

The NYTimes: the MEK has almost zero popularity in Iran

July 7, 2025



In a recent article, the New York Times discussed the issue of regime change in Iran and various possibilities for a so-called replacement. As expected, the name of the Mujahedin-e Khalq (MEK) is also included in the list of existing options.

In the article, the MEK is introduced as a group that was once recognized by the United States as a foreign terrorist organization and is accused of being a cult by former members. The author of the article emphasizes that the MEK has tried to restore its credibility in recent years.

The NY Times reporter sees the MEK's siding with Saddam Hussein during the Iran-Iraq war as the dark spot in the MEK's past, the act that many Iranians considered treason.

Reviewing the MEK's background the author states: The group's ideology, which began as a blend of Islamism and Marxism, had begun to center around its leaders, Massoud and Maryam Rajavi. Former members have said they were told to renounce marriage and divorce their spouses to prove their commitment to them. <https://www.nejatngo.org/en/posts/16030>

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1. The NYTimes: the MEK has almost zero popularity in Iran
2. Regime change in Iran? MEK starts lobbying in the US, here's what it aims for
2. Endless MEK's anger towards New York Times. Why?
3. Why the MEK is Not Considered a Viable Alternative
3. Why is the MEK considered a destructive cult?
4. The MEK children who speak out
4. About Nejat Society

Regime change in Iran? MEK starts lobbying in the US, here's what it aims for

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The Albanian journal Pamfleti writes:

The Iranian opposition in exile has begun lobbying in the US to gain the support of President Donald Trump.

And to accomplish this, a lobbying company close to the Republicans, called "Special Guests Publicity", has been engaged, which has connections to Trump's inner circle.

This lobbying company has agreed to help promote the views of the National Council of

Resistance of Iran in the United States media.

According to the filings, NCRI, the diplomatic arm of the exiled opposition group, the People's Mujahedin of Iran (MEK), has contracted with Special Guests Publicity LLC, a PR company based in North Carolina.

The Trump administration has reportedly been negotiating a new nuclear deal with Iran, having previously withdrawn from the Obama-era agreement.

<https://www.nejatngo.org/en/posts/16036>

The MEK's internal structure is far from democratic, despite its public portrayal as a democratic alternative to the Iranian government.

Endless MEK's anger towards New York Times. Why?

July 9, 2025

After the Israeli attacks on Iran, given the prospect of the so-called regime change in Iran, journalists are exploring the landscape of Iranian opposition groups. Dozens of news media have published articles analyzing the viable alternatives to the Iranian government. The majority of these investigative reports conclude that there is a lack of a unified and credible opposition for Iran.

The New York Times was also one of those news outlets that analyzed the main Iranian dissident groups stating that "Amid Attacks, Iran's Exiled Opposition Remained Divided". The article was very similar to that of Newsweek that "As Israel Eyes Regime Change, Iran's Opposition Is Divisive and Divided." In these articles, Mujahedin-e Khalq and Reza Pahlavi are regarded two of the main opposition groups against the Islamic Republic.

However, the MEK's propaganda media slammed New York Times considering the article "crafted to undermine the MEK." Ali Safavi as a foreign affairs spokesman of the MEK is the one who is charged to write against the NY Times again. This is while what is told by the New York Times about the MEK and even about its adversary Reza Pahlavi was very similar to several other articles that has been recently published on the issue.



Why the MEK is Not Considered a Viable Alternative

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The MEK's history and actions have led many to question its viability as a democratic alternative to the current Iranian regime. A significant factor is the MEK's past association with Saddam Hussein during the Iran-Iraq War, which has deeply damaged its reputation within Iran. The group's alliance with Iraq, which included military operations against Iranian forces, is viewed by many Iranians as an act of treason, destroying the MEK's standing in its homeland. This association is a major reason for the MEK's unpopularity inside Iran, where it is often seen as a group that sided with Iran's enemy during a time of national crisis.

According to the article "The Case for Redesignating the MEK: Learning from History" from Israel Hayom, numerous surveys, independent interviews, and media coverage indicate that inside Iran, the MEK is broadly discredited.[1] Many Iranians across generations associate the group with betrayal and violence. The article also states that the people of Iran overwhelmingly do not see the MEK as a viable or legitimate alternative to the current regime.

Mazda Parsi

<https://www.nejatngo.org/en/posts/16037>

Why is the MEK considered a destructive cult?

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The Mujahedin-e Khalq (MEK), also known as the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI) or the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI) (which is widely considered an alias for the MEK), is considered a destructive cult due to a combination of factors, including its charismatic and absolute leadership, enforced isolation and control over members' lives, history of violence and shifting ideologies, and allegations of human rights abuses within the group.

The group was founded in the 1960s with a blend of Islamic and Marxist ideologies, initially opposing the Shah of Iran.

Mazda Parsi

<https://www.nejatngo.org/en/posts/16042>

About Nejat Society

Nejat Society consists of former members of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MEK, MKO, Rajavi cult) and the families of the present members

Nejat Society aims to:

inform as widely as possible about the real cultic nature of the MEK,

act as a pressure group to persuade the cult leaders to respect the rights of the members.

reunite the people who leave the MEK with their families.



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The MEK children who speak out

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The experiences of children of the Mujahedin-e Khalq have attracted a lot of attention in recent years, to the point that one of the most frequently repeated facts about human rights violations in the MEK deals with the issue of children.

Focusing on those who have written and spoken to certain media about their experiences as child soldiers or orphaned children in Europe and North America, you may find certain names. The experiences of children raised within or affected by the MEK are complex and often involve significant trauma.

The individuals like Hanif Azizi, Amir Yaghmai, Atefeh Sebdani, Parvin Hosseini, Ray Torabi, and Amin Golmaryami, are among those who have publicly shared their experiences. Their accounts often detail the challenges of growing up in the MEK environment, including separation from parents, indoctrination, and the psychological impact of the group's activities.

These individuals have written about their experiences as child soldiers or as orphaned children in Europe and North America.

The experiences of these individuals, and others like them, are documented in various forms, including books, documentaries, memoirs, interviews, and journalistic reports. These accounts provide insights into the MEK's internal dynamics, the treatment of children, and the long-term consequences of their involvement.

Mazda Parsi

<https://www.nejatngo.org/en/posts/16038>