

PERIODICAL PUBLICATION OF NEJAT SOCIETY

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PARVIZ HEIDARZADEH DECLARES HIS DEFECTION FROM THE MEK

Jan 26, 2019

Parviz Heidarzadeh Nashli who left the Mujahedin Khalq Organization (the MKO/ MEK/ PMOI) about a year ago formally announced his departure from the group in January 2019.

Parviz was a soldier in Iran-Iraq war when he was directly imprisoned by the MKO forces in 1987. Together with 27 of other Iranian soldiers, Parviz was being brainwashed under the command of Mehdi Eftekhari for 20 days. The group's propaganda succeeded to radicalize Parviz.

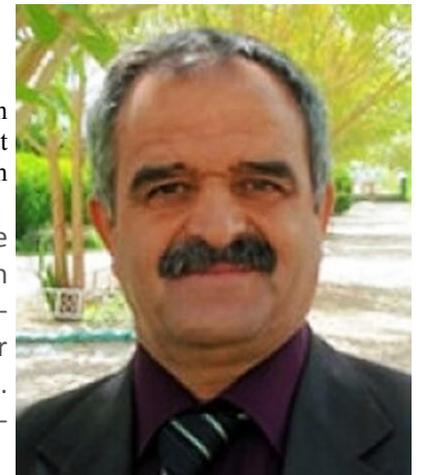
He was then kept in the MKO for 30 years. "It was totally a prison. Every day was a repeated routine for us", he writes. "Meeting after meeting, all words were repetitive. Everyone had to criticize himself, insulting himself and peers had to do the same. You were not permitted to defend yourself against the accusations and insults by the side of your peers."

In the letter of declaration of defection, Parviz testifies about the incidents of 1994 inside the MKO in which a large number of the group members were accused of being the spy of the Iranian Intelligence and were eventually confined in solitary and tortured. Parviz recalls some comrades who were killed under torture and were buried secretly.

After the group's relocation in Albania, the mind control system and isolating bars of the MKO collapsed when Parviz could manage to use the Internet in the Internet Room of the HCR. Thus he decided to leave the group for a new life in free world.

He asked the MKO authorities for permission to leave the group but he was jailed for 15 days under severe oppressive treatment. Finally he left the cult-like MKO in December 2nd, 2018.

"I am outside the MKO now. I formally declare that I have no connection with the MKO. I came out to rebuild my new life after 30 years," he writes.



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HANDLING OF IRAN IS JUVENILE. MEK THE DARLING OF TRUMP ADMIN

Stephen Gottlieb,

WAMC,

Morning Edition,

Jan 31, 2019

While we have been focused on domestic politics, some of what this Administration has been doing abroad poses serious risks.

The Administration has been trying to make Iran the devil behind everything we don't like and threats have been flying back and forth. That has many of us concerned about where we are going.

The MEK has been the darling of the Administration as a potential successor to the mullahs because they both dislike the Iranian regime. Never mind that the MEK objected when Khomeini decided to release the hostages, that it has been a terrorist organization and killed Americans.

Never mind that it has no support in Iran because it backed Iraq against Iran in a war that left 300,000 Iranians dead, and never mind that human rights organizations have documented its abuses.

Never mind that Iranians despise the MEK's version of Islam because it is "worse than the current mullahs." But it is

apparently enough that it dislikes the mullahs regardless of what might happen if they actually tried to take power in Iran, mirroring the tragedy of the second Bush war with Iraq.

Our handling of Iran is both juvenile and dangerous.

We, in this country, are very upset that Russia may have interfered in our elections. Yet we behave dismissively about the American engineered coup d'etat that removed the democratically selected prime minister of Iran and brought the Shah back.

That was a while ago but it led directly to the taking of hostages 26 years later. Everyone in Iran knew that American staff inside the Embassy had reorganized a failed coup d'etat, ended democratic government and brought monarchy back.

So yes, the Iranians violated international norms by storming and seizing the Embassy, but would we do less if we believed that Russia was organizing a coup in their Washington embassy? Or would it have been our patriotic duty to stop it by any means necessary?

Yet all the enmity between Iran and the US stems from those two events and we don't seem to be able to get past it. Iran tried on several occasions to

reestablish a decent relationship with the US. It offered to negotiate the full panoply of differences between us. But no president before Obama was willing to deal with them. It was considered unpatriotic even to talk with Iran.

