

Nejat Newsletter

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Nowruz Day 21 March

International Nowruz Day was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution [A/RES/64/253](#) of 2010, at the initiative of several countries that share this holiday (Afghanistan, Albania, Azerbaijan, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey and Turkmenistan).

Inscribed in 2009 on the [Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity](#) as a cultural tradition observed by numerous peoples, Nowruz is an ancestral festivity marking the first day of spring and the renewal of nature. It promotes values of peace and solidarity between generations and within families as well as reconciliation and neighbourliness, thus contributing to cultural diversity and friendship among peoples and different communities.

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IS ALBANIA A PARTNER OF THE US IN SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM?

BY GLOBAL RESEARCH

Last updated Mar 28, 2018

The gathering of the Mojahedin was also attended by three Albanian politicians. They were Pandeli Majko, Minister for the Diaspora in the present Albanian government. Majko served as Minister of the Interior during the era of secret CIA renditions in Eastern Europe when Albania was used by the CIA to rendition and torture people. Majko who has never denied his cooperation with the CIA or the existence of secret prisons in Albania, has defended the illegal renditions and torture and has criticized those who spoke against the torture chambers of the CIA.

The second politician was Fatmir Mediu, a former disgraced Minister of Defense, who is blamed in Albania for weapon trafficking to Afghanistan and the Gerdec explosion and killings. The Gerdec explosion which killed 26 Albanians, injured hundreds, and damaged or destroyed over two thousand homes was part of an operation by Fatmir Mediu and American contractors to fake old Albanian ammunition and sell them as new to Afghanistan.

The third politician was Elona Gjebrea, who served as deputy Minister of the Interior for Albania's infamous Minister of Interior Saimir Tahiri (2013-2017) and is now under investigation for possible links with a notorious Albanian mafia gang known as the Habilaj brothers.

Giuliani told to the Mojahedin that the US and the Albanian government see them as the only future for Iran, and the necessary thing to do at

this moment is regime change. Pandeli Majko, the Minister of Diaspora in the Edi Rama's government supported Giuliani's claim and told the Mojahedin that his dream is to return to Tehran with the Mojahedin. Elona Gjebrea and Fatmir Mediu did the same. They supported the Mojahedin in their violent mission for regime change in Iran. Rudi Giuliani emboldened the Mojahedin by telling them that changes are coming to Washington. John Bolton, their fierce supporter is going to become President Trump's National Security Advisor and he wants a regime change in Iran.

The threats of Giuliani against Iran have been instrumentalized in recent months with mass surveillance and attacks on Iranian and Shiia Muslim institutions in Albania and Kosovo. The Israelis are very vigilant against the Iranian influence in the Balkans too. They instruct their Albanian partners to target Iran and its institutions, even though Iran has never had any problem with any Balkan country. With the arrival of the Mojahedin in Albania, the anti-Iran and anti-Shiia hysteria is becoming more and more public. The Mojahedin, who act as a proxy army for the US and Israel, claim that Iran is very influential in Albania and is working with its agents to discredit their fight for regime change. In recent months they have launched a number of smear attacks against Iranian institutions and the embassy in Tirana. On March 15 they attacked a group of Albanian intellectuals headed by the ex-president of Albania, Rexhep Mejdani who participated in a scientific conference in Tehran, claiming that they were part of a plot by Tehran to discredit them. The Mojahedin, who are having many of their members abandon the organization in Albania, attack the defectors by insulting them as Iranian agents and threaten to assassinate them. The UN-HCR which is supposed to help all war refugees has sided with the Mojahedin and refuses to support the defectors financially and asks them to go back to

their Mojahedin camp if they want to get financial support. When local Albanian TV stations dare to present the claims of the defectors who show how they are abused, enslaved and radicalized by MEK, the Mojahedin attack the Albanian media claiming that they have been bought by Iran.

In face of the threats that MEK makes against Albanian intellectuals, media and its defectors, the Albanian government keeps silent, even though a recent police report claims that the Mojahedin might assassinate some of the defectors who have abandoned the organization. While the Albanian government and its courts are very vigilant to jail any Albanian Salafi as a terrorist if they make calls for regime change in Syria or praise ISIS, so far no actions have been taken against the Iranian Mojahedin, Albanian or US politicians who support the MEK jihad and make calls for regime change in Iran, even though the Albanian the criminal code punishes such calls with imprisonment from four up to ten years. The Albanian government and its courts have not taken any action even against those Mojahedin who have threatened to assassinate their defectors in Albania.

