends of a Free Iran Inter-group in the European Parliament*):

The revolution in Iran marked a new era in our time and that was the beginning of a massive religious suicidal terrorism.

It is absolutely outrageous for the European Union that does nothing about the groups backed by the Iranian regime which initiated this new form of terrorism like the Hezbollah and different sections of the regime's Revolutionary Guards operating in Iraq, but instead, they decided to go after some of the main victims of terrorism that are of course members of the PMOI.

It is absolutely clear for everyone with open eyes that the PMOI has nothing to do with terrorism and that the Iranian regime is the center for terror. We can only understand the European attitude as being influenced by its policy of appeasement trying to buy their own safety by giving concessions to the Iranian oppressors. This is pathetic, and we have experienced it before the Second World War.

The only hope for the future of Iran is the internal opposition and the PMOI is the main internal opposition in that country.

The only way to avoid confrontation with Iran is to support the Iranian people and their political will and to allow the POMI to freely expand its political reach.

Our European leaders should understand that they cannot reach a deal with the regime. For instance in the case of the Iraq War, there were negotiations with the regime and we agreed to bomb the PMOI bases in Iraq but the regime did not fulfill its own obligations. It was quite obvious that they would not stand by their commitments. I do not understand why our European leaders do not see that they would gain nothing by making deals with Tehran.

Iran in talks threat over EU terror list - exiles

REUTERS

BRUSSELS, June 11 - Iran is threatening to bog down talks on its nuclear programme unless the European Union keeps a ban on an Iranian opposition group, the political arm of the group said on Wednesday.

The People's Mujahideen Organisation of Iran (PMOI) won a seven-year legal battle last month when three senior judges at Britain's Court of Appeal dismissed a government challenge to an earlier ruling that Britain was wrong to ban the group.

The EU is to shortly review its own list of terrorist organisations and decide whether to keep banning the PMOI. "Iran has been using all diplomatic and economic levers to prevent the implementation of the court ruling," said Mohammad Mohaddessin, from the PMOI's political arm, the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI).

"Tehran's plan is to pretend that if the PMOI was removed from the list, the chances of success in the nuclear negotiations will be much more difficult," Mohaddessin told a news conference. "I hope the Iranian regime will not succeed in this very dirty deal."

Mohaddessin said Iran had been targeting France in particular, and had held numerous meetings with French diplomats in Tehran and Paris.

An EU Presidency spokeswoman said the process of review of the EU terror list was ongoing but declined to comment on what the outcome could be or on the NCRI's accusations.

The group, which exposed Iran's covert nuclear programme in 2002, is also banned by the United States.

In December 2006, an EU court annulled the bloc's decision to have PMOI on the blacklist, ruling it had not given the group a fair hearing or adequate reasons.

EU postpones decision on banned Iranian group

The European Union postponed a decision on whether to remove an Iranian opposition group from its blacklist of terrorist organisations, diplomats said on Wednesday, ahead of a visit to Iran by its foreign policy chief.

EU foreign ministers had been due to review the list at a meeting in Luxembourg next Monday, but the item has been dropped pending a decision by the British parliament on taking the People's Mujahideen Organisation of Iran (PMOI) off the British blacklist, one EU diplomat said.

The postponement averts a potential clash when EU foreign policy Javier Solana travels to Tehran on Friday to present a revised offer from the world's six major powers of cooperation if Iran suspends sensitive nuclear work.

"We are waiting for the British parliament because the EU decision is based on it," the EU diplomat said.

Iranian opposition says Tehran targeting France to keep it on EU terror list

AP Associated Press

BRUSSELS, June 11: Iran's government is seeking French support to keep a prominent exiled opposition group on the European Union's list of terrorist organizations, the group claimed Wednesday.

The People's Mujahideen Organization of Iran says Tehran is focusing its pressure on France after a British court ruling last month that invalidated British evidence forming the basis for the EU's 2002 decision to blacklist the group.

Iran has denounced the British court decision. EU diplomats fear taking the group off the list would provoke a furious reaction from Tehran and derail talks on Iran's nuclear program, which the EU's foreign policy chief Javier Solana is hoping to relaunch with a visit to the Iranian capital this weekend.