We changed the balance of power in the Middle East by defeating Iraq, leaving Iran the sole major local power and target because power in the region had become unbalanced. This country then worked to complete their local isolation, refusing to include them in regional meetings and arrangements.

Their relationship with Israel had been fine and productive until we tried to squeeze them out. Like Germany in NATO, Iran could easily have been included in regional security arrangements. It could and would have become a much better friend than the likes of the Saudis.

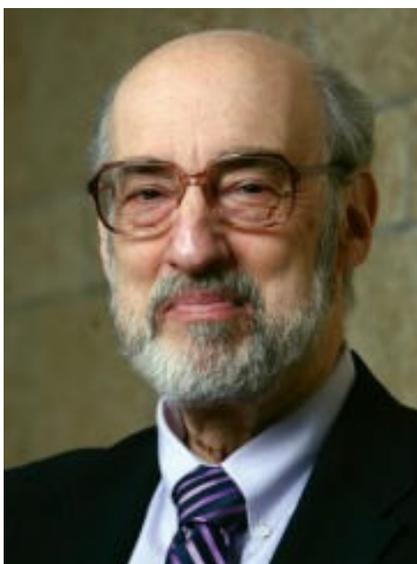
But we got furious at every step, shaking fists, making threats, even threatening war, instead of using our heads to create a peaceful Middle East. It's been much like a fight between kids in a sandbox except that all the kids have powerful weapons. Some presidents need to grow up, for the sake of our fellow citizens.

Tyrants want enemies to vilify in

order to unite the country behind them instead of against them. It's also a distraction from the embarrassments of domestic politics. But warlike behavior can get out of hand, leading some young men to their deaths and families to become refugees. Getting people to unite behind an unpopular president is a sick reason for people to go to their deaths.

Steve Gottlieb's latest book is *Unfit for Democracy: The Roberts Court and The Breakdown of American Politics*. He is the *Jay and Ruth Caplan Distinguished Professor Emeritus at Albany Law School*, served on the *New York Civil Liberties Union board*, on the *New York Advisory Committee to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission*, and as a *US Peace Corps Volunteer in Iran*.

Stephen Gottlieb, WAMC, Morning Edition,



WHEN THE ANTI IRANIAN CAMP SEE NO LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL, MEK WON'T SORT THE PROBLEM.

MASUD KHODABANDE

Jan 29, 2019

This week's Iran Interlink weekly digest had a few important points I wanted to share it again with you.

The controversy about using MEK as a tool is certainly not something the Anti Iran camp is not aware of.

What we don't know about them is that "They don't have any other tool. Hence resorting to the available ones"

What they don't know about is that "When you have been walking down this path of "Regime Change" for the last 40 years and still no "light at the end of the tunnel", Review your status:

YOU ARE NOT IN A TUNNEL. YOU ARE IN A CAVE DEAR.

Part of this week's Weekly digest:

The variety of articles written about the MEK this week is evidence of how controversial the group remains. As hard as it and its paymasters try to whitewash its past and deny its current crimes and abuses, the revelations simply keep on coming. From money laundry activities as funds are channeled through MEK to a right-wing anti-EU political party in Spain, to its role in creating a fake narrative about the threat of Iranian terrorism in Europe, to its corrupting influence in the small town of Auvers-sur-Oise where payments ensure that subsequent mayors allow the MEK every freedom in the town, the MEK cannot escape controversy.

The Iranian news agency IRNA is not above publishing its own sensational, shock horror news about the MEK. Apparently, according to an Iraqi MP, some members of the MEK have regrouped in Iraq with the help of US military forces there. One wonders how they found a single MEK member under the age of forty. The MEK have not recruited new members in any numbers for at least two decades. Their enforced celibacy mean that no children have been born to take over the work and activities of a membership whose average age is over 60. In Albania, reports are coming in weekly of MEK members dying and defecting. So, who exactly are these MEK that the Iraqi MP is dreaming about?

AZNAR, ZAPATERO ... THE OTHER POLITICIANS FINANCED BY TERRORISTS

Jan 30, 2019

Elconfidencial.com

The Tehran opposition that financed the Vox campaign also had PSOE and PP politicians as guests in Paris. Two Spanish ex-presidents attended the annual event in Paris.

