

## PERIODICAL PUBLICATION OF NEJAT SOCIETY

# Nejat Newsletter

Volume 3 Numbers 16&17

Date: October/November 2017



### Female victims of terrorism offer recommendations at UN

ISNA, October 03 2017: ... I was a 17 year-old girl when I lost my right leg from up the knee in a bomb explosion by Mujahedin-e Khalq Organization in Tehran Bazaar. My mother who was with me was injured and is now disabled. At that age, while I had only one leg, I did my best to keep myself and my family calm and avoid isolation. I continued to study, started college and obtained a bachelor's degree, and ...

#### Inside this issue:

Female victims of terrorism offer recommendations at UN	1
Maryam Rajavi's Advocate Elona Gjebrea Has Links	2, 3
Iran Interlink Weekly Digest – 206	3
The Mojahedin-Mafia Coalition Threatens Media Freedom, Censorship Of Ora News Television	4, 5
Massoud Khodabandeh Responds To MEK 'S Defamations In The Gazeta Tema Newspaper	6, 7
Domestic Servitude In The Cult Of Rajavi	8
Iran Urges EU's Tough Stance On MKO Terrorists	9
Legal Representative Meets With UNHCR In Tirana To Clarify The Status Of MEK Defectors	10, 11
Deconstructing Neoconservatives	12

ISNA (Tehran) reports on a delegation of female victims of MEK terrorism at the 36th session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland.

“Representatives of the Association for Defending Victims of Terrorism attended the 36th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council under the motto “Empowering Women Victims of Terrorism as a Necessity for the Future of Human Beings”, and offered recommendations to UN mandate holders, representatives of states, human rights activists, and other NGOs...

One of the prominent and impressive points raised at this side-event was the testimonies delivered by women victims of terrorism.”



## Maryam Rajavi's Advocate Elona Gjbrea Has Links With The Albanian Mafia

Nov 28, 2017

**Next in Line, Former Deputy Minister of Interior Questioned on Links with Habilaj Gang**

on News24 in which she denied being questioned by the prosecution, Exit has received confirmation from secure sources that Gjbrea has made a declaration at the prosecution related to her presence in the company of sev-

have also received confirmation from their Albanian counterparts that Gjbrea has at least accompanied Tahiri on his private trips to Greece. It is suspected that this trip was made to support the criminal activities of the



Elona Gjbrea at the March 2017 Mojahedin Khalq rally in Tirana, Albania with Maryam Rajavi

PS deputy and former Deputy Minister of Interior Elona Gjbrea has been interrogated by the Prosecution of Serious Crimes, after suspicions have arisen about her interactions with former Minister of Interior Saimir Tahiri and the Habilaj brothers.

Despite Gjbrea's declaration

eral persons suspected of international drug trafficking.

Meanwhile, sources from Italy close to the Prosecution of Catania confirm to Exit that during her time as deputy minister under Tahiri, Gjbrea is suspected of having at least once been in the company of the Habilaj brothers. Italian prosecutors

Habilajs.

However, the Prosecution of Serious Crimes has so far released no information about the role of Gjbrea in their investigation, and has refused to answer on the record to Exit's question whether she has been questioned.

Gjbrea, who cannot be arrest

on account of her parliamentary immunity, served as a deputy under Tahiri from 2013–2017. Officially her portfolio included the battle against trafficking and she served as national coordinator for the Battle against Human Trafficking.

Her nomination in 2013 as deputy minister at the Ministry of Interior was unexpected, considering her academic career in the fields of biology and demography. During her tenure she kept a low political profile, and emerged in 2017 election at the head of the Socialist Party list for Tirana, where Tahiri was election coordinator and chairman of the PS.

US Ambassador Donald Lu ought to be mentioned as another influence on her rapid rise within politics. During an event in 2016, Ambassador Lu praised Gjebrea as a “personal hero”:

Another hero of mine is Deputy Minister of Interior Elona Gjebrea. She has fought every year to improve the work of the Albanian government in the battle against human trafficking. She has secured more money for non-governmental organizations, employee wages, education of the police, and youth activities. Her efforts will make a difference every day.

