

# Nejat Newsletter

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## What do Iranians think of the MEK?

Ali Alavi

March 03 2019:

Reporters who talk about the MEK usually want to talk about the politics and the money.

They say, for example, that [John Bolton supports them](#), that they get money from Saudi Arabia, that they want regime change in Iran.

Sometimes these reporters even [mention Iranians](#).

When they do, they say the MEK doesn't have much support in Iran because of [siding with Saddam Hussein](#) in the war that ended in 1988. That's all.

Maybe they don't say anything else because they don't know anything else.

Maybe they don't care what Iranians think of the MEK because they are too busy talking about [what America wants](#) and what [Europe wants](#) from Iran.

Iranians have a lot to say about the MEK.

Not just [inside Iran](#).

Not just [ex-members](#).

The [Iranian opposition outside Iran](#) has its own view of the MEK.

Let's hear more from Iranians about the MEK.

MEK: Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO)

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## IT'S A MISTAKE TO TREAT THE MEK AS A NORMAL OPPOSITION GROUP

Anne Singleton

February 27 2019:

When reporter Luisa Hommerich wrote her investigative piece in Der Spiegel titled '[Prisoners of Their Own Rebellion – The Cult-like Group Fighting Iran](#)', which exposes the grim situation for MEK members, I doubt she was expecting death threats to follow. After all, she was just doing her job. But that is exactly what the MEK reaction was. A Farsi language statement (written and published in Europe) promised her assassination. Nice.

Of course, for those who already know the MEK, this is not surprising. A timely reminder that the MEK cannot disown its past and cannot stop repeating its past, came in an interview with Nabi Ahamadi, who escaped the cult in Albania recently. Ahamadi was a close friend of Malik Sharai who was killed by MEK in June last year. He confirmed that Sharai was one of the few remaining witnesses to the mysterious death of 53 MEK members in Camp Ashraf, Iraq. He also confirmed that Sharai had asked to leave the group but was then held in solitary isolation before being physically eliminated by the MEK leaders. As a trained swimmer, Ahamadi says it is implausible

that he drowned as MEK claim.

Another example is the [suspicious assassination of Mohammad Reza Kolahi](#) – the bomber of the Jomhuri Party headquarters in 1981 who was killed in the Netherlands in

thoroughly, as did the journalists of Aljazeera, The Guardian, Independent, Channel 4 News, NBC and other down the years (there is a very long list). They all asked the MEK to give their side, to comment on their findings and to have a voice. The



Anne Singleton

2015. After he left the MEK Kolahi was always going to be a liability. He knew too much. So, why is nobody asking Maryam Rajavi about this convenient death?

One reason of course is that the MEK leader Maryam Rajavi refuses to engage with journalists, investigators, researchers. Anyone in fact who might get to the truth about her organization. Indeed, Hommerich did her job

MEK called them all agents of the Iranian intelligence services and refused to talk.

Former MEK members Gholamreza Shekari and Hassan Heyrani from Albania, who were interviewed for the Der Spiegel article, revealed that [not only did the MEK refuse Hommerich's request for interviews, they sent armed guards to prevent her getting near to Camp Ashraf 3 in Manez](#).

This is not the response of a normal political opposition. Issuing death threats to journalists is not the response of a normal political opposition. But then, there's nothing normal at all about an opposition universally hated by their own people, inside and outside Iran.

It is a mistake to approach the MEK as a normal opposition. Indeed, quoting MEK members is like giving a platform to Flat Earthers or Creationists. It is not balanced reporting. The MEK is a unique entity. Not an opposition, not a 'group' or 'organization', descriptions which imply a certain kind of accountable system and order.

Hommerich asked to speak with someone from the MEK (NCRI) but they did not reply. Instead, she spoke with some of the many defectors who have escaped. Their stories do not differ much from the testimony of other former members over thirty years: the MEK is a cult that routinely and systematically abuses the human rights of its whole membership. According to 50-year-old Gholamreza Shekari, this is achieved through 'lies, manipulation and fear'; a methodology known as Cultic Abuse.