There are not many issues that could unite Vox, the conservative Alejo Vidal-Quadras, two former presidents, the popular José María Aznar and the socialist José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, and the former vice president and president of the State Council, María Teresa Fernández de la Vega. The Iranian opposition is one of them. Or at least a certain section of that opposition: the so-called National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), under the spotlight for having financed the campaign of Vox in the European elections of 2014. This Iranian sect, whose members live confined in a camp in Albania, it also counted on the participation of other former Spanish high-ranking officials in its conferences.

All the mentioned politicians attended an event of the organization called 'Free Iran', which is held every summer in Paris. A person who has once attended recalls on the condition of anonymity what those annual NCRI events are like outside the French capital. "That was a huge rally in a pavilion, bigger than a PP or PSOE convention. 'Speakers' followed one another." Among those speakers, were Aznar, Zapatero and María Teresa Fernández de la Vega.

Regardless of the ideological or political reasons that may encourage the speakers, the NCRI is famous in the world for the 'lobbying' and for the generous fees it offers its guests. A person who has collaborated in the organization explains that for the Iranians the Spanish speakers were something secondary, that the organization was looking for US heavyweights.

"Rudolph Giuliani, former mayor of New York, still charged 150,000 euros or 200,000 more expenses. Bill Richardson, former governor of New Mexico, between 75,000 and 100,000 euros." The cache of Spanish politicians is lower, perhaps 50,000 euros or less, according to industry sources, for a former president.

For Iranian dissident it was a way to make high-level contacts. They say that they did not supervise the speech and did ask for a previous meeting in Madrid to explain their plans and their movement. The ex-politicians converted into lecturers accepted without asking much about the origin of the funds, which, according to most specialists, come largely from Saudi Arabia, in addition to the donations of their followers and other sources of support.

That was a huge rally in a pavilion, bigger than a PP or PSOE convention. The 'speakers' succeeded

Aznar attended an event of this group on June 26, 2010, opening the way for other Spanish politicians. Probably the former president – who has never hidden his opposition to the theocratic regime of Tehran and his support for the adoption of firm measures against it – felt supported by the presence of the American John Bolton, former Ambassador of the United States to the UN and today National Security Adviser of President Donald Trump, despite the fact that his country still officially considered MeK terrorists.

The popular has never been reluctant to admit their participation in this event, and FAES sources say that it did so for political reasons, in line with its position on Iran. Some of his comments on that occasion, in fact, are posted on Aznar's own website: "I support your struggle for freedom and for democracy, the Iranian peo-

ple have suffered too much, and demand and deserve a better government that respects dignity of people and ensure their fundamental rights," reads the selected text, along with a comment lamenting the failure of the Green Movement, the wave of protests that shook Iran in 2009.

In the full transcript of his speech, Aznar is much more forceful: "For me, stopping the nuclear escalation in Iran is essential, but not enough. We must bring a regime change to Iran. The Iranians have shown that despite repression that is what they want, and in my opinion the liberal democracies have an obligation to support freedom in those places where there is none and people seek it."

A controversial organization

The NCRI is presented as a broad platform of various Iranian dissident groups, but in practice it is the political arm of a controversial armed organization, the Mojahedin-e Khalq ("people's fighters" or MeK). Both groups are led by the same person, Maryam Rajavi, and the web page of each contains links to the other. According to most specialists, the group is largely a cult led by this activist and, previously, by her husband, Massoud Rajavi. Its members live in a military enclosure provided by the Albanian authorities, and for some countries they are a kind of medium-term investment, with a view to a future regime change in Iran in which they could play a leading role.

Because of its bombing campaign against Iranian institutions in Western countries, especially during the 1990s, the MeK was on the terrorism lists of the US and the European Union for a long time. In 2009, thanks to the efforts of Vidal-

AZNAR, ZAPATERO ... THE OTHER POLITICIANS FINANCED BY TERRORISTS

Quadras and other MEPs, they were eliminated from the European list, but not from the US list, where they remained until 2012.

In 2014, this organization financed the vast majority of the Vox campaign for the European companies led by Vidal-Quadras. The PP executive exempted did not obtain a seat and although the far-right formation directed by Santiago Abascal has affirmed that it was audited by the Court of Auditors, it has denied it. Among other things, having no parliamentary representation, he was not obliged to submit to this audit.