**Exit, Tirana, Albania,  
November 26 2017**

## IRAN INTERLINK WEEKLY DIGEST – 206

++ Iran Interlink and Sahar Family Foundation are receiving many requests for help from individuals who have left the MEK in Albania. They tell us that nobody from the UNHCR or the Albanian authorities give them any answers. It is clear these bodies don't know what to do with such people. Iran Interlink advises ex-members to be clear that it is illegal for the UNHCR or RAMSA or any other body to ask them to choose between the Iranian embassy and the MEK. They were brought to Albania as refugees so these officials are responsible for their welfare. Encouraging people to go back to Iran, even though it is backed by the Americans, is illegal. Twelve individuals have put their complaints in writing to the MEK leaders. We have advised them to approach the UN directly because the MEK is a terrorist group and they are not responsible for them. Nor is the CIA which backs the MEK. One complainant who approached the MEK to ask why they would not give him his money was beaten up because, they said, he had ‘contacted his mother by telephone’. In front of him, they paid double the allowance to another individual who is working for them while claiming to be an ex-member. The MEK said, ‘we recognise him as an ex-member because he listens to what we say’. Iran Interlink advised him to visit the UNHCR with a lawyer that we have found, and ask them what their conditions are for helping refugees. We advised him to remind the UNHCR that the deal between the Americans and the Albanian government does not apply to people like him because he is an individual refugee and not a member of the MEK terrorist group.

++ Mohammad Karami published an article called ‘The Most Hated Iranian Ever’. The piece comprises mostly self-explanatory pictures of Maryam Rajavi aligning herself during the last two decades with whoever in the world is anti-Iranian. Pictures of her with Saudis, the Syrian National Front, various Americans and etc., are an interesting display of her legacy as the MEK leader.

++ This week was Ashura. The MEK and Maryam Rajavi have been trying to align their brand with the Shia faith. Some Farsi commentators responded by linking her stance this week vis a vis Ashura with her previous act of gifting a book of MEK anti-imperialist martyrs to Senator John McCain. Rajavi sits down with the most anti-Shia people, but at the same time claims the MEK are Shias. In referring to this hypocrisy, some commentators claim ‘just this one contradiction makes it impossible for them to last another year’.

++ . . .

*October 06, 2017*



## The Mojahedin-Mafia Coalition Threatens Media Freedom, Censorship Of Ora News Television

**Anne Khodabandeh (Singleton) exposing Maryam Rajavi's MEK activities in Albania**

**Nov 20, 2017**

The strength of the Iranian

dia, showing her experience in the process of deradicalization of violent extremists. Anne Singleton was interviewed by several television outlets including Ora News and TemA TV. She, along

don jihad.

The TemA TV and Ora News reportage was widely viewed so that the Mojahedin organization in Tirana demanded a counter-response to her allegations. But the reportage to be broadcast by one of these television channels never appeared. The Mojahedin not only refused to answer questions from the journalist who went to interview them but visited the media's editorial office and "convinced" the owner not to show the interview of the British activist.



Mojahedin organization in Albania is unconscionable. The organization in question – known as the MKO, the MEK, the National Council of Resistance of Iran, the Rajavi cult – not only wants the violent overthrow of the government of Iran, not only has it managed to recruit politicians, MPs and young Albanians in its campaign against Iran, but their power has already been extended to the media in Albania.