If the court ruling forces the British government to withdraw its original complaint, the EU will have to remove the People's Mujahideen from the list, unless another European government makes a fresh demand for its inclusion, said Jean-Pierre Spitzer, the group's French lawyer.

The People's Mujahideen's supporters say they had evidence the Iranians have had several meetings with French diplomats to persuade Paris to lodge a request to keep the group on the list.

"Tehran's main target has been the French government," said Mohammad Mohaddessin, foreign affairs chief of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, which includes the People's Mujahideen.

Mohaddessin claimed Iran has warned of the negative impact on French interests in Lebanon if Paris did not try to keep the People's Mujahideen remain on the list. Iran backs the Hezbollah militant group in Lebanon.

Mohaddessin said he was hopeful the U.S. would decide to take the People's Mujahideen off its terrorist list in an October review. It has been on the U.S. State Department's list of terrorist organizations since 1997.

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the West does not want another war in the region, every support should be given to those who are trying to bring about democratic change in Iran. He regretted that the PMOI which is working to make changes in Iran possible had to face restrictions resulting from the proscription.

He honored the court victory which ended the PMOI's proscription in Britain and expressed hopes that it would be removed from the EU's list soon and a true democracy in Iran would prevail.

Lord Waddington ended by calling for extended efforts to unveil the regime's meddling in Iraq and in the Middle East.

Mullahs' terrorist meddling in Iraq and other parts of the region were exposed by Mr. Abedini. Parts of his revelations were as follow:

"Despite claims by some quarters that the regime has in recent months reduced its terrorist meddling in Iraq and the transfer of arms and Explosively Formed Penetrators (EFP, known as roadside bombs) to Iraq, reliable intelligence reports show that the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps - Qods Force (IRGC-QF) continues to train and dispatch terrorist networks and transfer arms and roadside bombs to Iraq.

"Iran's arms production industry has intensified its production of EFPs and has developed deadlier models, which are being transferred en masse to Iraq and Afghanistan.

"The arms smugglers are operatives of various groups that have ties to the Qods Force, including the Badr Brigade, the Supreme Islamic Iraqi Council (formerly known as the Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq, SCIRI), the Hezbollah Movement, and the Mojahedin of the Islamic Revolution. These networks receive arms in Iran then smuggle the arms into Iraq from the border region using the extensive resources they receive from the regime.

The activities of these special terrorist networks are administered by the Qods Force.

"The Qods Force is responsible for providing more than 80 percent of the arms, ammunition and bombs being used across Iraq. It has ordered greater quantities of more powerful roadside bombs from the regime's Defence Industries Organisation (DIO). Thus, the regime has greatly stepped up production of EFPs.

"There are 51 major weapons smuggling networks with ties to the Qods Force which in recent months have smuggled weapons from Iran into Iraq. Among them are the following networks: Weapons-smuggling networks in al-Amara and in Basra; A network smuggling weapons to Baghdad; Weapons-smuggling networks between Mehran (Iran) and Basra (Iraq);



In the panel from right: Lord Waddington, Lord Corbett and Hossein Abedini

The Sobhal-Hashemi network in Khornabad; The Abu-Asame al-Khalesi network in Iraq's Diyala province; Weapons-smuggling network in the Chilat region; Weapons-smuggling network of the Hezbollah Movement in Basra; Weapons-smuggling network in Diwanieh; The Hassan al-Tamimi network in Meqdadia; The Shalal Vahib-Dakash network in al-Khalis; The Farhan Khozeir al-Mojama'i network in Khan Bani-Sad; The Saeed al-Hashemi network in Sadie Shat; and weapons-smuggling network in Baghdad.

"To transfer the weapons via the official border crossings, the Qods Force uses operatives of groups tied to the Force who are part of the Iraqi border patrol and customs officers. When using the unofficial smuggling routes, the actions

are coordinated with the army and state security forces and the Revolutionary Guards to cross the border. In some cases the weapons are escorted by security firms such as the al-Ehsan firm which is affiliated to the Supreme Iraqi Islamic Council and belongs to Abdul Aziz al-Hakim."

Closing the conference, Lord Corbett criticized the UK government for its policy of appeasement of the mullahs and emphasized that the current policy has paved the way for the regime's deadly interferences in Iraq. The only way to counter the regime, which he described as a major international threat, was to support the democratic rights and demands of the Iranian people for change in their country.

