

# Nejat Newsletter

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## JUDICIARY PROCESS AGAINST MEK. EBRAHIM KHODABANDEH EXPLAINS

Nejat Society, August 11 2021

Following the start of a petition by former members of the Mujahedin Khalq (MKO/ MEK/ PMOI/ Cult of Rajavi) and families of the group's current members against the leaders of the group, then obtaining the final verdict from the International Court of Justice in Tehran, and the following referring of it to the International Criminal Court in The Hague, as well as the growing wave of signatures of the online petition for the international trial of the leaders of the Cult of Rajavi, Mr. Ebrahim Khodabandeh the CEO of Nejat Society presented a comprehensive report on the process of the petition for the participants of the recent conference held by Nejat Society.

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### What is the judiciary process?

There is an International Criminal Court in the Hague. The Statute for the creation of the Court reads that “The Court will prosecute the most serious crimes that are of concern to the international community. These are crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.”

The International Criminal Court was created to complement national courts. The Court will not begin investigating a crime if the state concerned is already investigating or prosecuting it, or even if the state has investigated it and then decided not to prosecute the persons concerned. “This has taken place in Iran,” Khodabandeh notifies. “42 people passed a judiciary process in three years to finally participate a hearing court in March 2021, in Tehran. The complainants and the witnesses addressed the court. The final verdict was issued a few months ago.”

The International Court of Justice, which has its seat in The Hague too, is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations and a section of the ICC.

**“The entire documents related to the ICC including the verdict issued in the Iranian court, the petitions, the documentations and testimonies were officially translated.” Khodabandeh added. “The copies were equalized to the original documents. They were sent to our friends in Europe. Three of our friends [ex-members of the MEK] Aliakbar Rastgou, Ghafoor Fatahian and Isa Azadeh took the documents and submitted to the court in the Hague.”**

Khodabandeh notified that the defectors in Europe were willing to submit the documents to the court via a demonstration which was not possible due to the Covid pandemic. “Mr. Rastgou registered the documents in his own name and delivered them to an official named KarimAsad Ahmadkhan in the secretariat of the ICJ,” Khodabandeh clarified. “The documents of the national court were actually submitted to be investigated by the ICJ. The final result will be imparted to the French and Albanian governments [where MEK leaders are located].”

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## NEJAT MEMBERS ONLINE CONFERENCE TO DENOUNCE MEK LEADERS

Nejat Society,

August 08 2021

First day of a nationwide conference was broadcast by Nejat TV. Dozens of participants in the conference sought to peruse the international trial of MEK leaders.

The five-day online conference started on August 7th, 2021. The conference was hosted by Ali Moradi former member of the Mujahedin Khalq Organization (the MKO/ MEK/ PMOI/ cult of Rajavi) and an expert on the cult-like group.

Ebrahim Khodabandeh chief executive officer of Nejat Society presented a summary of the judicial process of the complaint against the leaders of the MEK in the Iranian judiciary system and the peruse of the complaint in the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

According to Mr. Khoda-



bandeh, the International Criminal Court (ICC) is the last phase in the judiciary process against the individuals who committed crimes that concern the international community. "The entire documents on the Court in Tehran and the final verdict were officially translated and sub-

mitted to the international court in the Hague via our friends Aliakbar Rastgou, Ghafour Fattahian and Isa Azadeh," he said.

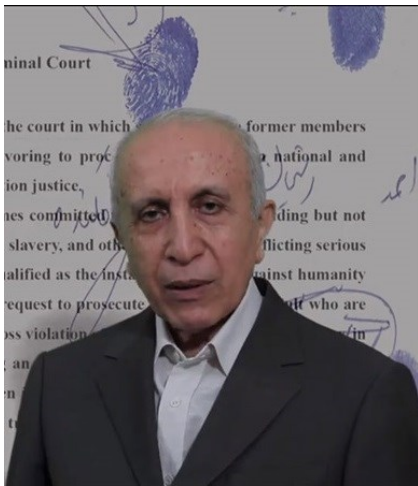
The CEO of Nejat Society also explained about the petition run by Nejat Society that was registered on a reliable website and eventually was signed by thousands of people who supported victims of the MEK and the petitioners of the file against MEK leaders.

The participants of the conference included former members of MEK who were victims of the crimes committed by the group leaders, especially in the early years of the 1990s in Camp Ash-



raf and families of members who are still captive in the group's camp in Albania.

The participants addressed the conference calling on the international bodies for the trial of the group leaders, particularly Massoud and Maryam Rajavi. Former members and families from all around Iran, Tabriz, Zanzan and Shiraz etc. spoke at Nejat TV.



