1994 US State Department Report on the People's Mojahedin of Iran

United States Department of State Washington,
D.C 20520
Oct. 28, 1994

UNCLASSIFIED
(with SECRET attachment)
DECL: OADR



A"Light-Infantry" Democratic Group!

"In May 1988, the New York Times described the Mojahedin forces as "basically a light-infantry unit, equipped with Soviet-made armored personnel carriers and artillery. It is also said to follow Soviet-style tactics and procedures, which parallel those of the Iraqi Army."

… During Iraq's summer 1988 campaign into Iran, the Iraqis reportedly turned over to the Mojahedin "large hauls of small munitions, mobile artillery, shells, tanks and other weapons" captured by the Iraqi forces. Another reporter, visiting the Mojahedin in August 1994, noted, however, that "the weapons deployed (were) mainly of Russia, manufacture," indicating they likely came from Iraqi stocks."

1994 US State Department Report on the People's Mojahedin of Iran

United States Department of State Washington, D.C 20520 Oct. 28, 1994

UNCLASSIFIED
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DECL: OADR





BRIEFING PAPER

Number CBP 5020, 7 March 2016

The People's Muliahiddeen of Iran

By Ben Smith



Rajavi Remains Excluded from the UK

"Although the PMOI was removed from the UK's proscribed organisations list, leader Maryam Rajavi has been refused a visa to enter the United Kingdom. In 1997, the then Home Secretary excluded Mrs Rajavi on the ground that her presence "would not be conducive to the public good for reasons of foreign policy and in light of the need to take a firm stance against terrorism" ... After a judicial review, the Supreme Court ruled in 2014 that her exclusion by the Home Office was lawful. Maryam Rajavi remains excluded from the UK."

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Killing 70 Top Iranian Officials

"In 1981, MEK leadership attempted to overthrow the newly installed Islamic regime; Iranian security forces subsequently initiated a crackdown on the group. The MEK instigated a bombing campaign, including an attack against the head office of the Islamic Republic Party and the Prime Minister's office, which killed some 70 high-ranking Iranian officials, including Chief Justice Ayatollah Mohammad Beheshti, President Mohammad-Ali Rajaei, and Prime Minister Mohammad-Javad Bahonar. These attacks resulted in a popular uprising against the MEK....)



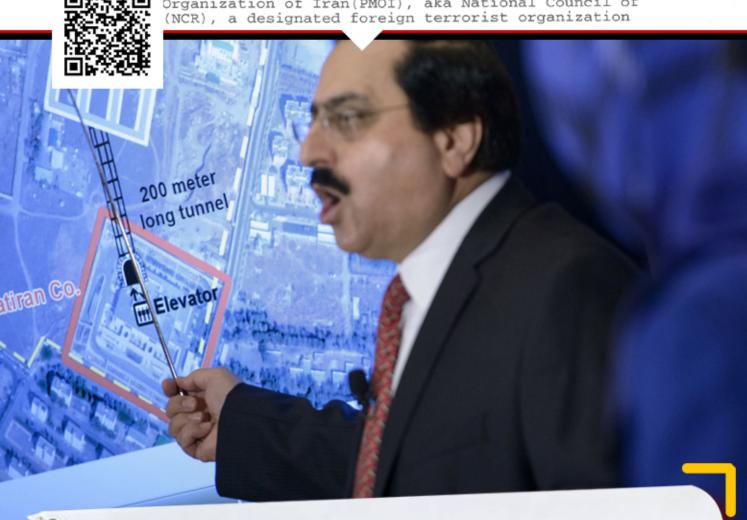
Federal Bureau of Investigation

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Los Angeles, California 90024 November 29, 2004

MUJAHEDIN-E KHALQ (MEK) CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

The following is a detailed summary of information learned during criminal investigations of the Mujahedin-E , aka Mohjahedin Khalq Organization(MKO), aka Peoples Organization of Iran(PMOI), aka National Council of (NCR), a designated foreign terrorist organization