On November 8 and 9, the British activist and former member of the Mojahedin-e Khalq organization, Anne Singleton – Khodabandeh, visited Albania. During her stay, she visited several institutions and gave several interviews to the Albanian me-

with some former Mojahedin who have separated from the jihadist organization and have been deradicalized, provided interviews showing their experience and suffering in the Iranian jihadist or-

While Ora News featured an interview with the British activist on 12 November 2017. However, today, two days after the interview of British activist Anne Singleton the broadcast has been deleted by Ora News from



ganization and the reasons why they decided to aban-

its channel on Youtube and

## The Mojahedin-Mafia Coalition Threatens Media Freedom, Censorship Of Ora News Television

from the news edition of the date 12 November 2017. The Iranian Mojahedin, this cultic and jihadist organization operating freely in Albania, seems to have extended its power not only to corrupt Albanian politicians but also to Albanian media. What is being written here is not conspiracy theory, but fact. Below are the hidden links of Ora News television where Anne Singleton talked about her experience with the Iranian jihadist organization:

The news edition of Ora News where interviews were conducted:

<http://www.oranews.tv/emisionet/edicioni-ilajmeve/arrestimi-i-gjyqtarite-henen-para-gjykates-sekseri-qe-mori-20-mije-euro>

News Page where the news was deleted:

<http://www.oranews.tv/articlete/ekskluzive-pr-ora-news-anne-singleton-muxhahedinet-po-rekrutojne-te-rinjte-shqip-tare#.WgipuWBtZ84.facebook>

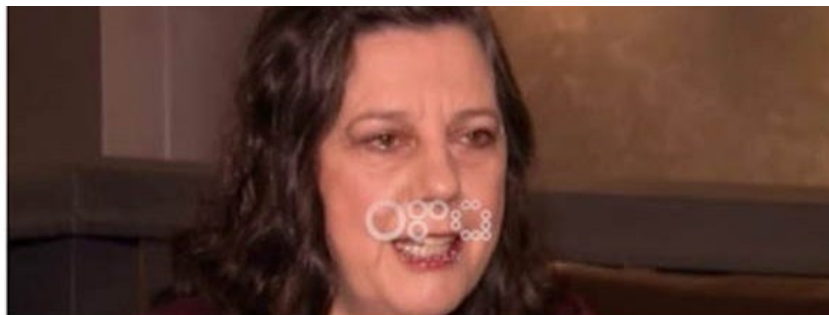
**Link to Youtube where news is deleted:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w3Tu\\_JltAx8&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w3Tu_JltAx8&feature=youtu.be)

**Here is the original interview in Ora News that was published by Gazeta Impakt:**

Muxhahedinet iraniane

kercenojne lirine e medias, censurojne televizionin Ora NewsGazeta Impakt, Tirana, Albania, November 14 2017



### Ekskluzive për Ora News, Anne Singleton: Muxhahedinët po rekrutojnë të rinjtë shqiptarë

Anne Singleton, e prezantuar si aktiviste për drejtat e njeriut, e cila është shkëputur nga grupi i muxhahedinëve, në një intervistë për Ora News tha se ky grupim të cilin e quajti terrorist, është tejet i rrezikshëm për Shqipërinë. Singleton tha se muxhahedinët po rekrutojnë të rinjtë shqiptarë për të përdorur për qëllimet e ... Continue reading



### Ekspertja britanike: Ju rrëfej për muxhahedinët (VIDEO)

Ekspertja britanike Anna Khodabandeh, një ish-muxhahedine e kampit MEK në Iran ka ardhur në Tiranë për të bindur qendrat opozita iraniane nuk është ajo që duket. Në një intervistë ekskluzive për TemA TV ajo lëshon disa mesazhe. Mes të tjerave ajo thotë se MEK po tenton të mbledhë rreth vetes rininë shqiptare.