Iran 'gives £1.2bn to terrorist groups that target British troops'

The Daily Telegraph

By Damien McElroy
10/06/2008

Iran has a secret \$2.5 billion (£1.2 billion) budget for supporting terrorist groups that target British troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, it has been claimed.

The funds were allocated by the Islamic Republic's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khameni to the Revolutionary Guard Qods Force, the opposition group National Council for Resistance of Iran said.

"The Iran government is spending \$2.5 billion in this financial year through the Qods Force in Iraq," said Hossein Abedini, a NCRI representative in London. "It could even be more because the commanders do not really face budgetary constraints in this regard."

Iran provides training and weaponry to wide range of Shia militias in Iran and munitions made in its factories have been seized in Afghanistan.

"Experiments in more powerful

explosive devices that are capable of piercing impenetrable armour is taking up the main effort in the regime's weaponry programme," said Hossein Abedini, a representative of the group that obtained the intelligence.

"It is not just Iraq that Iran is using as a springboard for its attacks against the West, now the weapons are going to Afghanistan too, as part of Iran's threat to the West."

Iran Spends \$2.5B on Activities in Iraq, Exiles Say

Bloomberg.com

June 10 - "The mullahs have no intention of seeing a safe and secure Iraq," Hossein Abedini, a member of the foreign affairs committee of the National Council for Resistance in Iran, told a press conference in London today. "They are stepping up attacks to push coalition forces out so they can set up a satellite state."

Iran increased its weapon production centers from one to three, setting up new sites north of Tehran, Adeini said.

Abedini named engineers, officials and





commanders he said are involved in the research, testing and production of arms. All the information, obtained from people working within the government, has been passed to coalition forces and the British government, he said. Calls to the Iranian Foreign Ministry seeking comment were diverted to voice mail.

The NCRI, which is funded by private individuals, has in the past revealed information about Iran that has proven to be true. Most recently, it revealed last year Iran was paying monthly salaries to 32,000 agents in Baghdad.

Iran Supports Iraq Terror

MIDDLE EAST TIMES.

June 11, 2008

Secret details of the production of a new type of explosively formed penetrator, or EFP in military jargon, is being produced by Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps – Qods Force (IRGC-QF), according to sources in the Iranian resistance.

The information was revealed at a Parliamentary press conference held in London Tuesday by the National Council of Resistance of Iran, a group opposed to the rule of the mullahs. The NCRI revealed precise details of 51 weapons smuggling networks operating between Iran and Iraq. The group outlined the methods used to smuggle the EFPs and exposed the Iranian-backed terrorist militias operating in Iraq. The information presented to the media was backed up by satellite images obtained by the NCRI depicting a number of what was described as "secret sites."

"I have no doubt that the Iranian regime has been emboldened in their ambitions for the Middle East by the policy pursued by our [British] government and others of engaging with the Iranian regime and holding constructive dialogue with them," said Lord Waddington.

"Years into this policy, it is clear that there has been nothing constructive about this policy. Instead, we have witnessed the coming to power of the most extreme Islamic fundamentalist regime, one that has consistently violated international law and international human rights law, has aggressively pursued a nuclear weapons program and has persistently interfered in the internal affairs of Iraq, Afghanistan and Lebanon, hell-bent on exporting terror and corrupting these fragile states," the English Lord said.

INSIDE IRAN

17-year-old hanged in Kurdistan

A 17-year-old boy identified as Mohammad Hassan-Zadeh was hanged on June 10 for a crime he had allegedly committed when he was only 14. His sentence was carried out in Sanandaj prison, Iranian Kurdistan in the west.

Nine prisoners hanged in two days

Eight young men were hanged in Tehran's notorious Evin prison on Wednesday, June 11. Two of them had been in prison for many years.

A 60-year-old man identified as Rahim Pashabadi was hanged in Sanandaj prison while suffering from an ailment.

The Iranian Resistance calls on all human rights organizations and in particular the relevant UN bodies to condemn the brutal suppression and crimes committed by the clerical regime and demands referral of the regime's human rights dossier to the UN Security Council for adoption of binding measures.