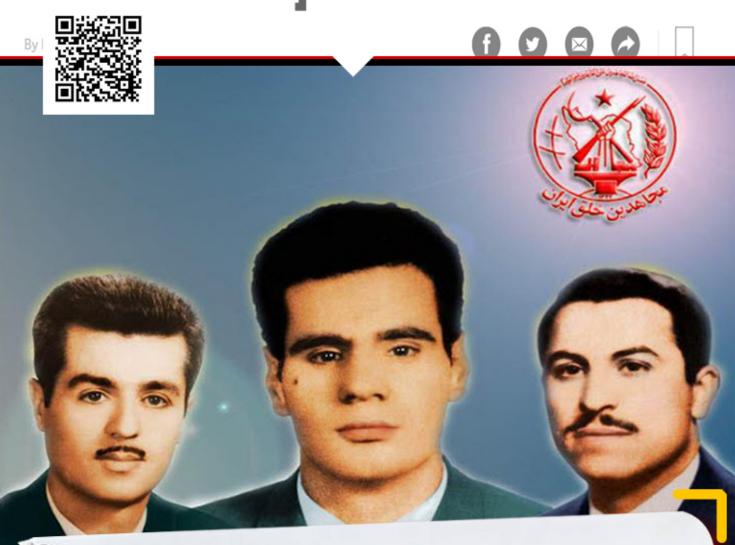
Routine Misinformation Operations

"The MEK continues to practice misinformation operations in the U.S. and Europe. MEK lobbyist routinely hold press conferences and pass information regarding the current Iranian government that is inaccurate and is designed to influence Western Media and governments. Another tactic that the MEK has been employing is disinformation regarding former MEK members and witnesses who have come forward to testify and speak against the MEK. The MEK will brand these former members and witnesses as Iranian government agents. This information is often picked up by Western Intelligence agencies as factual information and is disseminated as intelligence."

Archives

2003

The Cult of Rajavi



Revolutionary Islam + Marxism

"Back in the 1960's, the founders of the Mujahedeen were students who melded revolutionary Islam with Marxism, and they were among the few to battle the shah with weapons. Like other radical students in the 60's, they rejected bourgeois values, spurned individualism and found respite in the militarized life of a cause. They were also vehemently against U.S. involvement in Iran and killed several Americans working in Tehran. Most of the student leaders -- except Massoud Rajavi and a few others who were in prison -- were executed in the 1970's."



Sham Charities

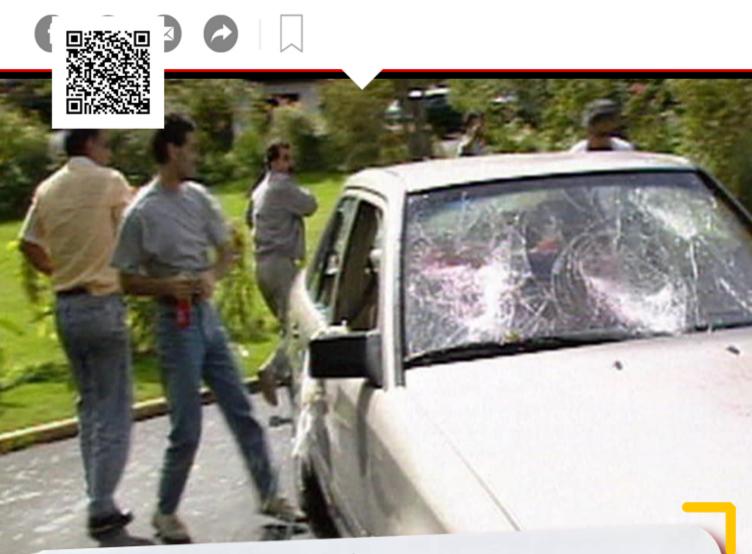
"The FBI arrested seven MeK supporters for raising more than \$1 million for a sham charity, the Committee for Human Rights in Iran, at Los Angeles International Airport. The British Charities Commission closed another MeK sham charity, Iran Aid, after finding no "verifiable links between the money donated by the British public [approximately £5 million annually] and charitable work in Iran." The German High Court closed several MeK safe houses, "foster" homes, and compounds after an investigation revealed that the MeK fraudulently collected between \$5 million and \$10 million in social welfare benefits for MeK children sent to Europe at the outset of the first Gulf War."



ARCHIVES | 1992

Iran Rebels Hit Missions in 10 Nations

By ROBERT D. MCFADDEN



Coordinated Attacks on Iranian Missions

"Opponents of Teheran's Islamic Government invaded Iranian diplomatic missions in New York, Ottawa and eight Western European countries yesterday, seizing hostages and wrecking offices in a wave of coordinated attacks... in Europe, hundreds of Iranian dissidents stormed Teheran's embassies and consulates in Germany, France, Britain, S witzerland, the Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden and Norway. Scores of demonstrators were arrested, and many of the Iranian missions were extensively damaged, some by firebombs. A statement by the Bonn headquarters of People's Mujahedeen... said the attacks were meant to protest the bombing of a base of the National Liberation Army, ... 40 miles north of Baghdad."

