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FORMER MEK OFFICIAL EXPOSES SAUDI ARABIA'S COVERT FUNDING OF IRANIAN TERROR GROUP

Sep 23, 2018

According to the Iranian terror group's former head of security, Saudi intelligence helped fund the group by smuggling valuables like gold and Rolex watches into Iraq and Jordan for sale on the black market.

AMMAN, JORDAN — Though it had been suspected for years, testimony from a former high-ranking official from the Iranian militant opposition group Mujahedeen Khalq (MEK) has confirmed that the group had been covertly financed by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. For decades, the Gulf Kingdom — known for its general hostility towards Shi'ite Muslims — contributed hundreds of millions of dollars in gold and other valuables to help finance the Iranian Marxist militant group — namely the group's ultimate goal of instigating violent regime change in Iran and subsequently taking power.

In an interview with Jordan-based news outlet Albawaba News, former MEK head of security Massoud Khodabandeh detailed the covert means through which the Saudis helped fund the group, including regional smuggling networks and black market transactions.

According to Khodabandeh, gold and other valuable commodities, such as Rolex watches, were shipped from Saudi Arabia to Baghdad and then sold on black markets in the Jordanian capital of Amman by Saudi-linked businessmen. The proceeds from those transactions were then placed in offshore accounts tied to the MEK and subsequently used to fund their operations.

Khodabandeh also recounted how the Saudis had even given the group a kiswa — a large drape that adorns the Kaaba shrine in the Islamic holy city of Mecca. Manufactured at a cost of approximately \$5 million, kisas are often worth significantly more than their cost of production given their religious significance.

The former MEK official also told Albawaba that he had personally overseen the transfer of valuables from Saudi Arabia to Baghdad that were then sold in order to fund the group. In one instance, Khodabandeh had smuggled three trucks filled with gold bars from Saudi Arabia to Baghdad along with two Iraqi and two Saudi accomplices. He estimated that the gold contained in the trucks was worth nearly \$200 million, all of which eventually found its way into MEK coffers.

Khodabandeh also asserted that Prince Turki bin Faisal al Saud, former head of Saudi intelligence, was intimately involved in the smuggling rings used to covertly fund the MEK. Unsurprisingly, bin Faisal has since become a vocal advocate for the group and has spoken at several of the group's annual conferences hosted in Paris. At the 2017 MEK conference, bin Faisal stated:

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SECRET MEK TROLL FACTORY IN ALBANIA USES MODERN SLAVES

Masud Khodabandeh

Sep 22, 2018

At last the world, and in particular the citizens of Albania, have gained a window into the hidden world of the Iranian Mojahedin Khalq (MEK) camp in Manez, Durres. Back in August, the UK's Channel 4 international editor, Lindsey Hilsum, was blocked from approaching the camp by armed security and MEK zealots. Her report talked about the secrecy which surrounds "the shadowy cult". Since the group arrived in Albania it has aggressively evaded investigation by all outsiders.

The MEK's standard response to requests from journalists for interviews is that they are in collusion with the Iranian regime to demonize and destroy the group and therefore pose a threat to their lives in the camp.

This of course is nonsense. As well as being an insult to their host government and the Albanian security services, this answer is in line with the MEK's history of labelling all and every person who criticises them 'agents of the Iranian regime' to deflect enquiry, investigation and accountability.

Now a report by Al Jazeera has revealed some of what they are trying to hide behind the green curtains surrounding the camp. Al Jazeera said, "in spite of the accusations of disinformation and fake news from both sides", it had "the facts, location and actual personnel explaining the modus operandi of an organized troll factory"; the MEK camp in Albania.

According to this report, MEK has established a Twitter troll factory which, for the past two years, has up to 1,500 MEK members tweeting in support of regime change against

Iran.

In a political context, this is not surprising. The MEK has, according to Ty Joplin of Albawaba, "lobbied itself from terrorist to freedom fighter..."

Since the downfall of patron Saddam Hussein, the MEK has 'changed from a terrorist military organisation to an intelligence-based propaganda machine'."

In response to the revelation, Iran's Foreign Minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif, made a political point, accusing Twitter of closing the genuine Twitter accounts of Iranians and challenging Twitter co-founder and CEO Jack Dorsey to look at "actual bots" in Tirana. But while it is fair to bat the ball back to the other side – that's part of his job – politicizing this issue risks diverting attention from the true scandal behind MEK's activities.