Arbour concerned about impending execution of four juvenile offenders in Iran

10 June 2008

GENEVA-- United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Louise Arbour expressed her concern on Tuesday June 10, 2008 over reports that four juvenile offenders in Iran are at imminent risk of execution.

According to reports, the four – Mr. Behnoud Shojaee, Mr. Mohammad Fadaee, Mr. Saeed Jazee, and Mr. Behnam Zaare – have been sentenced to death for crimes that they allegedly committed when they were less than 18 years old.

Striking Sugar cane factory workers attacked

The Haft-Tapeh Sugar Cane Factory workers started their sixth week of strike by staging a gathering on Tuesday, June 10. The workers who were demanding their overdue payments and removal of pressures and medieval suppression, chanted "We are Haft-Tapeh workers, we are hungry, we are hungry."

3,000 of the striking workers demonstrated on streets of Shoosh on Monday, June 9th, chanting anti-government slogans. They have been demanding their overdue salaries.

2,000 demonstrate against confiscation of satellite dishes

Some 2,000 people took to the streets in protest to confiscation of their satellite dishes from their roof tops in Vakil-Abad district of Mashhad, northeast Iran, on June 13. The protesters marched on the streets chanting slogans against the mullahs' president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

The State Security Forces (SSF) -- mullahs' suppressive police -- and paramilitary Bassij Force clashed with the angry protesters. A number of demonstrators were wounded and many others arrested.

Demonstrators clash with suppressive forces in Zahedan

Angry demonstrations erupted on June 8th and led to clashes between the Iranian regime's suppressive forces and angry residents in Zahedan, the provincial capital of Sistan-Baluchistan in southeast Iran. A large number of people were arrested among them many young people whose state and whereabouts remain unknown.

During the protests, the angry crowd attacked suppressive agents of the State Security Forces (SSF) and set fire to their vehicles. They also blocked the streets by setting fire to tires. The SSF agents and the Revolutionary Guards anti-riot special units attacked the protesters by firing into the crowd, throwing tear gas, and beating them by batons.

The shame game in Iran: Rivals unveil massive graft among officials

Tehran is abuzz with revelations from a regime insider about financial corruption of mind-boggling proportions by key figures of the ruling theocracy, including leading clerics. The whistle-blowing signals an escalation of factional feuding never before seen in the past three decades of the ayatollahs' regime.

The cycle of name-and-shame, with opposing factions alternately spilling the beans on each other, is spiraling out of control. The charges of massive financial fraud now out in the open first surfaced in a recent speech by Abbas Palizdar, a member of the Investigative Committee of the Majlis (Parliament). He accused 44 of the most senior ruling clerics and officials of the regime not just of robbing it blind, but also of plotting the physical

“The reason why we cannot deal with the economic corruption is that the major leaders of the country are involved in it. Economically corrupt figures active in the country are currently under the protection of the head of the Judiciary.”

elimination of their rivals. He divulged information indicating that some of the plane crashes of recent years resulting in the deaths of several cabinet ministers and high-ranking Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) commanders were not accidents.

Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei quickly caught on to the seriousness of this new round of infighting. Seeking to slow its impact on the regime's disintegration from within, he devoted a good portion of recent public speeches to calls for unity, while expressing implicit support for Palizdar.

Palizdar's revelations are all the more significant because he is a close ally of mullahs'

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and the IRGC. Traditionally, when the notorious IRGC gets involved in name-and-shame, it quickly turns into name-shame-purge-and-eliminate. This may very well be a prelude to the physical purge of rivals or even disobedient allies. The rival faction fired back, as Palizdar is reportedly detained on June 11, 2008, on a wide range of charges including “spreading rumor.”

The names identified in the massive financial corruption scandal are: Ayatollah Muhammad Imami Kashani, a member of the watchdog Guardian Council and Tehran's acting Friday prayer leader; Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, a member of the Guardian Council and Assembly of Experts and former head of the Judiciary; Ayatollah Nasser Makarem Shirazi, a senior cleric who is also a source of religious emulation; and (to no one's surprise) former president Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and his family.