**For the record, the MEK is a cult. Maryam Rajavi keeps slaves. It is that simple.**

#### **Female Defectors Of The MKO (MEK) In EU Parliament. March 8th Nejat Society, March 14 2019:**

Female defectors of the Mujahedin Khalq Organization (the MKO/ MEK/ PMOI) participated an inter-parliamentary committee meeting organized by Parliament's gender equality committee.

The conference that was held a day ahead of the International Women's Day was focused on young women in politics as well as women's real power in politics and how to boost it.

Women's Rights and Gender Equality Committee members debated with more than 20 national MPs from 15 EU member states during an inter-parliamentary meeting on "Women's power in politics".

Opening the event chaired by Vilija Blinkevičiūtė (S&D, LT), EP President Antonio Tajani declared: "We must keep working to have more women in politics, but also in businesses. It is a battle for dignity and respect that must be fought by all of us."

EP Vice-President and Chair of the High-level group on Gender Equality Dimitrios Papadimoulis added that even though women's participation in politics was on the rise, "most of the important positions are still filled by men, and this has to change."

The first-ever female President of Croatia, Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, delivered a keynote speech in which she recalled how she had to fight for her place, both in life and in politics, and to break countless glass ceilings. "The starting point is a change in mind-set: we need to build a political culture which leads to women's equal participation".

Among the other participants, Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality Commissioner Věra Jourová, EU foreign policy Chief Federica Mogherini and Women's Rights Committee Vice-Chair João Pimenta Lopes advocated for more women in decision-making, pleaded for men to be involved in the fight for gender equality.

Batoul Soltani, Homeira Mohammadi and Zahra Moini of Women Association and Reza Jebeli of Aawa Association attended the meeting to denounce violent attitudes of the MKO leaders against their rank and files. **Batoul Soltani** condemned the MKO authorities for they separated her six-month old and two-year old children from her and smuggled them to Europe in 1991. She stated that the MKO has violated the rights of hers and her children's.

**Homeira Mohammad Nezhad** was a teenager when she joined the MKO. She addressed the conference on the psychological pressure she endured inside the MKO. As a fourteen year-old girl she was not allowed to contact her parents during the years she was a member of the group.

**Zahra Moini** gave testimony on forced divorce, forced celibacy, brain-washing sessions and violation of the most basic human rights in the MKO camps.

**Reza Jebeli** also talked to a number of representatives warning about the potential violence of the MKO and the destructive role of the group's lobbies to obstruct the future EU elections.

In the margins of the conference, the defectors tried to enlighten EU parliament representatives offering them documented testimonies on the cult-like nature of the MKO. They called on the EU Parliament to recognize the rights of defectors of the MKO as refugees submitting their letters of requests for medical care and living facilities.

The human rights violations committed by the MKO was condemned by the representatives.

## THE SPECIAL MOMENT TO SAY NO TO THE CULT OF RAJAVI (MEK, NCRI, ...)

Mazda Parsi,

Nejat Society,

March 19 2019:

**Imagine terrorist extremists attacking European citizens, cutting their throats with knife, breaking their hands, removing their eyes with fingers, and tearing their mouth open. Even imagining such scenes seems horrific but there are some people out there who have been trained to do so. A large group of these trained terrorists are members of the Mujahedin Khalq Organization (the MKO/ MEK/ PMOI/the Cult of Rajavi). Coincidentally, they live in Europe now.**

The recent report published by Der Spiegel revealed the above-mentioned horrific facts about the evil of the MKO. The history of the MKO has proved that committing such violent acts is not far from the background of the group. There are numerous reports and testimonies on the MKO's armed and unarmed violence. Today, there are hundreds of people in the MKO camp in Albania who have been trained to commit these evil deeds whenever they deem them necessary. One may wonder what makes such brutal trainings as ordinary routine chores of a community.

The German born prominent

philosopher Hannah Arendt is best known for her works on the problem of "evil". Can one do evil without being evil? This was the puzzling question that she grappled with when she reported for The New Yorker in 1961 on the war crimes trial of Adolph Eichmann, the Nazi

operative responsible for organizing the transportation of millions of Jews and others to various concentration camps.