The PSOE and the PP have criticized Vox for using this foreign financing – the electoral law prohibits the interference of other countries in the

parties who have also had a relationship with this Iranian group. Four years after Aznar, and already as former president, was the socialist Rodríguez Zapatero who came to Paris. “The whole world expects a completely democratic Iran, a non-nuclear Iran, an Iran committed to peace in the Middle East,” Zapatero said in English amid applause. Attendees were mostly dressed in yellow vests and applauded with artificial plastic hands of the same color, as seen in the video that the NCRI uploaded to YouTube.

During his eight years in Moncloa, Zapatero shied away from English and there are only his words, but as an international lecturer he let go. “No party and no religion can justify discrimination against women.”

Marie. The socialist returned to attend the following year.

In 2015, the person who attended was Fernández de la Vega, and according to the website of the Iranian Council, he said: “Congratulations for your struggle, you are defending your people and all of humanity, and this is a battle you must win.” One of the main joys I have today is to see a powerful woman leading the NCRI, I see with my eyes that equality is in the first line of action of this organization, we support you, and your movement.” For the former vice-president, who heads the Women for Africa Foundation and who is now president of the Council of State, the question of women’s emancipation in Iran seems to be a genuine concern: barely two years ago, given the impossibility of attending an act on ‘Iranian women against Islamic fundamentalism’, organized by the NCRI in the Albanian capital, sent a video with a message of support for the cause in French.

The communication office of Women for Africa, in any case, categorically denies that the former vice president had received any money for this assistance, and affirms with completeness that the cooperation of Fernández de la Vega in both events took place exclusively within the framework of the support to the fight for women’s rights in Iran.

Speaking to El Confidencial on Monday, Alejo Vidal-Quadras insisted on the legitimacy of the NCRI, underlined by the attendance of these figures of high international profile. Aware of this, the people in charge of the group continue paying astronomical sums to the participants in their acts, before the realization that the long list of illustrious people who have passed through them act in turn as a powerful bait to attract new politicians and power continue, well, feeding the cycle.



electoral contests. The popular have even threatened to take the case to the Senate investigation committee investigating Podemos for receiving money from Venezuela. Vox has been very critical of this financing of Pablo Iglesias’ party, but he claims that his is transparent and was an almost punctual support to Vidal-Quadras.

But there are politicians from the big

“Dear friends, I want to wish you good luck, and I encourage you to work together for peace, a peace for men and women who respect all beliefs and do not want to impose themselves ... This is my wish for Iran and the Middle East”, he closed his speech, less than nine minutes. In the self-styled “annual meeting of the Iranian resistance”, Zapatero shared a table with the French conservative minister Michèle Alliot-

AN UNHOLY ALLIANCE: THE USE OF TERRORISM ACCORDING TO JOHN BOLTON

John Bolton is carefully uniting an unholy alliance of terrorist groups who all share one goal: opposition to Iran

In 1978, President Carter's National Security Advisor, Zbigniew Brzezinski, decided to use the Muslim Brotherhood against the Soviets, and sent Arab combatants to support the Afghan opposition against the Communist regime. Responding to a call for help from the Afghan government, the Red Army became bogged down in an unwinnable conflict.

In Afghanistan, the Muslim Brotherhood was not armed by the CIA, who were unable to obtain the authorization from Congress for an operation of that magnitude, but by Israel. In view of their success, the Arab-Afghans were later mobilized in many other theatres of operation. It followed, amongst other things, that the Brotherhood, armed both by Israel and Iraq, took a shot at the Syrian Arab Republic, in 1978-82. One thing leading to another, a representative of the Brotherhood was incorporated into the staff of NATO during the attack in Kosovo against Yugoslavia.

The position of the Muslim Brotherhood as auxiliary troops for NATO was canceled at the end of the Clinton presidency, but the collaboration of the Brotherhood with the CIA has never been terminated. It was clearly re-instated with the attack on Libya under the Obama presidency, where it furnished almost all of the ground troops for the Atlantic Alliance. One of their representatives was even incorporated into the U.S. National Security Council. Then, during the attack on Syria, NATO's LandCom, situated in Izmir, coordinated the jihadist troops.

Since the Trump administration opposes on principle the use of terrorist groups by U.S. military, the moment arrived for the White House to redefine the role of the Muslim Brotherhood.

We do not yet know the new strategy defined by National Security Advisor John Bolton. However, several elements enable us to guess its general form.