The Albanian government who is ordered by people like John Bolton, John McCain and Rudy Giuliani to do all they can to support the Mojahedin, have finally started to attack even Shiia and Sufi religious institutions in Albania. On March 22, 2018 the anti-terror police disrupted the ceremony of Novruz that the World Headquarters of Bektashism organized in Tirana. The ceremony of the liberal Muslim Sufi sect was disrupted when anti-terrorism police detained two retired Iranian journalists and an Iraqi-German citizen who were celebrating the Novruz in the Grand Sufi Teqe. The invitees were officially invited to the ceremony by Baba Mondri, the Grand Dervish of the Bektashis. However the Albanian anti-terror units who take note of complains by MEK about Iranian influence and conspiracy against them, detained and

interrogated as terrorists for 7 hours the two retired Iranian journalists who were covering the Bektashi festival. Even though the journalists were later released, this event shocked the Bektashi community and the Iranian cultural NGO-s who operate in Albania.

The attacks that the Mojahedin are launching against local Muslim communities, academics and intellectuals, journalists and media are shocking the Albanian public. Until now they have seen the Mojahedin as some foreign terrorist leftovers that the USA wanted to dump in Albania after they were expelled from Iraq. However, the recent media and police attacks are showing to the Albanian public that the Mojahedin are a threat not only to Iran, but to Albania too. On the other hand, the calls from US senators like Rudy Giuliani, John Bolton and John McCain on the Mojahedin who are based in Albania to go and wage jihad in Iran, make many Albanians worried and upset. Many ask: if the USA wants to use the Mojahedin to fight Iran, why don't they host them in the USA instead of Albania? The Albanian public has not and has never had any problem with Iran. Why is the American government blackmailing Albania and using it as a launchpad for its next terrorist war against another Middle Eastern country? Was it not enough for the US administration to allow the Saudis to radicalize the Muslim youths in the Balkans and send them to Syria for jihad, but now they are creating another jihad and the Muslims of the Balkans are again to pay the price?

Mr. Rudy Giuliani! Mr. John Bolton! Can you please take your Mojahedin to the USA and from there do anything you want! We do not want to fight another Middle Eastern war for you. Leave us alone, please!

Olsi Jazexhi, Global research

THE MKO IN THE PAST ONE YEAR

The international community to be vigilant about the threats by the side of the MKO as a destructive cult

Mar 19, 2018

On the eve of the Iranian New Year, it is worth looking back at the MEK conduct in the past one year. The group leaders took mean actions to cope with their declining phase during the past year. Whether they were successful or not, the international community should be vigilant about the threats by the side of the MKO as a destructive cult.

Once they were completely relocated in Albania, the MKO authorities had to reconstruct the regulations of their cult-like organization because of the increasing rate of defection in the new community which was not as isolated as it was in Camp Ashraf and Camp Liberty, Iraq.

The group authorities established a new base in a remote region outside Tirana and named it "Ashraf 3" in order to impose more limitations on members and to launch their cult-like practices more easily. Members were made to sign an engagement letter before being resettled in the new camp according to which they were committed to stay in the group until the overthrow of the Islamic Republic. The group leaders even confiscated the members' properties that were given to them by the UNHCR.

Being isolated in the new camp, far from the normal life of the civil society and having signed the so-called engagement letter, members of the MKO are literally taken as hostages by their leaders. Fortunately, the UNHCR finally agreed to pay the monthly payments of those who defect the MKO independently. However, those who are still in the MKO camp do not know that they have the right to use the UN facilities once they leave the MKO because they are always told by the leaders that their defection from the group results in their homelessness and poverty. The UNHCR authorities should inform the members on their rights of living in a free community after their departure from the cult otherwise they are intimidated about living independently by the cult leaders.