Arendt was remarkably sensitive about some of the deepest problems, confusions and dangerous tendencies in modern political life, many of them still with us today. **The suffocating atmosphere of the MKO camps—where members have to pressure their peers abusing them verbally and physically in their everyday life and are always prepared to attack outsiders—is a significant example of complex and dangerous tendencies within a community in the modern world.**

Arendt believes that all aspects of the life under the totalitarian ruling systems are controlled by the totalitarian leaders. The evil of the dictatorship leads the followers to an abyss in which they practically lose their mental power. According to her, conscience of the citizens in a dictatorship is paralyzed; they lose their individuality.

This process has been the exact mechanism that has been used in the MKO.

**The most recent defector of the MKO in Albania, Hadi Sani Khani admits that once he was an MKO member, he was like a robot, not able to choose for a moment of his private life. "We were brainwashed in daily meetings, our minds had to be drained of any personal thoughts during daily and weekly brainwashing sessions," he says.**

Actually, totalitarianism has sickened members in a dangerous way that they submit to the decisions that the dictator (in this case Massoud Rajavi) makes for them. Members believe in what the top of the hierarchy says. They think that Massoud and Maryam Rajavi are protectors of their rights and interests. "Massoud Rajavi was idolized like a prophet, a god for us," Sani Khani says.

Hanna Arendt thinks that the evil-seized members are in return the factors to consolidate the absolute power of the dictator. "In politics obedience and support are the same", she suggests. To break this awkward equation, she suggests a deep inner conversation that awakes the individuality of the citizen.

## THE SPECIAL MOMENT TO SAY NO TO THE CULT OF RAJAVI (MEK, NCRI, ...)

Those who defect the MKO definitely had experienced the unique moment that they gained the ability to have this inner conversation. This special moment is usually declared in the firsthand accounts of former members' testimonies. For instance, former member of the group Bahman Azami, speaks of the moment he saw some children playing in the park over the walls of the MKO's camp in Tirana, Albania. The kids took his mind to the life outside the group. **He was eventually punished by his female commandant for he had broken the regulations of the cult that forbids thinking about normal life.** However, the inner conversation had started for Bahman. He started doubting the group's cause questioning himself for all the years of his life he had lost in the group and he finally left the group.

Although Massoud and Maryam Rajavi have been making efforts to remove the past and future of their followers' lives in order to conquer their minds, we should always be hopeful for the advent of that particular moment that revives past memoirs and experiences in their minds and hearts that will inspire their willingness for a normal future.

**Mazda Parsi**

**Iran Interlink,**

**March 29 2019:**

Mazda Parsi in Nejat Society wrote about the [Der Spiegel article by Luisa Hommerich](#).

Parsi focused on the revelation that MEK members are trained in horrific individual combat which includes cutting throats, breaking hands, removing eyes with the fingers and tearing mouths open by hand.

Imagine terrorist extremists attacking European citizens in this way, suggests Parsi, before pointing out that these terrorists currently live and train in Europe now.

"Today, there are hundreds of people in the MKO camp in Albania who have been trained to commit these evil deeds whenever they deem them necessary."

Referring to the work of Hannah Arendt, Parsi examines the role of brainwashing in the MEK.

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'We were brainwashed in daily meetings, our minds had to be drained of any personal thoughts during daily and weekly brainwashing sessions', he says."

Parsi says it is possible to overcome this through what Arendt describes as "a deep inner conversation that awakes the individuality of the citizen".

When this happened to former MEK member Bahman Azami, "He started doubting the group's cause questioning himself for all the years of his life he had lost in the group and he finally left the group".

Parsi concludes that there is always hope that this moment of realisation that inspires memories and experiences from the past will arise in the minds and hearts of MEK members and inspire them to pursue a normal future.