**Ebrahim Khodabandeh,  
CEO of Nejat Society**

As the representative of the 42 complainant of the file, Samad Eskandari expressed his pleasure for the referring of their complaint to the International Court of Justice in the Hague. "I ask the international court of the Hague to listen to the cries of mothers, sisters, fathers and brothers who look forward to vising their loved ones who are hostages of the Cult of Rajavi."

The conference continued until Wednesday, August 11th. .

## **ACTION TALKS LOUDER THAN WORDS**

### **SUNDAY TIMES REPORT ON MEK CAMP IN ALBANIA**

**Mazda Parsi, Nejat Society, August 25 2021**

Matthew Campbell of the Sunday Times published a video report of inside the camp of the Mujahedin Khalq (MKO/ MEK/ PMOI/ NCRI/ Cult of Rajavi), in Albania, that he calls "a heavily guarded enclave in rural Albania". The report is titled "Inside a secretive Iranian resistance camp". Although many other journalists have so far reported of the curious cult-like life inside MEK's camps, Campbell's visit seems to be pre-organized by the group to serve it as a promotional report.

Campbell is welcome by the group's spokesperson, Shahin Ghobadi and in a very rare occasion he is allowed to interview Maryam Rajavi, who is present in the camp to address the group's annual gathering. Indeed, Maryam Rajavi never holds press conferences or TV interviews with independent media.

However, the Sunday Time correspondent seems to diagnose of something going wrong during his visit of "a curious domain, a land unto its own that few outsiders have visited", "a mysterious state within a state". Visiting the glamorous newly-built MEK camp Ashraf Three, he realizes that he and his colleagues are given "a carefully staged tour designed to show normal life in the camp". "We were never allowed to stray far from nimbert-like minders", he says. "The camp's leaders allowed us to interview handpicked militants."

Moving through the itinerary designed by the MEK leaders, the atmosphere of the camp is still mysterious for the visitors from the ST. He wonders how come that such huge facilities are not used by the inhabitants of the camp. "With piped-in music, almost an acre of shiny floor space and giant television screens at one end and a coffee bar at the other, the "media center" reminds me of an airport departure lounge, but it is virtually empty," Campbell writes.

Campbell seems not to be so impressed by the "carefully-staged tour" around the MEK's camp. The show-off is so repulsive that he utters, "Today my guides seem keen to convey a flavor of normal life in the camp". "It is a complete society, modern and self-sufficient," Shahin Gobadi "enthuses" as Campbell and his team arrive at the camp's bakery.

The handpicked interviewees of the ST reporter in Camp Ashraf can speak English quite fluently –while we see a large number of defectors who cannot speak English after so many years of living abroad. No interviewed member was a war prisoner of Iran-Iraq war deceived by MEK recruiters, no one was kidnapped by MEK agents in Turkey or UEA while he was looking for a job or immigration to Europe.

The most noticeable interviewee is Maliheh Totouchian who works in the computer room (read troll farm) of the camp. The considerable item about her is that according to Campbell, "On the desk next to her is a photograph of her husband, Hossein, executed in the 1988 "massacre". She looks at it with the sad eyes that are a hallmark of older activists. "I think of him every day," she says."

Maliheh thinks of her husband every day! How is it possible in the MEK? Based on the testimonies of all, exactly all, defectors of the Mujahedin Khalq, thinking of your family, dead or alive, spouse or child, whatever, is absolutely forbidden in the MEK regulations. Maliheh has been surely given a photo of his husband to put it on her desk during the tour of ST team. The photo would be confiscated by the commanders immediately after the end of the tour.

## TERRORIST FRIENDS OF WASHINGTON: AMERICANS CONTINUE TO SUPPORT MEK

**Philip Giraldi,**

**Islam Times,**

**August 16 2021**

One might ask if Washington's obsession with terrorism includes supporting radical armed groups as long as they are politically useful in attacking countries that the US regards as enemies? It is widely known that the American CIA worked with Saudi Arabia to create al-Qaeda to attack the Russians in Afghanistan and the same my-enemy's-enemy thinking appears to drive the current relationships with radical groups in Syria.