"Looking at actual bots" is exactly what Al Jazeera managed to do when it interviewed two former MEK members in Tirana. One described how "several thousand accounts are managed by about 1,000-1,500 MEK members... It was all very well organised and there were clear instructions about what needed to be done." Another said, "Our orders would tell us the hashtags to use in our tweets in order to make them more active."

What is clear is that this kind of activity costs money. And there is no doubt that the MEK has access to a lot of money. The payments made to high profile speakers over many years and the millions of dollars spent on lavish gatherings to mark Nouruz and the armed struggle testify to deep pockets.

But, back in Albania if the Al Jazeera interviewer had asked 'how much money does an MEK member make for spending all day, every day as an internet troll?' The answer would be "nothing". MEK does not pay its members anything. It never has and never

will. This is because it operates as a cult to which members belong rather than are employed by. It is a peculiar relationship, but one worth investigating if we are to have a true picture of how a so-called political group can achieve influence at the highest levels of policy in the USA and deceive public opinion.

As scandals involving child labor and slavery in manufacturing, supply and retail have demonstrated, it is vital to look beyond the superficial profits and share prices when examining a company. So too, in the world of politics there must be proper scrutiny over those who seek to influence public opinion and lobby government policy.

To be absolutely clear, MEK members are not paid for their work. So, none of the one and a half thousand internet trolls that Al Jazeera says are working in the MEK click factory are being paid. In fact, no MEK member is paid.

The next time anyone encounters MEK enforcers Behzad Saffari, Farid Toutonchi or Jila Deyhim and in Albania, remember they are not being paid for what they do. When parliamentarians in Britain sit with Hossein Abedini and Dowlat Norouzi to condemn Iran, when MEPs and their assistants are harassed by MEK at the EUP, and when lawmakers and researchers meet with Ali Safavi (video at end) and Ali Reza Jafarzadeh in the US, they should be aware that none of them receive a wage for their work.

Of course, this means they do not have savings or a pension and do not pay tax in their host countries like regular workers. But being unpaid is not even the main issue here. MEK members all suffer the deeper problems associated with cultic abuse and the total control over every aspect of their lives, including their thoughts and beliefs.

Two examples: In the case of Somayeh Mohammadi, MEK cannot allow her to leave their camp and meet even for

five minutes alone with her parents. She is not trusted to return to them. But they cannot allow her to leave because she knows sensitive information which MEK do not want to be made public. However, the publicity surrounding her case has almost certainly saved her life. Unfortunately, Malek Sharai who 'drowned' in an irrigation channel and whose body was buried without an autopsy was not so lucky. It turns out he was a survivor of the September 1st massacre in Camp Ashraf, Iraq in 2012. Sharai knew exactly what happened that day and who was responsible for the deaths of 53 people.

MEK members live in conditions of modern slavery. They are owned by MEK leader Maryam Rajavi in Paris and are, in turn, being exploited by her backers and advocates.

Albania already has serious problems with mafia gangs and criminals. But this newly imported problem cannot be ignored simply because they are a foreign group hidden away from public scrutiny. It cannot be ignored because the group is supported at the highest levels in the Trump administration. This is a human rights issue and continued exploitation of these victims should not be tolerated – which country condones, let alone legally sanctions the use of slaves? The US pledged money to Albania to de-radicalize and rehabilitate MEK members in Albania as ordinary citizens. It is time now for that to be actioned.

Massoud and Anne Khodabandeh, Balkan Post

Massoud Khodabandeh is the Director of Middle East Strategy Consultants and has worked long-term with the authorities in Iraq to bring about a peaceful solution to the impasse at Camp Liberty and help rescue other victims of the Mojahedin-e Khalq cult. Khodabandeh co-authored the book 'The Life of Camp Ashraf – Victims of Many Masters' with his wife Anne Singleton.

KASTRIOT MYFTARAJ: MARYAM RAJAVI CALLS FOR UPRISING, SHOULD BE ARRESTED

GAZETA IMPAKT

Sep 29, 2018

In the latest issue of "Moscow Speaking" in Ora News, Kastriot Myftaraj commented on the recent threat of war that Iranian Mojahedin dictator Maryam Rajavi has made against Iran.

Kastriot Myftaraj comments on the recent call by Maryam Rajavi for an uprising in Iran that was made from the Mojahedin camp in Manzas, citing the Criminal Code of the Republic of Albania to denounce Rajavi's terrorist demand.