## THE MOJAHEDIN-E KHALQ AREN'T AMERICA'S FRIENDS. EVEN IRANIANS WHO HATE THE REGIME DON'T WANT MEK

**Michael Rubin,**  
**National Interest,**  
**March 29 2019:**

### **The Mojahedin-e Khalq Aren't America's Friends**

**And even Iranians who hate their current regime don't want the MEK.**

The Trump administration is not afraid to defy long-held conventional wisdom on U.S. foreign policy. With regard to the Middle East, such disruption can be a good thing: Across administrations and for decades, U.S. policy has achieved only lackluster results. For example, Israeli-Palestinian peace has receded even as successive administrations poured billions of dollars into a Middle East peace process. Nor has traditional diplomacy contained the growth and expansion of Iranian influence across the region.

Trump, however, has been willing to break diplomatic china. He has recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital, cut funding to the Palestinian Authority, held Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's feet to the fire over the detention of U.S. pastor Andrew Brunson and walked away from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (the JCPOA or Iran Deal). In

each case, prognostications that the sky would fall, and disaster would loom proved false.

Sometimes, however, breaking conventional wisdom can backfire. While legal arguments about the necessity of an authorization for the use of military force in Syria are valid, a precipitous withdrawal would likely be disastrous. There has been tremendous mission creep in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) over the last several decades but defunding the American-European military alliance would probably encourage aggression rather than ensure stability. And, when it comes to the Mojahedin e-Khalq (MEK), an Iranian opposition group, any cooperation and coordination—let alone support—from the United States would be disastrous.

The Trump administration, however, is reportedly [reconsidering](#) the pariah status of the MEK within U.S. diplomacy. Barbara Slavin, an American analyst often [apologetic](#) to the Islamic Republic, [reports](#) that "US administration talking points no longer exclude the Mujahedin-e Khalq as a potential replacement for the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran." While there remains a

great difference between "refuses to exclude" and "supports," Slavin is correct to raise concern.

### **Iranian Hatred for the Mojahedin-e Khalq**

I spent seven months in the Islamic Republic of Iran during both the Rafsanjani and Khatami-eras while completing my Ph.D. dissertation. During that time, I shopped daily in the market, rode public transportation, and met fellow university students from across Iran. Most were curious to meet an American with no family links to Iran. Most were cautious but keen to talk about the antipathy to the Islamic Republic once they were out of buildings or vehicles which could be easily bugged. For example, one couple from Ahvaz, in Tehran, complained while their twelve-year-old daughter underwent treatment for brain cancer that in the aftermath of the Iran-Iraq War, the regime built mosques but not hospitals. A professor in Isfahan would remove the ignition wire from his car every time he parked at night to deter car thieves. And, a lawyer in Isfahan laughed at a general amnesty for weapons taken home after the Iran-Iraq War because they might be needed in a future revolution. Many Iranians asked about the Diaspora, and especially the

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exiled crown prince Reza Pahlavi. That did not mean they were monarchists, but decades of being under the Islamic Republic had left them craving the past as a golden age. “Oh my shah, my shah, where is my shah?” one storekeeper asked when a merchant walked by with spoiled bananas selling for far more than what he said fresh bananas did pre-revolution. Whereas many Iranians rightly castigate the shah’s police state and his dreaded SAVAK intelligence service, they also acknowledge that the successor VEVAK was as bad if not worse.

But there was only one item that united Iranians inside Iran: absolute hatred of the Mojahedin e-Khalq (MEK). I offered a brief history of the MEK [here](#) but, in sum, they evolved out of reactionary anger at the shah’s more progressive agenda, especially elements which would have prioritized democracy and religious equality above the dictates of Shiism. Following the shah’s 1963 crackdown, the Islamist opposition splintered. While its older elements drew inspiration from the left-leaning nationalist and ousted Prime Minister Mohammad Mosaddegh, younger members concluded political reform impossible and embraced armed struggle. These younger

members, including a University of Tehran political science student named Massoud Rajavi, coalesced what would become the MEK, though it would take another seven years before the MEK would declare itself to the wider world.

MEK ideology fused Marxism and Islamism. They believed both that God created the world and that he set forth societal evolution in which a classless society would overcome capitalist inequity. Rajavi and his fellow activists also argued that Islam justified terrorism. Death during armed struggle, they said, was consistent with Shiite glorification of martyrdom. MEK militants trained both with the PLO and under Libyan leader Muammar al-Qaddafi.