## Massoud Khodabandeh Responds To MEK 'S Defamations In The Gazeta Tema Newspaper

**BY MASUD KHODABANDE**

**Nov 21, 2017**

**Dear Sir/Madam**

I have been informed by colleagues in Tirana that you have published a defamatory post

<http://www.gazetatema.net>

against me (Massoud Khodabandeh) and my wife (Anne Khodabandeh nee Singleton). This is not entirely unexpected since the MEK always attack their critics rather than answering their criticisms. I am, however, surprised that you did not take the trouble to contact either me or

Massoud Khodabandeh responds to MEK (Rajavi cult)'s defamations in the Gazeta Tema newspaper

Interestingly, the libellous allegations in this post are based on 'reports' purported to come from the United States Ministry of Defense (Pentagon) and The Library of the US Congress. They do not. They are fake. Did you not think for a moment to check these sources – perhaps with the military attaché in the American Embassy in Tirana? For your information, reports in the Library of the US Congress are available to the public. No such report exists there.

In any case, a simple check on our

been after me from 2013 should have alerted any decent journalist. The idea that we are British citizens who have not been investigated and imprisoned as spies for a foreign country – one for which the UK has a large degree of enmity – which is the central allegation of your article, is bizarre at best and indeed stretches the imagination of any normal person.

My background is widely known. I left the MEK while they still enjoyed the brutal support of Saddam Hussein in Iraq. When I left I was a high-ranking member of the Central Committee, member of the political wing (NCRI) and was head of the security of the leadership of the organisation. Since



Anne for any clarification of the libelous comments made in this piece. I guess the fight against fake news has not reached your outlet yet.

background would show that we are British citizens living in the same house for sixteen years in the UK. The claim, therefore, that the American authorities have

2003 and the fall of Saddam I have been working as a consultant with the department in the Government of Iraq responsible expulsion of the MEK from that country how to

## Massoud Khodabandeh Responds To MEK 'S Defamations In The Gazeta TemA Newspaper

facilitate this event as safely and securely as possible. A mission, I am glad to say we succeeded in.

Anne was also a member of this organisation and underwent military training in the terrorist camp of Saddam Hussein in Iraq. She spent many years in the MEK's so-called public relations department. We met and married after leaving the MEK. Anne currently works as a consultant under the UK government Prevent Duty helping to prevent young people from being recruited into violent extremism, terrorist entities and foreign struggles which will rob them of their futures and sometimes their lives. She has just visited your country on a mandate given to her by European Members of Parliament to report back on the situation of the Mojahedin Khalq Organisation (aka MKO, MEK, NCRI, Rajavi cult, Saddam's Private Army) in Albania.

However, again I remind you of basic journalistic principles. You failed to inform your readers that Farid Toutonchi – the author – is an active member of the Mojahedin Khalq terrorist organisation. We managed to have him expelled from Iraq along with the other members of the group. The Americans then dumped them on your country. No doubt his status in your country – like that of the other MEK – will become clear when he appears in court to answer for this libellous article.

You also failed to mention that the appearance of this ridiculous piece coincided with interviews with Albanian media by three ex-MEK members who finally managed to escape twenty-five years of slavery with this group.

You have also failed to inform your readers that there is no evidence whatsoever of any of the libellous allegations against myself and my wife in any official or reliable source (i.e., not the MEK's own websites). Instead, you have mentioned our website Iran-Interlink.org (a site preceding the existence of your site by far) but did not mention that this organisation has and is helping the victims and the families of the victims of Mojahedin Khalq. Through Iran-Interlink, we are now helping enslaved MEK members gain their freedom. Is this considered espionage in Albania? The contact details for this site are also easily available.

**Dear Sir/Madam,**

The Mojahedin Khalq have been deported from Iraq to your country to be deradicalized. [Your government had even been paid for this task.](#) This did not happen. Instead we see well known American war-mongers are now reviving this terrorist organisation against Iran as they have done with many others against Turkey, Iraq and Syria.

Anne has visited Albania to warn of MEK activities there. Of particular concern is the recruitment of young Albanians to serve the group. With first-hand knowledge of this she is able to alert civil groups how this takes place and how to prevent this from happening.