Given the fact that Iran continues to be the Biden Administration's enemy du jour, it is perhaps not surprising to observe that the US also supports terror groups that are capable of attacking targets in the Islamic Republic. To that end, recently a number of former senior government officials and politicians were involved in cultivating their relationships with the Iranian terrorist group Mojahedin e Khalq (MEK), which held its most recent annual international summit in Paris for three days starting on July 10th. The event was online due to French COVID prevention guidelines and the featured speaker was Michele Flournoy, former US undersecretary of defense for policy under President Barack Obama. Flournoy was once considered a front runner to be President Joe Biden's defense secretary and she currently heads a consulting firm WestExec Advisors that she co-founded with current Secretary of State Anthony Blinken which has had considerable influence over

staffing and other issues in the White House. In her talk, she accused Iran of posing a danger to the security of the Middle East, the United States, and to its own people, elaborating how "Since 1979, every US administration has had to deal with the threat posed by Iran's revolutionary regime and the Biden administration is no different. Iran is one of the most urgent foreign policy issues on the president's desk." She called for an "internal regime change" in the Islamic Republic.



A bipartisan group of US lawmakers also spoke before the online gathering. Speakers included House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Senator Bob Menendez, a New Jersey Democrat who chairs the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, as well as Democratic Senators Cory Booker of New Jersey and Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire. Also participating were Republican Senator Rick Scott of Florida and both Texas Senators John Cornyn and Ted Cruz. Former Democratic National Committee Chairwoman Donna Brazile also spoke as did former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who said that the MEK should be "blessed and protected."

The summit self-described as "the largest-ever online international event dedicated to liberating Iran" with the objective of "inciting uprisings against the government in the Islamic Republic." Though it would be charitable to suggest that the congressmen and former officials were largely involved to pick up the generous fees paid to speakers, it must also be noted that knowledge of MEK and its history is readily available on the internet and elsewhere. Flournoy in particular should have known better but even she, after the fact, claimed implausibly that she did not know that she was speaking to a former terrorist group that had killed Americans.

It should also be observed that the participating Congressmen all have extremely close ties to Israel and its domestic lobby, which have been assiduous in their efforts to vilify Iran as America's designated enemy. To be sure, no one at the summit even mentioned Israel's use of MEK operatives to carry out assassinations of scientists and sabotage operations inside Iran.

MEK is a curious hybrid creature in any event in that it pretends to be an alternative government option for Iran even though it is despised by nearly all Iranians. It is considered to be both irrelevant and ineffective but Iran hatred is so prevalent that it is greatly loved by the Washington Establishment which would like to see the Mullahs deposed and replaced by something more amenable to US and Israeli worldviews.

## TERRORIST FRIENDS OF WASHINGTON: AMERICANS CONTINUE TO SUPPORT MEK

MEK is run like a cult by its leader Maryam Rajavi, with a number of rules that restrict and control the behavior of its members. One commentary likens membership in MEK to a modern-day equivalent of slavery. A study prepared by the Rand corporation for the U.S. government conducted interviews of MEK members and concluded that there were present “many of the typical characteristics of a cult, such as authoritarian control, confiscation of assets, sexual control (including mandatory divorce and celibacy), emotional isolation, forced labor, sleep deprivation, physical abuse and limited exit options.”

The group currently operates out of a secretive, heavily guarded 84 acre compound in Albania that is covertly supported by the United States intelligence community, as well as through a “political wing” front office in Paris, where it refers to itself as the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI). MEK is financially supported by Saudi Arabia, which enables it to stage events in the United States and in Europe where it generously pays politicians to make fifteen-minute speeches praising the organization and everything it does. Its bribing of inside the Beltway power brokers and its support by Israel proved so successful that it was removed from the State Department terrorist list in 2012 by Hillary Clinton even though it had killed Americans in the 1970s.

As indicated above, MEK made the transition from terrorist group to “champions of Iranian democracy” by virtue of intensive lobbying of Iran haters. A Guardian article also describes how “A stupendously long list of American politicians from both parties were paid hefty fees to speak at events in favor of the MEK, including Rudy Giuliani, Joe Lieberman, John McCain, Newt Gingrich,

Elaine Chao and former Democratic party chairs Edward Rendell and Howard Dean – along with multiple former heads of the FBI and CIA. John Bolton, who has made multiple appearances at events supporting the MEK, is estimated to have received upwards of \$180,000. According to financial disclosure forms, Bolton was paid \$40,000 for a single appearance at the Free Iran rally in Paris in 2017.”