They put their training to quick use. In May 1972, shortly before President Richard Nixon’s state visit to Iran, the MEK launched a series of bomb attacks against American diplomatic and business targets, including Pepsi Cola and General Motors. They also sought to assassinate the top U.S. general in Iran. In 1973, they bombed the Pan-American Airlines building, Shell Oil and assassinated the deputy chief of the U.S. military mission. They also targeted Iranians:

striking at clubs, stores, police facilities, minority-owned businesses, factories, and symbols of the state.

The MEK participated wholeheartedly in the Islamic Revolution. Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, after all, led not a coherent movement but rather a coalition of disparate forces united only in their opposition to the shah. Once the common enemy fell, his coalition immediate began to turn on itself. Khomeini welcomed MEK assistance in fighting the shah, but he considered their blending of Marxism with Islam to be sacrilegious. He and his followers labeled Rajavi and the MEK “hypocrites” and “unbelievers” and, the MEK, in turn, accused Khomeini of hijacking a revolution that was not supposed to be about him. Some of the worst post-revolutionary [terror](#) in Iran was planned, executed, and claimed by the MEK. Khomeini’s regime [responded just as brutally](#), with summary executions and, in 1988, the wholesale slaughter of alleged MEK prisoners. Many of the attacks killed their intended targets, but also many innocent Iranian bystanders.

What really broke any remaining popular support for the MEK among ordinary Iranians, however, was their embrace of

## THE MOJAHEDIN-E KHALQ AREN'T AMERICA'S FRIENDS. EVEN IRANIANS WHO HATE THE REGIME DON'T WANT MEK

Iraqi president Saddam Hussein's regime against the backdrop of the Iran-Iraq War. For most Iranians, the MEK-Saddam relationship is unforgivable. The best analogy for Americans would be to [John Walker Lindh](#), the American Taliban. While he may have embraced a movement, which sheltered Bin Laden and killed thousands of American servicemen in Afghanistan, the casualties Iran suffered pushing back the Iraqi invasion were several orders of magnitude higher.

### The Mojahedin-e Khalq are a bad bet

Unable to win any support from Iranians inside Iran, the MEK has turned to the gullible and greedy: they are political chameleons. When in Iran, they were a combination between Islamists and social justice warriors. In Iraq, they were secularists, basically Baathists without the Arab identity. And while in France, they are democrats. In reality, their behavior [resembles a cult](#), right down to dictating where members live, whom they should marry and divorce, and the [rent-a-mobs](#) who populate their rallies.

Which brings us back to the present: The MEK are [no long-](#)

[er deemed](#) a terror organization by the State Department, but that does not make them a responsible partner. Yet they have cultivated a bipartisan coterie of officials who attend their rallies and endorse Maryam Rajavi, their heir apparent. Among their supporters are National Security Advisor John Bolton and Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani. Critics say such hefty honoraria to attend and speak at MEK rallies amount to bribery. This is true in some cases but unfair in others, as some of those who headline MEK rallies may truly believe MEK rhetoric. The MEK, after all, is expert in telling officials what they want to hear about their program, and most senior and elected officials neither have the expertise in Iran nor the wherewithal to fact-check the spin. Other officials say the MEK has proven themselves and their infiltration of Iran by exposing such facilities as the covert nuclear enrichment plant at Natanz and later the underground nuclear facility in Fordow. The trouble with crediting the MEK for deep infiltration of Iran is that often MEK [bombshell reports are wrong](#). It is far more likely that foreign intelligence agencies like Israel's utilize the MEK to launder intelligence rather than expose it directly.

As generous as the MEK is to

their foreign supporters, they can be equally caustic to their critics. They usually throw flak at anything unflattering published about the group and rapidly produce online rebuttals filled with footnotes which, if tracked, do not prove what they purport to, even if the original source exists at all. Online trolls will also seek to drown out the criticism and delegitimize the MEK's critics.