New York Times, April 06, 1992

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Foreign Terrorist Organizations



Taking Millions of Dollars from Saddam

"According to evidence which became available after the fall of Saddam Hussein, the MEK received millions of dollars in Oil-for-Food program subsidies from Saddam Hussein from 1999 through 2003. In addition to discovering 13 lists of recipients of such vouchers on which the MEK appeared, evidence linking the MEK to the former Iraqi regime includes lists, as well as video footage of both Saddam Hussein handing over suitcases of money to known MEK leaders, and of MEK operatives receiving training from the Iraqi military."

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In April 1999, the MEK targeted key Iranian military officers and assassinated the deputy chief of the Iranian Armed Forces General Staff, Brigadier General Ali Sayyaad Shirazi.



Border Attacks Against Iran

"In exchange for Saddam's support, the MeK provided him with intelligence on the IRI, interrogation and translation services, and direct military assistance. The MeK launched numerous raids across the border into Iran, clashing with Iranian military forces and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), sometimes with the assistance of the Iraqi military. More than a quarter of the MeK's members in Iraq were killed in these unsuccessful raids."

HUMAN

No Exit **Human Rights Abuses Inside the MKO Camps**

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On June 20, 1987, the MKO announced the formation of National Liberation Army (NLA) inside Iraq. For the next year, the NLA made several incursions into Iran as the Iran-Iraq war was entering its eighth year. The largest operation, code-named "Eternal Light," took place in the immediate aftermath of Iran's acceptance of the U.N.-brokered cease fire agreement on July 18, 1988 ... The NLA forces, estimated at nearly 7,000 fighters, were immediately mobilized for an attack on Iran... "About ten years later, when the organization published names and photographs of martyrs from the operation for the first time, the number of martyred was announced as 1,304. Our other losses were officially 1,100 injured, of whom 11 subsequently

Banisadr, Memoirs of an Iranian Rebel, p. 292. 32 Banisadr, Memoirs of an Iranian Rebel, p. 292.

The Cult of Rajavi

By ELIZABETH RUBIN



Take the Kurds under your tanks!

"everyone I spoke to -- Iraqi intelligence officers, Kurdish commanders and human rights groups -- said that in 1991 Hussein used the Mujahedeen and its tanks as advance forces to crush the Kurdish uprisings in the north and the Shia uprisings in the south. And former Mujahedeen members remember Maryam Rajavi's infamous command at the time: "Take the Kurds under your tanks, and save your bullets for the Iranian Revolutionary Guards."



State Dept. Briefing on Delisting of the Mujahedin-e Khalq

28 September 2012

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE Office of the Spokesperson September 28, 2012 2012/1568 BACKGROUND BRIEFING

Senior State Department Officials on

Ar _____ egarding the Mujahedin-e Khalq



HEARING

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED SECOND CONGRESS



SECOND SESSION

Iranian Terrorists Slay 2 U.S. Colonels SAMINES MAN Equal-Rights Amendment Gets Final Albany Passage NED 23 Dead in Copter Crash | HISTERN Related to the Mayoguex-

The People's Molahedin Organization does not represent a significant political force among Iranians, partly because of its close links to the Iraqi Government. We do not deal with the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran. This policy arises from our concerns about the organization's past use of terrorism, its continuing advocacy of violence, and a fundamental contradiction between its policy and our own. First of all, the Mojahedin murdered several Americans [sic] officials in Iran in the 1970s. This is not history to us, nor do we accept the Mojahedin attempts to excuse such actions on grounds that some of the organization's leaders were incarcerated at the time of the attacks. The organization took responsibility for the attacks, and must bear the subsequent responsibility. They also supported the occupation of our Embassy in Tehran, in which American diplomats became hostages for over a year.

Assistant Secretary of State Robert Pelletreau's written response to the Europe and Middle East Affairs Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, March 1992

No Exit

Human Rights Abuses Inside the MKO Camps



"To understand this great revolution...is to understand and gain a deep insight into the greatness of our new leadership, meaning the leadership of Masoud and Maryam. It is to believe in them as well as to show ideological and revolutionary obedience of them...By correcting your old work habits and by criticizing your individual as well as collective shortcomings, we shall gain much awareness in confronting our enemies...Report to your commanders and superiors in a comprehensive manner your progress, its results and outcomes that you gain from promoting and strengthening this ideological revolution."