Daesh

At the beginning of 2018, U.S. Special Forces illegally stationed in Syria exfiltrated thousands of Daesh (ISIS) combatants overseas. In May 2018, General Yahya Rahim Safavi, military advisor to Ayatollah Khamenei, accused the U.S. of organizing the transfer of Daesh combatants to Afghanistan.

Currently, approximately 7,000 of them are still on Afghani soil. Contrary to their past position, they do not support the Taliban, who are currently opposed to all foreign presence, but now oppose them.

According to the spokesman for the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (in other words the Taliban), Qari Muhammad Yousuf Ahmadi,

The American invaders and their lackeys carried out a raid last night [12 January 2019] against a Mujahedin camp where members of Daesh were being held, situated in Pani Bus in the district of Jwand, Bâdghîs province. The joint enemy forces martyred two guards and left with 40 Daesh-affiliated prisoners. Apparently, the American invaders and their henchmen from the Kabul administration launched this raid in order to help the Daesh prisoners. Every time the Mujahedin of the Islamic Emirate [the Taliban] have fought Daesh, the American invaders have assisted Daesh and bombed Mujahedin positions. Exactly the same way that when Daesh was uprooted by the Mujahedin of Darzab, in the district of Jowzjan, and was about to be destroyed [last August], the American invaders and the Kabul administration jointly assisted 200 members of Daesh by helicopter."

It was at this moment that the Combating Terrorism Center of the Military Academy of West Point published a historical study of the divergences between the Mujahedin during the war against the Soviets. This document noted that in 1989, during the retreat of the Red Army, and when Osama Bin Laden had returned to Saudi Arabia, certain young members of the Muslim

Brotherhood questioned the laxism of their senior officers. They created the "Jalalabad School", which was much more strict, and began to accuse various people of impiety and excommunicated them (takfir). This, they say, is the conflict that blew up again in 2014, provoking the split between al-Qaida and Daesh.

This flashback should not blind us to the fact that the Muslim Brotherhood continued to welcome not only the Taliban but all Afghani resisters, until the assassination of Ahmed Chah Massoud (himself an ex-member of the Muslim Brotherhood), on September 9, 2001 (two days before the attacks of New York and the Pentagon). For two decades, Afghanistan became the training ground for jihadists from all over the world, particularly the combatants from the Russian Caucasus. Today the Taliban are much more careful with their choice of allies and their friends. It is true that today they control 60 % of the territory. They no longer base themselves on theological grounds, but on nationalist criteria.

During the war against the Soviets, the Muslim Brotherhood were mainly aligned with ex-Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, who was their representative in the country. On 22 September 2016, with the support of the Obama administration, he was awarded the pardon of the new Afghan state and was removed from the UN list of terrorists.

The arrival of Daesh in Afghanistan occurred at the time when the Trump administration had been trying – since July 2018 – to negotiate with the Taliban. Preliminary contacts took place in Qatar with ambassador Alice Wells, assistant to Mike Pompeo for Central Asia. The negotiations were headed by ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad in September and October, despite the anxiety of the Afghan government, which sent a representative but were not admitted. Khalilzad had fought alongside the Talibans, Pachtuns like himself, against the Soviets, before taking US citizenship. He was trained in neoconservatism and became ambassador to the UNO in 2007, when the Senate opposed the nomination of John Bolton.

The People's Mujaheddin

Last week, the head of the People's Mujaheddin (MEK) of Iran, Maryam Radjavi, traveled to Kabul on an official visit, from Tirana, where she lives. She met specifically with the President of the National Security Council and ex-ambassador to the United States, Hamdullah Mohib. Within the next few days, she should be traveling to Herat, in the district of Shindand, to establish a military base for her organization. According to the Pakistani newspaper Ummat, the Pentagon has already trained 2,000 of the People's Mujahedin there, in October 2012.

Despite their apparent similarity in name, there is no connection between the Mujahedin (with one d) of the Muslim Brotherhood (who are Arabs and Sunnis) and the Mujaheddin (with two d's) of the MEK (who are Persian). The only objective link between the two groups is that they have both been used by the United States and both practice terrorism.

As from 2013, the MEK has been transferred from Iraq to Albania with the support of the United States. A small town has been built for them by Israeli companies. However, on 23 June 2014, Maryam Radjavi, in a long speech given before 80,000 members of the sect and 600 Western personalities, spoke of her satisfaction that Iraq had been conquered by Daesh. We should remember that this victory had been organized with the help of General Ezzat Ibrahim al-Douri, ex-right-hand man for President Saddam Hussein, and as such, protector of the People's Mujahedin.