Article 221 of the Criminal Code of Albania imposes imprisonment for 15 to 25 years, while the head of the insurgency can be sentenced to life imprisonment for such demands.

Article 211 carries a sentence of imprisonment for not less than 15 years for incitement to commit war, in this case by the Iranian Mojahedin leader.

Myftaraj notes that calls by Maryam Rajavi and the Iranian jihadists in Manzas for war against Iran provokes the latter to attack Albania with its missile system.

For this reason, Myftaraj denounces these calls for war and uprising by the Iranian jihadists sheltered in Manzas.



THE 'POLITICAL CULT' HAS CREATED A STATE WITHIN A STATE IN ALBANIA

INDEPENDENT- TREPORT

Sep 29, 2018

The 'political cult' opposing the Iranian regime which has created a state within a state in Albania

In Tirana, Borzou Daragahi meets defectors of the People's Mujahedin Organisation of Iran, a controversial group which has found itself the darling of Washington

An Iranian exile group that is a darling of Washington conservatives has set up what critics describe as "a state within a state" inside the tiny Balkan nation of Albania.

From a well-guarded 84-acre (340,000 square metres, or 34 hectares) property it has forged on a hillside in the Albanian countryside, the group – called the People's Mujahedin Organisation of Iran, commonly known by the acronym MEK, has begun handing out mysterious wads of cash, set up its own radio communications network, and launched deceptive information operations to influence debate about the Islamic Republic – its avowed enemy – say defectors of the group, relatives of members, and Albanian journalists, lawyers and a former intelligence official.

In addition, it has been accused of locking up members inside the camp against their will, an allegation that has long dogged the organisation, which is led by Iranian

exile couple Maryam and Masoud Rajavi, and described by former members and Iran experts as a political cult.

"We are supposed to be living in a free and democratic country. But they have built a state within a state that implements its own laws," says Olsi Yazici, an Albanian writer who is part of the legal team attempting to find out more about the group.

"They are behaving in Albania like a mafia – breaking laws, blackmailing, paying people off, beating people, threatening defectors, accusing anyone who questions them of being an Iranian agent and controlling their members in the camp through Stalinist totalitarian methods. And at the end, they claim to be democrats who will save Iran."

The Independent reached out to several MEK spokespersons and representatives, seeking comment for the story.

Inside the MEK's state within a state

As this report was being prepared, the organisation released a five and a half minute video clip that showed drone footage of what it called its "residential compound", which appears made up of dozens of buildings, and a main entrance flanked by a pair of golden lions, a symbol of the MEK.

The video showed Albanians on construction jobs in the camp, as well as members sipping tea with Albanian neighbours, or making

music in a studio, including a cover of Frank Sinatra's "My Way".

We are supposed to be living in a free and democratic country. But they have built a state within a state that implements its own laws

Olsi Yazici, Albanian writer

"Terrorist, terrorist," the men screamed at the elderly couple, their arms locked, as they sought to walk away. Canadian-Iranians Mostafa and Mahboubeh Mohammadi say they have struggled to get their daughter, Somayeh, out of the MEK for 21 years.

They haven't spoken to her since 2004, when they travelled to central Iraq to make a desperate attempt to get her and her younger brother out of the camp the group then occupied. Once they had been sympathisers and had even raised money for the group.

"We would spread out on the streets and show pictures of Iranians the regime had killed, and say their kids are stuck in refugee camps," recalls Mostafa Mohammadi.

But eventually the Mohammadis turned against the group, which they claimed tricked their daughter into travelling to Iraq, seized her passport, and pressed her into the organisation. Through tremendous effort involving US and Canadian diplomats, they say they managed to extract

THE 'POLITICAL CULT' HAS CREATED A STATE WITHIN A STATE IN ALBANIA

their son, who is now living in Canada, but not their daughter.

The MEK says Somayeh is in the organisation of her own free will, and has issued videos of her disowning her parents.

At least one other former member of the group in Tirana says he was able to leave the organisation once he told them he wished to part ways.

“I choose to pursue my own life,” he says, asking that his name not be published. “There was no pressure to stay.”

A lengthy statement by the group on the website of its front group, the National Council of Resistance of Iran, said that that Mostafa Mohammadi had been in Tehran in 2008 – an allegation he denies – and called Mohammadi’s lawyer an “agent” of the Iranian intelligence services.