Mojahed, No. 242, April 12, 1985.

Policy Conundrum

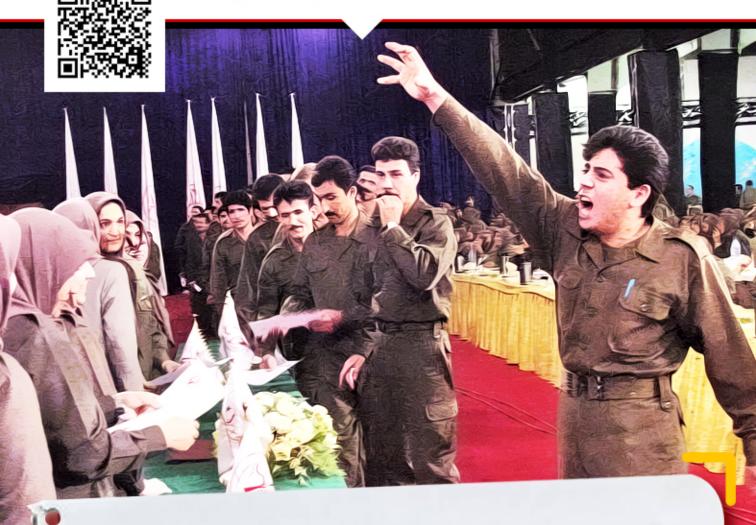


No "Liberal Relations"

"Relatives and former spouses are placed in different compounds and are not allowed to see each other. Prior to the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 1991, children were sent to live with foster families in Europe, ostensibly to protect them from the impending invasion, though some returned to Iraq years later. Close friendships are considered "liberal relations" and are strictly forbidden. Members may freely communicate only with their unit commanders, and a commander's permission is required for any other type of communication. Informants monitor conversations among members. In many cases, MeK members' families in Iran have been told that their relatives had died or been killed."

A Former MEK Member Talks About the Extremist Iranian 'Cult'

"I remember a guy who said, 'My brother works in the Iranian embassy in London. Before I loved him as my brother, now I hate him as my enemy. I am ready to kill him tomorrow, if nd everyone applauded."



"I remember one task where we had to write down our old personality in one column on a board, and the new personality in a different column. I remember a guy who said, "My brother works in the Iranian embassy in London. Before I loved him as my brother, now I hate him as my enemy. I am ready to kill him tomorrow, if necessary." And everyone applauded."

A Former MEK Member Talks About the Extremist Iranian 'Cult', vice.com, Sep 2 2014

A Policy Conundrum



H U M A N RIGHTS W A T C H

No Exit Human Rights Abuses Inside the MKO Camps



"The mood was one of unremitting misery...It seemed everyone was in the process of the new phase of the "ideological revolution." The only legitimate discussion was about the revolution and the exchange of relevant experiences. Apart from that nothing was important; there was no outside world.... Even poor single people were required to divorce their buffers, having no idea whom that meant; apparently the answer was to divorce all women or men for whom they harboured any feelings of love. Only later did I realize the organization demanded not only a legal divorce but also an emotional or "ideological" divorce. I would have to divorce Anna [his wife] in my heart. Indeed I would have to learn to hate her as the buffer standing between our leader and myself."

Banisadr, Memoirs of an Iranian Rebel, p. 311.

No Exit Human Rights Abuses Inside the MKO Camps



"The organization had taken our passports and identification documents upon our arrival in the camp. When we expressed our intention to leave, they never returned our documents. We were held in detention centers in Iskan as well as other locations. We were sent to a refugee camp outside the city of Ramadi called al-Tash. Life in al-Tash was extremely harsh, more like a process of gradual death. The MKO operatives continued to harass us even in Al-Tash. Eventually in September 1992, we received refugee status from Holland and were able to leave al-Tash."

Human Rights Watch telephone interviews with Mohammad Reza Eskandari and Tahereh Eskandari, February 1, 2005 and February 10, 2005.