It apparently has never occurred to the congressmen and senior officials that the MEK group had a whole lot of history before it appeared on the scene in Washington and began buying American politicians. MEK, which consisted of a group of dissident students having Marxism inspired anti-capitalist and anti-colonialist roots, had a bloody falling out with the Iranian revolution leaders in 1979, forcing it to resettle at Camp Ashraf, near Baghdad. It was protected by Saddam Hussein and used to carry out terrorist attacks inside Iran. It was also fiercely anti-American beginning back in the 1970s when it was still in Iran, to include attacks on US businesses and denunciations of the United States presence in Iran under the Shah. In 1979 it supported executing the US Embassy hostages rather than negotiating their release. One of its songs went “Death to America by blood and bonfire on the lips of every Muslim is the cry of the Iranian people. May America be annihilated.”

Within the US government, MEK was notorious for its assassination of at least six US Air Force officers and civilian defense contractors. One particularly audacious ambush in which two air force officers were murdered by MEK while being driven in from the airport was reenacted for each incoming class at the Central In-

telligence Agency training center in the late 1970s to illustrate just how a perfectly executed terrorist attack on a moving vehicle might take place.

Given how currently nearly every news cycle includes stories about fake news on social media, it is surprising that MEK is never mentioned. Its current Albanian operational center uses banks of computers manned by followers, some of whom are fluent in English, who serve as bots unleashing scores of comments supporting regime change in Iran while also directing waves of criticism against any pro-Iranian pieces that appear elsewhere on social media, to include Facebook and Twitter. By one account, more than a thousand MEK supporters manage thousands of accounts on social media simultaneously. The objective of all the chatter is to convince the mostly English-speaking audience that there is a large body of Iranians who are hostile to the regime and supportive of MEK as a replacement.

It is an indisputable fact that over the past ten years, members of both major parties in Congress have either traveled to the group’s compound in Albania or spoken via video messages or live appearances in exchange for hefty speaking fees. The support provided by prominent officeholders and policymakers to include effusive praise of a terrorist group that is viscerally anti-American and has killed US officials is a disgrace. It is also a symptom of deeper problems in terms of how our foreign policy has been developed through the ascendancy of special interests. That America’s Iran policy should lead to praise of a radicalized extremist cult that is funded by authoritarian Saudi Arabia and politically supported by apartheid Israel ignores US actual interests at our peril.

## WHY THE US SHOULD NOT TRUST THE MEK

**Dalia Al-Aqidi,**

**Arab News,**

**August 23 2021**

When it comes to a nation's fate, sometimes the theory "the enemy of my enemy is my friend" is of little benefit.

We have seen it before in countries such as Iraq, where the US decided to support certain Islamist factions of the Iraqi opposition against the Saddam Hussein regime without considering the long-term consequences or possibility that these same opposition parties might turn against Washington.

And that is exactly what happened in Iraq after 2003, when the majority of Shiite Islamist parties that dominated the political arena turned out to be loyal to the Iranian regime, allowing it to operate on Iraqi soil through well-funded and trained militias directed by the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps to launch attacks against US-led coalition troops in addition to kidnapping and assassinating Iraqis who opposed Tehran's interference.

Regarding Iran, the US is looking at an exiled opposition group, the [Mujahideen-e Khalq \(MEK\)](#), as the best alternative to the republic's current rogue regime.

What is this organization, and is it wise supporting a Marxist-Islamic group in order to re-

place another Islamic group?

In 1997, the US listed the MEK as a foreign terrorist organization (FTO) over the killing of several American citizens in the 1970s. Then, in September 2012, the US State Department removed the group from its FTO list — a surprise move since the organization was known for targeting US personnel and interests in Iran.

In protest at the 1972 visit of the late US President Richard Nixon to Iran, the MEK set off bombs in Tehran at the US Information Service office, the Iran-American Society and the offices of several US companies. Similar attacks were carried out by the organization throughout the decade.

"Though denied by the MEK, analysis based on eyewitness accounts and MEK documents demonstrates that MEK members participated in and supported the 1979 takeover of the US Embassy in Tehran and that the MEK later argued against the early release the American hostages. The MEK also provided personnel to guard and defend the site of the US Embassy in Tehran, following the takeover of the embassy," a statement by the US State Department read.

The MEK supported the leader of the 1979 Iranian revolution, Ayatollah Khomeini, and

played a part in overthrowing the last shah, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, but turned against the new government after its leader, [Massoud Rajavi](#), was banned from participating in Iran's first presidential election.

The organization had strong ties to Saddam Hussein and his brutal regime in Iraq, where they took refuge and moved their base to a camp near the Iranian border in 1986 during the war between the two countries.

During that time, few knew what was going on inside Camp Ashraf. The cult-like group members were isolated from the rest of the country, while several human rights organizations reported that the MEK leadership has committed numerous human rights violations, including the abuse of female members.