The past year was also a challenge for the MKO leaders in their foreign relations. They had to enhance their lobbying efforts inviting American congressmen to their Tirana base where Maryam Rajavi received them in a huge propaganda show. The group's members were made celebrate the reception of American lawmakers as if it was a big victory –they did not dare to ask their leaders what happened to the anti-Imperialist and anti-Zionist slogans of the MKO.

On the other hand, the US politicians have spent a large amount of money of the US taxpayers for the relocation and residence of the MKO in Albania contributing the Albanian government and the UN High Commissioners of Refugees. Regarding the MKO's history of terrorist acts, suicidal operations and cult-like behaviors such as self-immolations, sooner or later the West will come to the conclusion that the Cult of Rajavi has more disadvantages than advantages for the West as they experienced it with Al-Qaida and ISIS. The terrorist extremist groups will often turn back to haunt their promoters someday.

Mazda Parsi

POLICE REPORT ON THE SITUATION OF THE IRANIAN MOJAHEDIN IN ALBANIA

Mar 27, 2018

The following is a police or Albanian Information Service report published in Fax Web English on March 23, 2018. This report shows the specific number of Iranian jihadists in Albania, the problems they have with each other, the conflicts and killings against each other in the past, and the history of this terrorist organization. The report highlights the violent attacks and threats of murder that the MEK is making against the defectors who have decided to abandon jihad and

used as a diversionary and terrorist organization against Iran and is protected by US-based Senators such as John Bolton and John McCain, the MEK's violations of Albanian laws are ignored by the Albanian authorities. Kosovo ignored the presence of takfiri jihadists in Albania who called for jihad against Syria in 2011 to 2013 and then joined terrorist organizations like ISIS or Jabhat al-Nusra. Below is the report published on Fax Web which shows the situation of MEK in Albania:

group founded in 1965.

According to information gathered so far it turns out that:

On 06.01.2018, an Iranian national (Hassan Bidi), a former member of the MEK (dissociated), resident in Tirana, made a complaint to Police Station No.1 after having his life threatened by some members of the MEK.

On 09.02.2018 three Iranian nationals (Bahman Azami, Sadollah Seyfi, Manouchehr Abdi) former members of the MEK (dissociated), resident in Tirana, have complained that their lives have been threatened by some members of the MEK.

On 12.02.2018, Top Channel television broadcast interviews of three Iranian nationals (dissociated MEK) on Top Channel TV, who expressed their opinions against the ideology of the MEK organization and have alleged that threats against their lives MEK are serious.

From operationally acquired data regarding these situations it has been learned that:

Earlier in Iraq the MEK have murdered former members who dissociated from this organization because they publicly stood in opposition to the organization's activities with the aim of damaging its cause.

From the above, and the interviews given by Iranian nationals on the Fiks Fare show of 12.02.2018, as well as the reports of the police commissariat of these situations, the timings, the course of action and their behavior, are similar to the 'Modus Operandi' that occurred earlier in Iraq.

Following indications of the actions and behaviors of the Iranian nationals in question who are



deradicalize in Albania, and who the MEK accuse of acting as agents of Iran. Albanian police and SHISH are taking the threats that MEK is making against these deradicalized jihadists in Albania seriously and has placed them under protection from the possibility of assassination by Maryam Rajavi's extremists.

The Iranian jihadist organization, known as Mojahedin-e Khalq (MEK), Rajavi Cult or the National Council of Resistance of Iran, has been present in Albania since 2013, from where it is constantly calling for violent terrorist attacks against Iran, thus breaking Albanian laws; the Albanian criminal code imposes prison sentences for the promotion of war and terrorism. Since the MEK was brought to Albania by the US Intelligence services and

SITUATION

To date, 2745 Iranian nationals have been given refuge in the territory of the Republic of Albania over several years.

These residents are members of the MEK organization otherwise known as the Iranian opposition.

The arrival in our country of Iranian asylum seekers from the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran could pose implications to our internal security, as these individuals are deeply indoctrinated, have been part of military structures, and have participated in fighting a war and in acts of terror.

The Mojahedin Khalq or the Iranian Mojahedin organization, otherwise known as MEK and PMOI, is a revolutionary Marxist-Islamic

POLICE REPORT ON THE SITUATION OF THE IRANIAN MOJAHEDIN IN ALBANIA

currently disconnected from this organization, there are reasonable grounds for suspicion that this situation is the same as before in Iraq which resulted in murder.