No Exit **Human Rights Abuses Inside the MKO Camps**

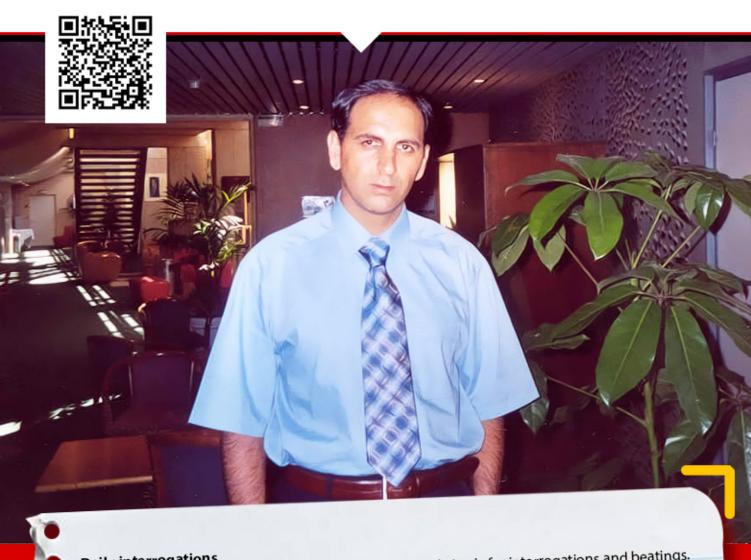




"It was a gathering called to'emeh [lure, or bait] that lasted four consecutive months. All of the camp members were present during these sessions. At this time the number of dissidents who wanted to leave the organization was growing daily... These sessions were held from morning to evening. Dissident members were brought in front of the audience and forced to self-criticize their actions and thoughts. They were expected to conclude by saying that they will remain with the organization. As soon as someone would speak their minds or criticize the organization, the attendees would attack him/her mercilessly using harsh verbal abuses. Anyone who dared to ask to leave the organization would immediately be labeled an agent of the Iranian government. It was psychologically devastating."

Human Rights Watch telephone interview with Yasser Ezati, February 9, 2005

No Exit Human Rights Abuses Inside the MKO Camps



Daily interrogations

"There was a period when prisoners were taken on a daily basis for interrogations and beatings. One method was to kick the prisoner's legs and knees repeatedly with military boots with metal covers on the front. Another method was to put a thick rope around the prisoner's neck and drag him on the ground. Sometimes prisoners returned to the cell with extremely swollen necks—their head and neck as big as a pillow."

Human Rights Watch telephone interview with Ali Ghashghavi, February 9, 2005 and May 6, 2005.

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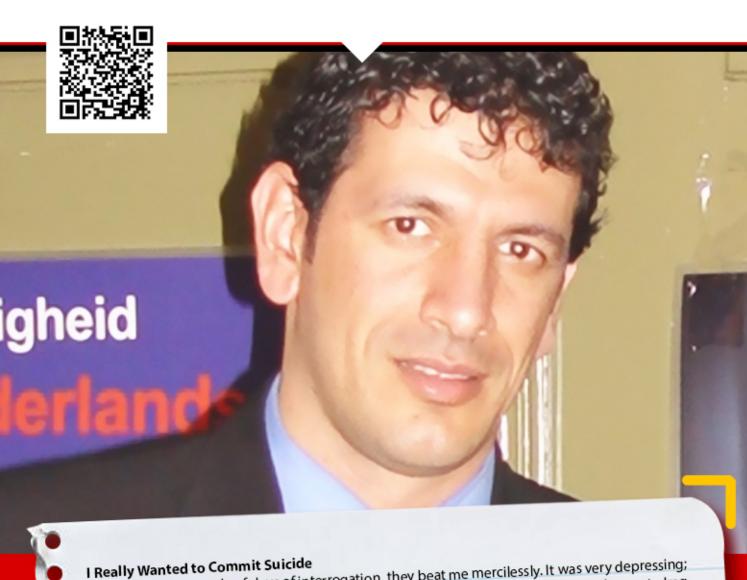
No Exit Human Rights Abuses Inside the MKO Camps



"I was the head of security for Masoud Rajavi in 1991. They could not believe that I wanted to separate from the organization. I was confined inside a building called Iskan together with my wife and our six month old child. Iskan was the site of a series of residential units that used to house married couples before ideological divorces were mandated. The organization had raised house married couples before ideological divorces were mandated. The organization had raised a tall wall around this area. Its interior perimeter was protected by barbed wire, and guards kept it under surveillance from observation towers. While we were under detention, the organization it under surveillance from observation towers. While we were and also intimidated us by reduced our food rations, subjected us to beatings and verbal abuses and also intimidated us by making threats of executions."