With this in mind, the best way to determine what the MEK is actually doing in Albania is to arrange a live media debate between Anne and MEK leader Maryam Rajavi – or one of her followers – so that the truth can be brought into the

public arena. Anne will explain her task to establish legal status for Rajavi's followers in your country and warn against recruitment. Maryam Rajavi might then explain to the Albanian people why she is calling for war and terrorism from their country. The citizens of Albania are already deeply suspicious of the strange behaviour and secretive activities of this group. An explanation by Rajavi in the media would go a long way to clarify for them who the group is and what they are doing in the country. Although I suspect that all this would do is to further convince Albanian civil society that they do not want such a controversial, provocative and secretive group living alongside their families, their children and their youth.

With our help, over a thousand MEK members have escaped this group in the past decade. If there is still any doubt about the integrity of myself and my wife, I suggest you invite these [formers](#) to speak about their experiences.

I have briefed my lawyer on this issue and am sending a copy of this letter to the Albanian Embassy in London seeking clarification on the situation of Albanian justice regarding such matters.

**Yours sincerely,**

**Massoud Khodabandeh**

**Gazeta Impakt,**

**Nov 21, 2017**

## DOMESTIC SERVITUDE IN THE CULT OF RAJAVI

the MKO members' defenselessness to violations of human rights

Nov 30, 2017

The US State Department categorizes all forms of [modern slavery](#) as sex trafficking, child sex trafficking, forced labor, bonded labor and debt bondage, forced child labor, unlawful recruitment and use of child soldiers and domestic servitude.

after their relocation in Albania, Europe.

Although, the group members enjoy very restricted access to the outside world in Albania, the group authorities are seeking to close this very small opening; They relocated the members to a remote and isolated camp in Albania named "Ashraf Three", reported Sahar Family Foundation. The new Camp seems to be exactly a container for what the State Department identifies "a crime in which a domestic worker is not free

ity. According to such definition, victims of the cult of Rajavi are very vulnerable because of the isolating controlling system of the group that has enslaved them since their recruitment. Testimonies of former members of the group indicate their firsthand account of "various forms of abuse, harassment and exploitation" they underwent in the Cult of Rajavi.

The state Department suggests: "these issues taken together, maybe symptoms of a situation of domestic servitude when the employer of a domestic worker has diplomatic status and enjoys immunity from civil and/or criminal jurisdiction, the vulnerability to domestic servitude is enhanced."

The above-mentioned situation is exactly dominant in the Cult of Rajavi. "Under a Secret agreement struck between American, the government of Albania and the MEK leader, the UNHCR supervised the transfer of approximately 3000 MEK from Iraq to Albania not as refugees but on a 'humanitarian basis'," writes Khodabandeh. In other words members of the Cult of Rajavi have no official status in Abania. Thus, they are more susceptible to modern slavery particularly domestic servitude in the cult-like MKO.

Having relocated in Ashraf Three, the MKO members' defenselessness to violations of human rights that are committed in the MKO on daily basis, will be surely enhanced.

Human rights bodies should be aware of a likely humanitarian catastrophe in the heart of Europe. 3000 members of the cult of Rajavi can be victims of filthy deals between governments.

By Mazda Parsi



[The Mujahedin Khalq Organization \(the MKO/MEK/PMOI/the Cult of Rajavi\) meets certain aspects of features of modern slavery](#) that are identified by the US State Department. However, domestic servitude is the one which seems to fit the slavery practices in the Cult of Rajavi more than the other forms do. The state Department explains, "Involuntary domestic servitude is a form of human trafficking found in district circumstances – work in a private residence – that create unique vulnerabilities for victims."

These "district circumstances" have been ruling the MKO bases for over three decades. The rank and file of the group have experienced living and working in a private residence in camps Ashraf and Liberty, Iraq. They still lead this vulnerable life style

to leave his or her employment and is abused and underpaid, if paid at all."