The five and a half minute video shows footage of Somayeh Mohammadi with a caption reading that she insists the “Iranian regime deployed her father to accuse MEK (of having) kidnapped her”.

When the Mohammadis first came to Albania to find Somayeh, they were given the runaround by authorities in Tirana, who insisted she was not in the country.

But they managed to get confirmation from a sympathetic local refugee resettlement group that she had arrived in Tirana in 2015. Just days before the confronta-

tion with the MEK members, the Mohammadis managed to prompt a police officer to enter the camp and confirm that she was there, possibly the first time an Albanian official wielding a warrant entered the compound.

“This was a big shock for the MEK,” says Yazici, the writer. “This diminished the role of the commanders in the eyes of the members.”

The Mohammadis had heard that she made her way one day a week to a Tirana hospital, serving as a translator for MEK members seeking medical care. They waited nearby to catch a glimpse of her on 27 July. After a few hours they became discouraged, and began heading back to their hotel.

That’s when a group of four men – who later transpired to be MEK enforcers – surrounded the elderly couple and began screaming “terrorist” at them.

Police soon arrived to break up the melee. Startling the officers, the MEK enforcers continued to strike Mohammadi in front of them, screaming that the frail couple were “terrorists”.

The police rounded up the Mohammadis as well as the MEK enforcers and took everyone to a Tirana police station. MEK leaders summoned their lawyer, Margarita Kola, as well as some leaders of the group. Kola, who once worked as a counsel for the US Embassy in Tirana, claimed she was acting on behalf of the Amer-

icans.

“She said, ‘You know who I am or not?’” recalls Migena Banna, the lawyer representing the Mohammadis, who was also at the police station. “She said, ‘I am not just a lawyer, I’m a legal representative of the US embassy.’ Then the police changed their behaviour.”

Kola told The Independent that she did not work for the US embassy but declined to answer whether she had originally made the claim.

Under pressure, police let the MEK members go, but held on to the Mohammadis for eight hours. The Tirana prosecutors’ office told The Independent the case remains under investigation.

Mostafa Mohammadi went to a hospital for treatment for his bruises. By then, the video of the pack of MEK enforcers assaulting the couple had gone viral on Albanian social media. Local television stations arrived to meet the couple, and stories about the search for their daughter began to air. Albanians were outraged.

“We have so many other refugees, Syrians, Iraqis. They can do everything. They go shopping. They are out on the streets,” says Yazici. “Where are these MEK people? Why can’t we see them?”

...

Borzou Dargahi,

THE INDEPENDENT,

MKO IS DESTRUCTIVE MIND CONTROL CULT PURSUING US POLICY: EX-MEMBER

PRESS TV

Sep 29, 2018

The Mujahedin-e-Khalq Organization (MEK or MKO) is a destructive mind control cult which the United States is using to implement a regime change policy in Iran, a former long-time MKO member says.

bombings and assassination across the Islamic Republic and Iraq, is strongly despised by the Iranian nation.

MKO is financed by the Saudis, publicized by the Israelis and is following America's agenda, former MKO member Ebrahim Khodabandeh told Press TV on Monday.

bandeh said.

He added that when MKO started struggle against "the Shah in the sixties, they were anti-imperialist and socialist and they were proud of assassinating Americans in Iran and they even for a period became Marxist."

"They thought these means would get them to their goal. Now on the contrary they are pro-West and lib-



Ebrahim Khodabandeh

MKO, which was listed as a terrorist organization in the US and Europe, had collaborated with the former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein during his imposed war on Iran in the 1980s in addition to killing as many as 12,000 Iranians in a violent campaign of terrorist

"I have been a member of the Mujahedin-e Khalq Organization or MEK for more than 23 years. Their aim from the start was to gain power in Iran and it has not changed since then. But the MEK is a mind control destructive cult and all such cults believe that the end justifies the means," Khoda-

eral and secular and even feminist. In nature they are none of them. They are only after power and they adjust themselves to the needs of the time. At the moment they are only a useless tool in the hands of the enemies of Iran and nothing more," he stated.

What US gains from MKO?

“Actually the policy of the White House along with Saudis and Israelis has always been the regime change in Iran, and they think they can do this by imposing severe sanctions on the Iranians,” Khodabandeh said.

“They think by making the people of Iran suffer they (can) reach their goal. This inhumane policy cannot be expressed officially, of course. This must be asked by a so-called Iranian group first. The MEK are always ready to betray their country if they think this would reach them to their goal and to power, as they cooperated with the assaulting enemy, that is Saddam Hussein. They were used to start the manufactured nuclear crisis against Iran,” he noted.