After the war in Iraq in 2003, the MEK lost its major supporter, and was under attack by both US troops and Iraqi security forces.

The group is no longer welcome in Iraq since most Iraqi people remember it as another brutal faction that Saddam's Republican Guards used to crack down on Iraqi Shiites and Kurds who revolted against the dictatorship in 1991, following the invasion of Kuwait.

Later, in 2011, the Iraqi government reached an agreement

with the UN to disarm the group and move its members to a transitional location outside Baghdad, Camp Liberty, before resettlement in a third country.

The MEK, or People's Mujahedin Organization of Iran, uses democratic and human rights slogans to present itself as the secular democratic choice for the people of Iran in a bid to garner the international support it needs.

What kind of democracy does the MEK believe in?

The well-funded group, which has been led by husband and wife Massoud and Maryam Rajavi since 1985, monopolizes the Iranian opposition in an attempt to silence potential rivals.

The US should be careful what it wishes for.

Several secular opposition groups have a strong base and support inside Iran and are leading protests against the clerical regime.

Political Islam was never a friend of the West, regardless of all the promises and vows, and should not be trusted.

That ought to be lesson No.1 from the Iraqi experience.

Dalia Al-Aqidi is a senior fellow at the Center for Security Policy.

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#### What was the case about?

“The complaints should include the cases that the ICC court can prosecute,” Khodabandeh said. “The ICC prosecutes the crimes that are of concern to the international community. So, a petition was launched on an international reliable website to gather signatures. Until the day we submitted the documents, 4000 had signed the petition. To this date, the signatures have raised a lot more. This means that the crimes of MEK leaders are of concern for the international community. The signatures were filed in 182 pages and delivered to the court together with other papers. The list includes signature from all over the world. It was also accompanied with lots of text, audio and video messages in support of the petition.” The signatures are a demo of a part of the international community who are concerned about the crimes of MEK leaders.

#### Which crimes that MEK leaders committed will the Court prosecute?

These crimes are crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes. It has been proposed that the Court should prosecute the crime of aggression but the state parties have yet to agree on a definition. Below are brief definitions of the crimes as agreed to in the Rome Statute. According to the ICC, crimes against humanity are crimes that are “committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population.” They can include acts such as: murder, extermination, enslavement, deportation, forcible transfer of population, imprisonment, torture, rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization, other forms of sexual violence, persecution against any identifiable group or collectivity, enforced disappearance of persons, the crime of apartheid and other inhumane acts of a similar character intentionally causing great suffering, or serious injury to body or to mental or physical health.

According to the ICC statute, the crimes that are “widespread” and “systematically” committed against a group of people, are included in the crimes against humanity. “First of all, modern slavery is a crime that worries the International community,” Khodabandeh explained. “Therefore, Brainwashing is a crime. Mental and physical pressures under the name of sessions called current operation, solitary confinement, physical torture and death penalty typically took place in the 1990s in Camp Ashraf in the era of Saddam Hussein regime. The MEK leaders suspected 700 members of their group as being the agents of the Iranian government. These people were tortured. Some were killed under torture. Some people were disappeared in the MEK. These are all cases of crimes against humanity.”

The CEO of Nejat Society stated that whatever the outcome of the trial will be, the world will know that Maryam Rajavi's democratic gesture is entirely deceitful because she has committed the most serious crimes against her own members. “The victims of the MEK were not from their enemies but they were completely under the authority of the group. They were devoted to the cause of the group.” Khodabandeh presented some examples of cases who were killed or disappeared in the Cult of Rajavi. Yaser Akbarinasab who committed suicide due to the severe mental pressure he underwent in the cult and Soheil Khattar who was killed in the group. About the reaction of the MEK leaders particularly Massoud Rajavi, Khodabandeh says,

**“Rajavi can bother himself to file his complaint against every person he would like to, in courts of Albania or France. This is what former members of his group just did and then pursued in the ICJ.”** Currently, the petition created by 42 former members of MEK is under investigation in the international court of the Hague.

**PERIODICAL PUBLICATION  
OF NEJAT SOCIETY**

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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.



## CULTISH BEHAVIOUR IN MEK – MANDATORY UNIFORM

Habilian Association, August 27 2021



Within the cult, hijab is limited to scarves, and women are not allowed to use other types of clothing such as shawls or hats, etc. The only colors that they could choose for their scarves were green, red, and khaki.

Women could wear red and khaki scarves only in certain places, and if someone wanted to wear a red or khaki scarf outside the Mojahedin propaganda ceremonies, she would be reprimanded.