Massoud Khodabandeh who considers members of the MKO as "political slaves" voices the demands of families of the MKO members who have complained to the UNHCR and the Albanian government. In his new article on the Huffington Post, he writes, "They [families] said that many, perhaps the majority of MEK members want to leave the group but have nothing – no money, no place to go, no officially recognized status and no language skills – to help them do so. They are effectively being held in a state of modern slavery."

The state department asserts that in a domestic servitude system, the ability to move freely is often limited, and employment in private homes increases the isolation and vulnerabil-



## IRAN URGES EU'S TOUGH STANCE ON MKO TERRORISTS

Iran is a major victim of terrorism

### TASNIM NEWS AGENCY

The EU is expected to adopt a decisive stance on members of the anti-Iran Mujahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO), Iran's interior minister stressed, referring to remnants of the notorious group living in Europe as "dangerous terrorists" with blood of Iranians on their hands.

Iran is a major victim of terrorism and a number of Iranian officials have been assassinated by the MKO terrorists, Interior Minister Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli said in a meeting with Chairman of the European Parliament's Group for Relations with Iran Janusz Lewandowski, held in Tehran on Saturday.

"Some of the (MKO members) who currently reside in certain European

countries are among the highly dangerous terrorists," Rahmani Fazli said, adding that Iran expects Europe to adopt a "tougher stance" on those criminals.

The MKO, the most hated terrorist group among the Iranians, has carried out numerous terrorist attacks against Iranian civilians and government officials over the past three decades. Out of the nearly 17,000 Iranians killed in terrorist assaults since the victory of Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution, about 12,000, including many top officials, have fallen victim to MKO's acts of terror.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Rahmani Fazli highlighted Iran's efforts in the fight against terrorism and drug trafficking and in bearing the burden of Afghan refugees, calling for international cooperation with Iran in those efforts.

The visiting European official, for his part, referred to the Joint Comprehen-

sive Plan of Action (JCPOA), a nuclear agreement between Iran and the Group 5+1 (Russia, China, the US, Britain, France and Germany), and underscored that Europe stands with Iran regardless of the US administration's policies on the deal.

A delegation from the European Parliament, led by Lewandowski, arrived in Tehran on Saturday for a series of meetings with the parliamentary and diplomatic officials.

It comes a week after teams from Iran and the European Union (EU) held the third round of political negotiations in Iran to boost cooperation in the field of peaceful nuclear technology.

**Economic and political ties between Iran and Europeans have been growing since coming into forces of the JCPOA in January 2016.**



photo : Hossein Zohrevand

## LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE MEETS WITH UNHCR IN TIRANA TO CLARIFY THE STATUS OF MEK DEFECTORS

SAHAR FAMILY FOUNDATION

Oct 24, 2017



On October 9, 2017 an Albanian lawyer and a representative of some defectors from the Mojahedin Khalq organization (MEK) met with officials of the UNHCR in Tirana, Albania. The meeting had been requested on 27 September by the lawyer acting on behalf of two defectors from the MEK who want to know what their future relation with their UNHCR will be.

The lawyer and one MEK defector were received at the offices of the UNHCR in Tirana by H. Balla from the Office of Legal Protection, and H. Khan who is responsible for the MEK members in Albania.

The lawyer acting on behalf of her clients demanded explanations from UNHCR officials regarding the status of her clients in Albania, their economic difficulties and their legal status.

During the discussions H. Khan, who was responsible for the re-settlement of MEK members from Iraq in Albania, clarified a number of items for the lawyer. He explained that the UNHCR had helped the MEK to relocate to Albania to save them from the threats they were receiving in Iraq. The UNHCR had been paying MEK members in Iraq but now that they had settled in Albania they were no longer the responsibility of the UNHCR. Contrary

to the claims of MEK defectors that the UNHCR pays 500 EUROS monthly to MEK members, the UNHCR representative explained that

the UNHCR no longer pays any money to the MEK for its members. He said that the MEK has its own budget. It has an agreement with the Albanian state and it is responsible for paying its members and defectors alike, since this was one of the points of the understanding that the MEK, the Americans and the Albanian state had agreed once they were transferred to Albania.