The MEK was active during the Iranian Islamic revolution, but state institutions established after the revolution regarded it as a threat. In order to survive, the group was forced to abandon legality and in 1981 the leader of this organization, Massoud Rajavi, fled to France, where he also created the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI).

In Iraq in 1986, the MEK created the National Liberation Army of Iran (NLA) and fought against Iran alongside Saddam Hussein.

In 1990, MEK had numerous training camps in Iraq and undertook numerous attacks against Iran.

In 1997, MEK was listed by the US as a terrorist organization and was then placed on the European and Canadian lists.

Following the attacks of September 11, 2001, MEK changed strategy and progressively abandoned its attacks. In 2003, after the American invasion of Iraq, the MEK announced it had abandoned armed attacks and kept control only of 'Camp Ashraf'.

On 01.01.2009, Camp Ashraf with a surface area of 36 km2 was placed under the control of Iraqi forces.

On 26 January 2009, after lobbying in Great Britain, the MEK managed to be removed from the European list of terrorist organizations.

On 28 July 2009, Iraqi security forces entered Camp Ashraf to install a police station, but the Mojahedin put up violent resistance, forcing the Iraqis to use force. As a result, 8 people were

killed, dozens were injured and 36 Mojahedin were arrested.

On December 15, 2009, Iraqi forces again tried to get Ashraf residents out of the camp, but in the face of the oppositional attitude of the Mujahideen, and the decision not to use violence, Iraqi forces were forced to retreat.

On April 8, 2011, Iraqi forces attempted to take part of Camp Ashraf. As a result of clashes, 34 people died and about 300 were injured.

After many negotiations, the MEK accepted that the Mojahedin members would transfer from Camp Ashraf to Camp Liberty.

These Iranian nationals have been given refugee and accommodated in our country under an agreement with the UNHCR; mainly in the Vores area, Shato Linza complex and other rented residences in the districts of Tirana and Durres.

According to the latest information it is apparent that so far around 1500 MEK members have been transferred to Manez, Durres where a complex is being built, and accommodated in tents and other customized facilities. The area purchased is 32 hectares.

Also, according to updated information, the number of MEK members by place and status is as follows:

There are about 2745 MEK members in our country.

11 members have died.

80 have left our country with regular papers.

65 were illegally removed.

Mojahedin who continue to be full members of MEK and follow their rules for living as members are 2621.

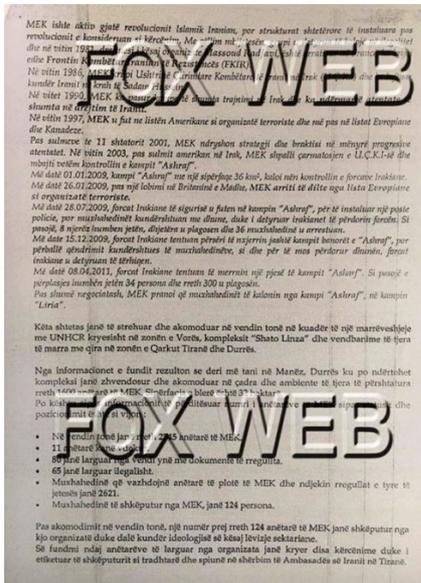
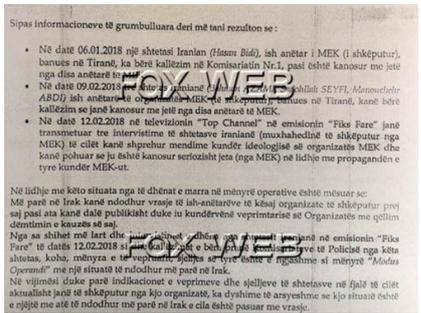
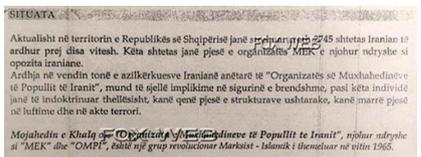
Mojahedin dissociated from MEK are 124 people.

Since taking up residence in our

country, around 124 members of the MEK have dissociated from the organization because they are against the ideology of this sectarian movement.