US President Donald Trump’s personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani has attended an event held by notorious MKO terrorists in Paris and called for regime change in Iran.

“The MEK is financed by the Saudis and publicized by the Israelis to follow the White House agenda which has no support anywhere else even inside the United States. The MEK pays to their advocates but who pays to them actually? Where do they get the money to pay for the most expensive lobby system in the United States? Those who support the MEK did support the ISIS in the past and gained nothing. Likes of Rudi Giuliani think that the enemy of their enemy could be their friend which has always proved to be wrong,” he concluded.

FORMER MEK OFFICIAL EXPOSES SAUDI ARABIA’S COVERT FUNDING OF IRANIAN TERROR GROUP

From Page 1

Your efforts to confront *this regime* are legitimate, and your struggle to rescue all sectors of the Iranian society... from the oppression of the Velayat-e Faqih rule, as was said by Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, is legitimate and an imperative. Therefore, advance with God’s blessing.”

Khodabandeh went onto to state that, while former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein had once been the main patron of the MEK, bin Faisal who had taken over as the main backer of the group in recent years, asserting that the group had become an “organization run by Maryam [Rajavi, current MEK leader] under the patronage of Prince Turki bin Faisal al Saud.” The former MEK official concluded the interview by stating that the MEK had “changed from a terrorist military organization to an intelligence-based propaganda machine.”

Past Saudi Funding An Inconvenient Truth for MEK’s “Moderate” Make-over

Despite their past as a militant organization responsible for the mass murder of Iranian and American citizens, the MEK has sought to change their image in recent years and reinvent itself as a “moderate” Iranian opposition group and government-in-exile. These efforts have grown in recent years despite the fact that the group has next to no support within Iran and has consistently been characterized as both “cultish” and “authoritarian.”

The MEK’s facelift from terror group to propaganda machine began in the 2000s, kicking into high gear after former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton had them removed from the U.S. list of foreign terrorist organizations in 2012. The MEK’s propaganda efforts have since kicked into overdrive under the Trump administration, given that President Trump has sought to place “maximum pressure” on Iran with the ultimate goal of regime change. Currently, the Trump administration is stocked with known MEK supporters, including Rudy Giuliani, John Bolton and Elaine Chao, who have received thousands of dollars from the group over the years.

Despite its record of killing innocent civilians, Western media cited MEK spokespeople and members in its reporting on the Iran protests earlier this year as “proof” that the Iranian people support regime change and the MEK, ignoring the massive pro-government rallies that coincided with the protests. Little mention was made of the fact that MEK fighters have been trained by the U.S. military in the past and share connections with Israeli Mossad. The recent revelations of the group’s connections to Saudi Arabia have also unsurprisingly slipped under the media’s radar.

Whitney Webb is a staff writer for MintPress News and a contributor to Ben Swann’s Truth in Media. Her work has appeared on Global Research, the Ron Paul Institute and 21st Century Wire, among others. She has also made radio and TV appearances on RT and Sputnik. She currently lives with her family in southern Chile.

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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.



FEMALE DEFECTOR OFFICIALLY DECLARED HER DEFECTION FROM THE MKO

NEJAT BLOGGERS

Sep 24, 2018



Sahar Adibzadeh denounced the Mujahedin Khalq Organization after she left the group's camp in Iraq in 2015. She officially declared her defection from the group via Women Association Website on September 18th, 2018.

Sahar 39, was recruited by the MKO when she was in her 20s. "I was deceived by the group's propaganda and trusted them," she said.

She is now determined to launch her human rights activities in order to help release those who are still forced to stay in the Cult of Rajavi.

[Adibzadeh has previously published parts of her memoirs](#) of working with the group and living in its cult-like structure. However, she will appear on Mardom TV to publicly announce her defection from the cult. "Whoever who has defected the Cult of Rajavi should publicly denounce the group in order to stop any abuse by the side of the group," she told Women Association.

She describes the suffocating atmosphere of Camp Ashraf as place where women are forced to wear uniforms with strict hijab; there are no children and all members are single. "I wondered why those women looked so sad!" Sahar said.

After experiencing the life inside Ashraf, the MKO collapsed in Sahar's mind. "Gradually I found out that they had nothing to offer," she added.