Human Rights Watch telephone interview with Karim Haqi, February 11, 2005.

No Exit **Human Rights Abuses Inside the MKO Camps**



"During the first couple of days of interrogation, they beat me mercilessly. It was very depressing; I really wanted to commit suicide. I was only seventeen years old when I left Iran and came to Iraq to join the MKO. I had spent my entire adult life in their camps. Eventually, I gave up and agreed to sign the forced confessions stating that I had ties to Iranian intelligence... I spent eight months in solitary confinement. During this period, I was told that my sister in Iran had been arrested and executed. Later I found this to be untrue."

Human Rights Watch telephone interview with Alireza Mir Asgari, February 10, 2005.

H U M A N R I G H T S W A T C H

No Exit Human Rights Abuses Inside the MKO Camps



No Exit **Human Rights Abuses Inside the MKO Camps**



On Eleven Occasions I Was Beaten Mercilessly

"After the first two months in prison, all of my beliefs in the organization fell apart. Up to that point I considered my differences with them as a matter of divergent political views; I wasn't questioning the MKO's underlying essence. I used to mark my prison walls each time I was subjected to severe beatings. There were many occasions of lesser beatings, but on eleven occasions I was beaten mercilessly using wooden sticks and thick leather belts."

Human Rights Watch telephone interview with Mohammad Hussein Sobhani, February 14, 2005 and May 6,

2005.





Forgo Family Life

"To enforce a new "military" discipline, rank-and-file members were instructed not just to move into gender-segregated housing but also to divorce their spouses, maintain complete celibacy, and even cut off communication with friends and family, both within and beyond MeK compounds. Love for the Rajavis was to replace love for spouses and family... The MeK denies that these acts were anything but spontaneous and voluntary, claiming, "The reality is that the Mujahideen is based in the territory of a country where . . . family life became impossible" and that every MeK member made the individual, noncompulsory decision to "forgo family life."

A Former MEK Member Talks **About the Extremist Iranian 'Cult'**

"I remember a guy who said, 'My brother works in the Iranian embassy in London. Before I loved him as my brother, now I hate him as my enemy. I am ready to kill him tomorrow, if necessary ' And everyone applauded."



"In 1990, Rajavi said all members must divorce their spouses. My own wife had already left the group by then. All members accepted these terms, and it [applied to] everyone except the leader and his wife Maryam. In a single day, everyone became celibate. Someone asked, "What about sex in the afterlife?" He replied, "I know your trick—you want to fantasize about the afterlife. But no—you must be prepared to forget about sex, about spouses, about love.""



Men and Women Are Kept Strictly Apart

"Men and women are kept strictly apart in MeK camps. Housing is segregated by gender, and in other buildings, lines are painted down the middle of hallways, separating them into men's and women's sides. Men and women are kept strictly apart in MeK camps. Housing is segregated by gender, and in other buildings, lines are painted down the middle of hallways, separating them into men's and women's sides. Men and women below the leadership level are prohibited from contact with one another unless they have obtained official case-by-case permission. Shaking hands is prohibited across genders. Even the gas station at Camp Ashraf has separate hours for men and women."



"The MeK holds daily, weekly, and monthly "sessions" that involve forced public confessions aimed at expelling deviant thoughts and behaviors that are believed to undermine group coherence. MeK members are required to keep daily records of their thoughts and nighttime dreams, particularly sexual thoughts and desires (which are, of course, forbidden), as well as observations about their fellow members. They must submit their journals to their supervisors. During large meetings, members often are forced to read their reports aloud and to make self-critical statements. MeK members are often required to admit to sexual thoughts. In a true Catch-22 situation, if they do not, they will be considered to have been caught in a lie because such thoughts are considered inevitable." SECRETARY OF STATE

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"In 2003, French authorities arrested 160 MEK members at operational bases they believed the MEK was using to coordinate financing and planning for terrorist attacks. Upon the arrest of MEK leader Maryam Rajavi, MEK members took to Paris' streets and engaged in self-immolation. French authorities eventually released Rajavi."

The Cult of Rajavi

By ELIZABETH RUBIN



SundayReview | OPINION

An Iranian Cult and Its American Friends

By ELIZABETH RUBIN AUG. 13, 2011











One said she had been suicidal in Iran until she found Ms. Rajavi on the Internet."

khaki uniforms and mud-colored head scarves, driving back and forth in white pickup trucks, staring ahead in a daze as if they were working at a factory in Maoist China. I met dozens of young women buried in the mouths of tanks, busily tinkering with the engines. One by one, the girls bounded up to me and my two minders to recite their transformations from human beings to acolytes of Ms. Rajavi.