Palizdar told his audience: “The reason why we cannot deal with the economic corruption is that the major leaders of the country are involved in it.” He added: “Economically corrupt figures active in the country are currently under the protection of [Mahmoud Hashemi] Shahrudi, head of the Judiciary.”

He said: “At the moment there are 123 cases under investigation for economic corruption but if we want the actual figure it is just unbelievable. We are witnessing catastrophes under the Islamic Republic.”

Referring to a case involving Imami Kashani he said: “He sent a letter which said his son was physically disabled and he plans to open a center to help physically disabled people and his son could stay with him there and the center could look after some 100, 200 or 300 other physically disabled. After the center was launched he wrote back and asked for state funding for the center and suggested that the marble mine in Fars province be registered under his name to this end. His request was approved and the ownership of the mine was handed over to him. A short while later, he complained once more that the marble mine was not enough to fund the center and he asked for control of some other mines in Zanjan. He finally took over four mines just to run a center for physically disabled people. This man is an Islamic theologian and unfortunately he is also a Friday prayer leader.”

In a case involving Yazdi, former head of

Judiciary, Palizdar said: “They obtained the approval of Khamenei to open a female school for judicial studies in Qom. After obtaining the approval they immediately sought financial support for the project and in this case they asked for the transfer of ownership of Dena Tire Factory. To evaluate the price of the factory some official experts from the Justice Department who also worked for the Judiciary priced it at \$126 million while its actual price was over \$600 million dollars. In their evaluations the properties owned by the factory, which amounted to millions of dollars were not even taken into account. This was Dena Factory which went to Yazdi when he was the head of the Judiciary. But when it came to make the payment he asked for discount and he immediately got 50 percent off. He wrote again and asked for more discount and it went on five times and in the end he was asked to pay only 10 million, a drop from 126. But even so, they said they did not have 10 million to pay therefore they were proposed to pay 80 percent in long term installments and 20 percent, that is 2 million, in cash. They again said that they did not have any money to pay for the 2 million, therefore they were offered a loan of 23 million dollars by the Iranian National Industries Organization. They were then asked to see Ayatollah ... to get his signature and take over the Factory. It was shortly after this that the factory was sold and transferred to those who carried out manipulations from behind the scene.”

On Yazdi's plunder, Palizdar added: “Yazdi wrote again and said that his son was unemployed and asked for special arrangements to allow his son to make use of the forests in the north to export the wood. This was while his son was a director general in the Judiciary. Unfortunately the forests in the north have been looted...”

Economic corruption of Rafsanjani and his family

Palizdar described the economic corruption of former mullahs' president Hashemi Rafsanjani and his family as unspeakable. “One of the examples of economic corruption of this family is their refusal to pay tax for imports which amounted to billions of dollars. Taking control of a third of the Kish Island and the forestry in the north are also part of the Rafsanjanis' economic corruption. The cost of watermelon used at the horse stable belonged to Rafsanjani's daughter is \$100 daily. The profit made by the oil company owned by this family and Rafsanjani's sister who lives in Canada is unimaginable.”



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The rival faction hits back

Mohsen Sazegara, one of the founders of the IRGC, but currently belonging to the rival faction, said in a radio interview: “Palizdar belongs to Ahmadinejad’s faction. One has to ask ‘what about the misconducts by his faction?’ They have snatched money from the Oil Ministry and dozens of state bodies. The most important of all is the IRGC with more than 800 companies and its involvement in more than 1,500 major projects in the country.”

He added: “Many of the management posts in the country are given to people related to Ahmadinejad and high level or mid level commanders of the IRGC. What about Khamenei’s family? What about major organizations such as Foundation for the Deprived, Martyrs Foundation and Headquarters to Implement the 8-point Command of Imam which are all exempted from any inspection. There have been hundreds or perhaps thousands of cases of corruption in these centers.”

Conclusion

The new phase of purge-and-eliminate, which began just before the March Parliamentary elections, can be expected to worsen as the movement for democracy mounts up pressure on the ruling elite. Protesters are making inroads on college campuses, and strikes and protests have become commonplace in many factories and workshops in Iran.

The internal disintegration of the ruling regime, the rise of anti-government protests, the regime’s setbacks in Iraq and international sanctions targeting its nuclear agenda, are all dynamically intertwined. But the core component of a continuing downward spiral of the regime, vital to the realization of democratic change in Iran, is the role of the democratic opposition movement.