Recently, several members who have left the organization have been subjected to MEK threats which labels them as traitors and spies in the service of the Iranian Embassy in Tirana.

Gazeta Impact, Tirana, Albania



ALBANIAN MEDIA FOOLED BY MEK 'MISDIRECTION'

BY ANN SINGLETON

Balkan Post

On Mar 27, 2018

In Albania last week, two Mojahe-din-e Khalq (MEK) members asked permission from their command-

cond, that members are trying to escape the group. Conditions inside Camp Ashraf Three are difficult to independently ascertain. It is a closed camp. Not even government agencies such as security services and customs are allowed inside. The UNHCR cannot freely visit and inspect the premises. But according to con-

fact that many MEK are dying in Albania. According to dissociated members speaking anonymously, there are three times as many deaths by natural causes in Albania as there were in Iraq. In Iraq the MEK excuse was “no doctors”. It would be interesting to discover what the MEK excuse is now.



Graves of MEK buried on the outskirts of Tirana

ers to leave their base, Camp Ashraf Three in Manza, to visit the graves of MEK buried on the outskirts of Tirana. After leaving the camp they travelled to the UNHCR in Tirana to ask for refuge. They are now living among over two hundred other dissociated members in Tirana.

This event tells us several disturbing things about the MEK in Albania.

First, that MEK members must ask permission for an activity as simple as visiting a graveyard. Se-

versations with dissociated members in Albania, it seems the residents are suffering the same conditions as they did in Iraq. There they were held in conditions of modern slavery and forced to undertake work for the group with no pay. Every aspect of their everyday lives was dictated by the leader Maryam Rajavi (who took over after the death of the cult leader Massoud Rajavi); who they spoke with, what they believed in and even what they ate and wore.

The event also alerts us to the

One reason, of course, is that many of the MEK are elderly, many are sick. The average age of MEK members is above 60. At this age most people would be looking forward to a comfortable and relaxed retirement, to allow the younger generation to take over their work. Not the MEK. They have no younger generation after forced divorces and the removal of children left an ageing polity. Members must work until they die. Recruitment has proved extremely difficult because the group is hated by almost all Iranians. As a result, the MEK resorts to deceptive recruitment and coer-

ALBANIAN MEDIA FOOLED BY MEK 'MISDIRECTION'

cive control for maintaining members.

One aspect of this deception is that rather than being 'refugees' as the MEK claim, the members have legal status in Albania. The government of Iraq did not allow them refugee status in Iraq because they are terrorists. They were brought to Albania by the UNHCR without travel documents; each migrant was given a piece of paper stating, 'on humanitarian grounds'. Similarly, the government of Albania does not allow the MEK members or ex-members to be given either refugee status or residence or work permits. The secret agreement between Albania, the US and the MEK leader struck in 2013 included the provision for de-radicalisation once the members arrived in Tirana. This did not happen; the earmarked budget remains untouched in the American embassy, the MEK remain radicalised for terrorism.

The graveyard also raises another disturbing issue. There are sixteen public graves. It is reported that many others have since died but the MEK now buries them inside Camp Ashraf Three. It has already been ascertained that independent investigation cannot take place there, so it is not known how many graves there are. In Iraq there were hundreds.

The number of graves matters. When the US army detained the MEK in 2003, there were 3,800 members. (See RAND Corporation – The Mujahedin-e Khalq in Iraq A Policy Conundrum, Summary xiii.) Over the next fifteen

years, attrition of members through dissociation, conflict, deaths by natural causes, suicide and murder meant that when the UNHCR brought the last group of MEK to Albania in September 2016, the total number relocated was 2,901 individuals with 2,745 remaining at the end of that year. Since then well over two hundred have left; some departed Albania, around two hundred remain destitute in the country.

However, according to a report from US Senator Robert Torricelli, an official representative of the MEK, there are currently over four thousand MEK in Camp Ashraf Three. Where did the extra numbers come from? Are these MEK or are they the widows and orphans of killed Daesh members which investigative journalist Gjergji Thanasi discovered were destined to be the next controversial influx of undesirables dumped on Albania by the Americans. Have some already arrived?