The Cult of Rajavi

By ELIZABETH RUBIN





"The MeK naturally sought out Iranian dissidents, but it also recruited other Iranians using false pretenses. Among the targeted populations were Iranian economic refugees, people with charitable impulses, and MeK family members. Many recruits were enticed through false promises of paid employment, land, assistance in processing asylum requests, free visits to family members, public-health volunteer opportunities, and even marriage. Thus, it is highly likely that many MeK recruits since 1986 were not "volunteers."

The Cult of Rajavi

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"Most of the girls I was meeting had grown up in Mujahedeen schools in Ashraf, where they lived separated from their parents... When Iraq invaded Kuwait, many of these girls were transported to Jordan and then smuggled to various countries -- Germany, France, Canada, Denmark, England, the United States - where they were raised by guardians who were usually Mujahedeen supporters... Many of the children were sent to Mujahedeen schools, particularly in France... when the German government tried to absorb Mujahedeen children into their education system, the Mujahedeen refused."

The Cult of Rajavi

D., EI 17 A DETH RUBIN



"From the day they were born, these girls and boys were not taught to think for themselves but to blindly follow their leaders. Every morning and night, the kids, beginning as young as 1 and 2, had to stand before a poster of Massoud and Maryam, salute them and shout praises to them... The Rajavis saw these as the next generation's soldiers. They wanted to brainwash them and control them."

MUJAHEDIN-E KHALQ (MEK) CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

The following is a detailed summary of information arned during criminal investigations of the Mujahedin-E alq(MEK), aka Mohjahedin Khalq Organization(MKO), aka Peorgahedin Organization of Iran(PMOI), aka National Council of Sistance(NCR), a designated foreign terrorist organization TO).



No Exit **Human Rights Abuses Inside the MKO Camps**



"The MKO's leadership was transformed when Masoud Rajavi announced his marriage to Maryam Uzdanlu on March 18, 1985. The husband and wife team became coleaders of the MKO. The organization hailed their marriage as an "ideological revolution" that was the result of an immense sacrifice made by Masoud and Maryam Rajavi. Prior to this, Maryam Rajavi had been married to Masoud Rajavi's deputy, Mehdi Abrishamchi. The leadership asked all its members to undertake their own "ideological revolution" by identifying their personal shortcomings in self-criticism sessions."



Perpetual Leadership

"Masoud Rajavi appointed himself and Maryam leader and co-leader of the MeK (and, by extension, of Iran) for life, though the NCRI asserts that it would quickly mount elections upon taking control of Iran. This concept of perpetual leadership is reflected in the MeK chant "Iran-Rajavi, Rajavi-Iran" that has been used since the MeK began its transformation into a cult... In addition, the MeK membership ceremony involves swearing an oath of devotion to the Rajavis on the Koran. Pictures of the Rajavis adorn all MeK buildings; banners with their portraits hang in the streets of Camp Ashraf. Criticism of the Rajavi leadership is not allowed."



TERRORIST INCIDENTS

 $\Pi \Pi$

During 1992, the rbi recorded four terrorist incidents in the United States. The following is a synopsis of each act:

April 5, 1992: On April 5, 1992, at approximately 1:45 p.m., the Iranian Mission to the United Nations in New York, New York, was forcibly entered and taken over by five individuals identifying themselves as members of the Mujahedin-E-Khalq (MEK). The MEK is an Iranian terrorist group which opposes the current Iranian regime. The five subjects were arrested and charged with three counts each of violations of Title 18, U.S. Code (USC), Section 112, A (Protection of Foreign Officials); and Title 18, USC, Section 970, A and B (Protection of Property of a Foreign Government). No injuries resulted from this incident

"On April5, 1992, at approximately 1 45 p m , the Iranian Mission to the United Nations in New York, New York, was forcibly entered and taken over by five individuals identifying themselves as members of the Mujahedin-E-Khalq (MEK) The MEK IS an Iranian terrorist group which opposes the current Iranian regime The five subjects were arrested and charged with three counts each of violations of Title 18, U S Code (USC), Section 112, A (Protection of Foreign Officials), and Title 18, USC, Section 970, A and B (Protection of Property of a Foreign Government) No injuries resulted from this incident."

The National Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism, 2005