The UNHCR for its part was trying to help MEK members to integrate into Albanian society by providing training for them and through an agreement that it had with an Albanian NGO, the Refugee and Migrant Services (RMSA), which was helping MEK members with their social needs.

During the discussions, the MEK defector complained to the UNHCR about the way the MEK was blackmailing its members in Albania, enslaving them, using psychological threats and blackmail and threatening them with slander. The defector described the spying network that the MEK has created against its own members who are deserting the organization en-mass. He complained that the MEK was keeping its members totally isolated, prohibiting them from talking to their families in Iran and throughout the world, and if

one member is caught talking to his family or to another defector he is immediately expelled from the organization and is accused of being an agent of Iran.

The defector revealed how the MEK had enslaved many of its members for the past 30 years, and now that they were living in a democratic country like Albania, this organization was still blackmailing them, keeping them isolated and not allowing them to enjoy the freedoms of democracy and civic life.

The lawyer told the UNHCR officials that these claims have been presented to her by many other defectors who live in a state of fear and intimidation from this organization, which claims that it will bring democracy to Iran. She asked the UNHCR representatives if they were aware that the MEK was intimidating and threatening even the families of MEK members who have come to Albania to meet their loved ones. She disclosed to UNHCR representatives that in a number of cases, family members of MEK members had been detained and threatened even by the Albanian police whenever they had come to Albania and tried to contact their relatives.

The lawyer asked how can this organization speak of democracy when it treats its members in such an inhumane way, which is a criminal offense according to Albanian laws? She asked the UNHCR about its stance towards these criminal allegations that defectors are making against this totalitarian organization which claims to fight for democracy and human rights? How could the UNHCR work with and support such a totalitarian and enslaving organization? They asked UNHCR staff if they were aware that this organization is acting against human rights conventions and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that Albania has signed, and was denying its members freedom of thought, freedom to create a family, freedom of movement, freedom

## LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE MEETS WITH UNHCR IN TIRANA TO CLARIFY THE STATUS OF MEK DEFECTORS

of association and was treating many of its members as slaves.

Furthermore, the lawyer asked why the UNHCR does not support the MEK defectors, who after leaving the organization end up in the street and without any support? By not supporting these people who want to enjoy their personal freedoms that democracy guarantees, the UNHCR was not helping these people who deserve to live in freedom in a democracy.

The UNHCR representatives responded that the behavior of the MEK towards its members has to be judged by the Albanian government and within the framework of the agreement it has with the MEK. The lawyer pointed out that this agreement has not been made public or submitted to scrutiny and so nobody knows what has actually been agreed. What was clear is that as the situation stands at present this agreement is in contravention of UNHCR rules and human rights legislation because clearly neither the MEK members nor the defectors and nor their families are not being accorded their proper civil or human rights.

When the lawyer asked about their legal status and what the UNHCR is contributing towards this issue – since many of them have no work permits and their legal status is described as humanitarian refugees – the UNHCR responded that they are working with the Albanian government to clarify their status.

They suggested that the lawyer acting on their behalf must contact the Interior Ministry of Albania since this body is responsible for their residence in the country.

The lawyer asked the UNHCR representatives whether they do pay some MEK members. The UNHCR representatives said that yes, they do pay some members, on a case by case basis, but not everyone. They were paying the accommodation of M. A. a

defector who was in a desperate situation.

The MEK defector who was in the meeting said that the help M. A. was receiving was minimal. He was able only to buy just few kilograms of oil, flour and sugar to eat for a whole month.

The legal representative of the UNHCR admitted that support for the MEK members in Albania was a big problem. He said that even the Albanian government will not support the refugees for more than six months. The government gives them accommodation, food and after six months they are on their own.

But the difficult case of MEK members was exacerbated since they were taken to Albania on a humanitarian basis and not as asylum seekers. They have no work permits and cannot integrate into the society.