In the House of Lords debate

UK Government urged to remove PMOI from EU terror list



In a parliamentary debate at the House of Lords on June 12, the Government Minister was pressed to take the initiative in the European Union to remove the PMOI from its terrorist list following the deproscription of the organization in Britain.

On the decision to remove the PMOI from the list of proscribed organizations, former Home Secretary **Lord Waddington** asked the minister: “Is it not shocking that the Government are acting only because they have been ordered to do so by the Court of Appeal, which found the Home Secretary’s earlier refusal to delist the organisation to be perverse and resting on no evidence? However, the PMOI remains on the list of EU-proscribed organisations. Is it not there because the British Government wanted it to be there, and is not the legal basis for it being proscribed by the EU the listing by Britain? Is there not now a clear duty on the British Government to take immediate steps to see that this organisation is delisted also in the EU?”

Government Minister, **Lord Bassam of Brighton**, responded: “Since the UK proscription of the PMOI was the sole EU member-state, national-competent-authority decision underpinning the EU listing, it is likely that that listing will now be reviewed.”

Chair of the British Parliamentary Committee for Iran Freedom, **Lord Corbett of Castle Vale** said: “In welcoming the righting of this gross injustice done to this part of the Iranian resistance movement, may I press the Minister to be more specific about the action that will be taken by the United Kingdom Government to get the copycat ban on the PMOI removed in Europe? Will he give a date when the matter will be taken to the Council of Ministers or other appropriate body?”

Lord Bassam replied: “The United Kingdom has informed EU partners and the Council that the Home Secretary has laid the deproscription order before Parliament. It is now for the Council to consider what action it needs to take on the EU listing in light of the deproscription of the PMOI in the UK.”

Lord Avebury, Vice-chair of the Parliamentary Human Rights Group asked: “Does the Minister think that it sets a good example to ordinary people to obey the law when the Government delay for eight weeks in tabling the deproscription order in response to the Court of Appeal presided over by the Lord Chief Justice? Should they not have tabled the order immediately so that the proscription could be lifted promptly as the court prescribed?”

Lord Bassam’s response: “While we accept the court’s decision in this matter, I think that our general approach of being cautious about organisations of the

same or similar nature as PMOI is absolutely right. That situation has been reviewed; a decision has been made; we are putting in place the order; we are properly complying with the judgment; and we have informed our colleague states in Europe.”

By referring to the current situation in Iran, former Labor Party Chairman, **Lord Clarke of Hampstead**, asked: “Will the Minister reconsider his previous answer in light of the fact that the trade unions in Iran are being persecuted by the mullahs’ regime? Will he also accept that the students who demonstrate regularly against the regime should be given comfort and solace by a democratic country such as ours? Will he go further and agree with the vice-president of the European Union who only a fortnight ago in Brussels condemned the way in which the British Government have handled this matter and get the thing sorted out both here and in Europe, because an apology is due to those very brave people who are fighting the theocracy in Iran?”

Lord Bassam replied: “Of course—quite properly—we support those who seek to ensure that the people of Iran enjoy the benefits of democracy.”

Lord Inglewood expressed his doubts over the Government’s prompt action by saying: “The Minister’s reply gives the impression that the Government are dragging their heels over taking this matter forward at a European level. Will the Minister confirm that the Government are being positive and proactive in taking this matter to the Council?”

Government Minister responded: “The order was laid just 10 working days after the Court of Appeal judgment. We are in contact with our EU counterparts to ensure that this matter is resolved in Europe.”

Lord Slynn of Hadley, former Law Lord and a judge at the European Court of Justice, while underlined the Government’s responsibility, noted: “since the UK took the initiative to put the PMOI on the proscribed list, and as at the moment there seems to be a lack of knowledge in Europe as to what has happened here, is it not essential that Her Majesty’s Government should not only take the initiative in the Council to remove the PMOI from the proscribed list, but, no less importantly, should inform other member states about what has happened here, because it completely changes the picture on which member states initially voted?”

Lord Bassam replied: “We have taken the action and it is now quite properly a matter for the Council to consider what action it needs to take. We have informed the proper authorities.”