Thanasi made the discovery while investigating import permit irregularities linked to the construction of MEK's closed Camp Ashraf Three. This led to the further discovery that MEK is not registered for tax and does not conform to any Albanian law or customs or morals. And since the MEK members are not registered anywhere – they have no identification documents, have no work permits and pay no taxes – they could be anyone. The four thousand residents of Camp Ashraf Three – with its small-arms firing range, reinforced concrete armoury, three-meter wall and guard turrets – could be literally anyone.

Yet instead of investigating this disturbing situation, with some notable exceptions, Albania's media have seen fit to uncritically publish the MEK's defamatory statements aimed at silencing critics and diverting attention from their criticisms. When confidence tricksters do this, it is called 'misdirection'; divert the attention of the target while they are robbed. When the MEK do it, it is called politics.

If it was the intention of some Albanian media outlets to politicise the MEK presence in the country, and by doing so bring the conflict between America, Israel and Saudi Arabia with Iran, to Tirana, then they have succeeded. However, it is surely not the role of an independent, objective media to act as a mouthpiece for any side. It is far more fitting for serious journalism to investigate the serious and evidenced allegations of human rights abuses, modern slavery, tax evasion, people trafficking, political corruption and facilitating terrorism which are levelled against the MEK, and report the facts to their country's citizens.

*Anne Khodabandeh (Singleton),
Balkan Post*

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Anne Khodabandeh, is an expert in anti-terrorist activities and a long-standing activist in the field of de-radicalization of extremists. She has written several articles and books on this subject, along with her husband, who is of Iranian origin.

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About Nejat Society

Nejat Society was founded by some former members of the Rajavi cult to release their friends who are still mentally and physically captive inside the Cult, and assisting their suffering families waiting for them in Iran.



In Brief :

++ Rudi Giuliani visited Albania for Nourouz. The MEK tried to make something out of it but the coverage was confined to paid articles. Nobody in Albania cares about him. In real terms however, Rajavi has reduced the pressure on MEK members, especially after two high ranking members escaped. She has told her lieutenants 'we can't carry on as we did in Iraq, we don't have the power of Saddam behind us and we can't keep people, so we have to find other ways'. She has finally woken up. MEK commanders have eased up the pressure and are now pleading with people to stay. The reason they got Giuliani to visit them there was to convince members the MEK has some support. Ironically, John Bolton has tried to distance himself from his past saying 'my words are in the past'.

++ John Bolton's appointment resulted in outcry from all Iranian opposition groups everywhere. They have all turned anti-Trump. They demand to know 'Why are you destroying any hope for changing the regime by promoting MEK and Bolton and such sort of people, so that the people of Iran have no choice except to stick with the mullahs'. Commentators say 'This is not the first time. You have done this over the years. If it wasn't for your support for MEK the regime would have changed multiple times by now'.

++ Gjergi Thanasi wrote in Albania's City News that Maryam Rajavi demanded Albania's government expel two accredited Iranian diplomats on the grounds that they are spies. Her politicisation of the MEK presence in that country has landed a 'hot potato' in the hands of Ministers Bushati and Xhafa who must answer this demand. Rajavi also insisted that Albania refuse visas for Iranian families wanting to visit their loved ones in Camp Ashraf Three, also because they are spies. (According to Maryam Rajavi there are no end of Iranian spies in Albania or wishing to visit Albania. Perhaps we must ask: why so much interest, what is she really up to?)

++ Gazeta Impakt published a scathing report of an incident in which two senior Iranian public broadcast journalists who had been invited to Albania to celebrate Nourouz at the Bektashi World Headquarters, had been arrested and detained as terrorists before being released without charge. The President of the Bektashi community, Baba Edmond Brahimaj, intervened to have the men freed. The arrests were ordered by Maryam Rajavi showing that "Albania has already turned into a state that has been put in the service of international terrorism and the terrorist organization MEK" ... "Encouraged by many US and Israeli extremist circles, Rajavi wants to undertake terrorist acts against Iran, thus breaking the Albanian criminal code, which condemns terrorist activity." The article concludes that the failure of her plot left Maryam Rajavi gob-smacked – it turns out the journalists were journalists not paid killers as she had insisted – and suggests, wickedly, that widow Rajavi might really be disappointed that Iran hadn't sent her a husband!