John Bolton's links with the MEK date back to the Bush administration. They were strengthened by his presence – for a price of 40,000 dollars – during their annual meetings at Villepinte (France), in 2010 and 2017. Having become the National Security Advisor, he now unites the jihadists from Daesh and the loyal followers of Maryam Radjavi against their common objective.

The most immediate of the targets of this terrorist is Iran, with whom Afghanistan shares a long frontier, hard to defend.

Thierry Meyssan is a political consultant, President-founder of the Réseau Voltaire (Voltaire Network). His latest work in French is *Sous nos Yeux. Du 11-Septembre à Donald Trump* (Right Before our Eyes. From 9/11 to Donald Trump).

NEWS IN BRIEF

January 2019

There were two more deaths this week in Albania. Every week two or three members are dying. On one side it can be put down to their age, but on the other hand some deaths are suspicious. There is no oversight or inspections to find out what happened to them. We have only to accept what MEK say about them. Behzad Massoudi, who died this week, was with MEK for over forty years. Everyone who knows him says he had no illness as the MEK claim. But he was a critic during all his time with them. His death is suspicious. Albania is such a country that there is no authority to appeal to and ask them to investigate. Who issues the death certificates in the MEK camp? God knows! The law does not apply to that camp.

Several open letters were written in support of comments made by Roald Sturla Naas, former Norwegian ambassador to Iran after he criticised the MEK in Today's Business publication. Naas stated that Iranians regard MEK as a worse option than today's regime.

Criticism of the flawed Amnesty International report on the 1988 mass executions of political prisoners in Iran has picked up. More people are now complaining about Al's cosy relation with the MEK. Some have revealed that this is not new and some of the people in that section of Al have been paid for the past decade by MEK. Some writers have given names, places and amounts of these payments. This criticism has now reached Wikipedia's 'Criticism of Amnesty International' page where this report has now been added as well.

Nejat Bloggers said that letters of complaint to Amnesty International over its flawed report have gone unacknowledged. When approached in person, AI staff referred the complainants to the authors of the report – some of whom are known to be working for or sympathetic toward the MEK. Complainants point out that there is no mention of the MEK's war crimes in 1988, nor its current human rights abuses against its own members. Nor does AI show any interest in the fact families continue to be denied contact with their loved ones in the MEK.

Giovanni Giacalone wrote a lengthy analytical piece in Italy's *Gli Occhi Della Guerra* asking 'Were the Iranians really ready to carry out an attack in Europe?' Giacalone examines the evidence behind such claims, quoting Albanian investigative journalist Gjergji Thanasi who showed that the MEK's claims have no substance. As such this casts doubt on why two Iranian diplomats were suddenly expelled from Albania as per MEK and American demands. The article concludes that the clash between Israel and Iran which is now taking place on Albanian soil, with the MEK playing a major role, threatens to increase destabilization in the Balkans... to the detriment of Europe.

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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.



ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE MKO LEFT THE GROUP

Jan 9, 2019

Abdorrahman Mohammadian declared his defection from the Mujahedin Khalq Organization (the MKO/ MEK/ PMOI/ the Cult of Rajavi).

Mr. Mohammadian was a soldier of the Iranian army in the Iran-Iraq war when he was imprisoned by Iraqi forces in 1980. He spent 9 rough years in Saddam's jail before he was recruited by the MKO.

"In 1989 a team of MKO recruiters headed by Mehdi Abrishamchi launched their propaganda in the POW's camps to recruit us," Mohammadian writes in his statement of defection. "Together with some other Iranian prisoners, I joined them but, soon I found out that their propaganda was completely false."

He witnessed an immoral, undemocratic and inhuman atmosphere in the group. It was like the collapse of a mirage for him. "It was a pity that we had no way out despite the entire hypocrisy we witnessed there," he asserts.

After the MKO's relocation in Albania, Mohammadian felt more discrimination because he saw other refuge seekers from other countries who were free to go out and back to the camp but as a member of the MKO he was not allowed to go out to visit the city like a normal resident. This helped him to get determined to leave the cult-like group that has taken him as a hostage for 28 years.

"I felt that I could no more tolerate the group," he says. So, he left the group on November 10th, 2018 and on the early days of January, 2019, he officially declared his defection from the MKO.



Nejat Society