The defector claimed that the UNHCR had in the past paid MEK members 500 EUROs per month in their accounts. However, H. Khan explained that this was no longer the case. The UNHCR had given financial support to MEK members in 2016 but now it has run out of money. He said that the support of MEK members and defectors was the duty of the MEK which brought them into the country and the Albanian government who agreed to host the Mojahedin.

The defector said that the Albanian office of asylum had told MEK members that in 2018 some humanitarian organization might take over the financial care of MEK members in Albania. But the situation of the defectors remains unclear and this means that many MEK defectors will continue to suffer and struggle for their economic survival in Albania.

The defector explained that many

families of MEK members want to contact their loved ones in the MEK so that they can provide them with support and assistance. But the MEK's refusal to allow this contact and the Albanian government's compliance with this ban means they are forced to remain with the MEK or become destitute. This was not an acceptable situation when many people could be helped by their own families and not depend on handouts from any organization.

The conclusion of this meeting was that many MEK members who want to defect from this ex-terrorist organization, who do not want to be considered as combatants and want instead to live in freedom and liberty have no option but to stay with the organization. If they choose to leave the MEK and enjoy the freedoms and democracy of Albania, to marry, have children and create families like all other free human beings, they will suffer economic hardship and blackmail from the MEK whose spies monitor and intimidate the defectors. They will be accused by the MEK of being Iran's agents and no one will help them. They do not speak Albanian, have no skills, the vast majority has no work permits and cannot find jobs in impoverished Albania. They have no passports and no possibility to settle in other richer countries in Europe. The only option that many MEK members have is to stick it out with the MEK in its camps in Albania. They must live an isolated life in which they are also thereby forced to agree to call for waging a terrorist war against Iran.

At the end of the meeting the UNHCR advised the lawyer and her clients to contact the Albanian office for asylum to clarify their status and situation. It was also suggested that the MEK should be taken to court and asked to pay for the defectors since the MEK had undertaken responsibility for their financial support after their transfer to Albania.

**By Av. M.B., Lawyer**



**PERIODICAL PUBLICATION  
OF NEJAT SOCIETY**

**Address**

**P.O Box 14145/119**

**Tehran, Iran**

**Fax: 88 96 10 31**



**Nejat Society**

**info@nejatngo.org**

**www.nejatngo.org**

## 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.



## Deconstructing Neoconservatives

Muhammad Sahimi has written an article in Anti War 'Deconstructing Neoconservatives' Manifesto for War With Iran'. Starting with Donald Trump's determination to support the JCPOA, Sahimi outlines Neoconservative efforts to provoke a war with Iran, including a speech by US Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley which was "replete with lies, exaggerations and innuendoes". Sahimi identifies John Bolton as proposing "the most comprehensive plan of action for leaving the JCPOA and eventually going to war with Iran" while also being "a lobbyist for Mujahedin-e Khalgh Organization (MEK, also known as MOK), an Iranian opposition group that for years was listed by the State Department as a terrorist organization, and is universally despised by the Iranian people for its collaboration with the regime of Saddam Hussein during Iran-Iraq war, and working with Israel to assassinate Iranian nuclear scientists. Bolton also has very cozy relations with anti-Muslim hate groups, which only goes to show the depth of the man's mental state."

After a full and detailed examination of Bolton's position toward Iran, the article concludes: "Why do Bolton and the neoconservatives hate Iran so unabashedly? They have made it clear that they believe the US should rule the world. They disguise this wish under the term 'US leadership'. To them, international treaties and organizations are useful only to the extent that they protect and advance what they consider as the US interests, which are almost never the true national interests of the United States. Bolton and the neoconservative have never seen a war that they have not liked it. They see Iran not as a threat to the national security of the United States – which Iran is not – but as an impediment to US imperial ambitions for completely dominating the Middle East and its natural resources. This, and only this, is the reason for the neoconservatives constantly trying to provoke a war with Iran."