But, their behavior aside, what is the harm of working with the group or at least including them in any discussion of Iran's future after current Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei's death? The answer is simple: The spin in Paris and Washington remains entirely discordant with the sentiments of the Iranians who matter most—those who live under and resent the Islamic Republic. While most Iranians feel that the Islamic Republic has gone off the rails and cannot be reformed, they are more apathetic than revolutionary. After all, the last time Iranians supported a revolution, they replaced one dictator with an even more brutal one and ended up fighting an eight-year-war which killed up to one million people. Certainly, when a spark occurs, they will join in the protests, but otherwise most will stay on the sidelines and simply seek to provide for their families.



## THE MOJAHEDIN-E KHALQ AREN'T AMERICA'S FRIENDS. EVEN IRANI- ANS WHO HATE THE REGIME DON'T WANT MEK

Herein lies the biggest problem with treating the MEK as anything more than a pariah: Because Iranians hate the group for its history, previous actions, and past allegiances, the current Islamic Republic will utilize the MEK to delegitimize any movement or group of which they are part. Indeed, many Iranians continue to insist that the only thing worse than the regime under which they suffer now would be the MEK.

The MEK may dismiss this as propaganda, but it is not. Nevertheless, whether they think

their reputation fair or unfair, they must acknowledge the perception which surrounds them. If they are Iranian patriots, therefore, and truly garner the support they claim, they would stand aside for now. The Islamic Republic may very well die with Khamenei for two simple reasons: First, the regime elite may be unable to form a consensus on a successor and, second, even if they do, it is not certain the successor will be able to consolidate control. Many Iranians already expect a provisional government will usher in a new constitutional convention and internationally-monitored elec-

tions.

If the MEK is as popular as they say, let them support such a process from afar and then compete at the ballot box. Alas, the reason they so often seek to be spoilers now is they know—as does every Iranian—that they will never get more than 0.001 percent of the vote in any election.

*Michael Rubin is a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute.*

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/middle-east-watch/mojahedin-e-khalq-arent-americas-friends-49547>



*Image: Reuters*

## INTERNATIONAL LIBERTY ASSOCIATION, MEK'S SO-CALLED CHARITY BREACHES RULES OF THE UK CHARITY COMMISSION

Ebrahim Khodabandeh,

March 14 2019:

**Massoud Kalani, a high-ranking member of the MEK and presenter on their satellite television, asking for donations for the cult**

A charity organisation registered in London called the “International Liberty Association” has launched a widespread campaign under the title “Support the Voice of the People” to collect public donations for a television channel belonging to the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (aka MEK, MKO, NCR, NLA, Rajavi Cult).

Link to the MEK affiliated outlet: <http://iliberty.org.uk/what-we-do/support-the-voice-of-the-iranian-peoples-human-rights/>

This so-called charity organiza-

tion does not hide the fact that it is supporting the goals

of the MEK, a terrorist cult which has not only advocated violence and bloodshed for regime change but killed 12,000 people in Iran since 1981. And through all these years, London has been the centre for the illegal financial activities of the MEK from its bogus charities to having a chain of buildings and even hotels and shops apparently donated to these charities.

London is well known for having been a haven for the money laundry activities of the MEK over many years. Going back to the 1980s and the registered charity organization called “Iran Aid” which had the support of many British politicians and then later proved to be a front group for the MEK set up for deception

**London is well known for having been a haven for the money laundry activities of the MEK over many years**



## INTERNATIONAL LIBERTY ASSOCIATION, MEK'S SO-CALLED CHARITY BREACHES RULES OF THE UK CHARITY COMMISSION

and fraud. Amazingly the British authorities let this charity operate unchallenged and the MEK opened and registered other charity organizations.

It should be clear to everyone

point all trace of the money disappears. The MEK's charities are registered in the name of low-ranking members of the cult who conveniently vanish if and when there is any problem and

a terrorist – or even a political – group can register a charity to collect donations to be used for propaganda for its political – especially extremist – agenda? Does the Charity Commissioner approve such behaviour which



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Stop Executions

Release Political Prisoners

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Help raise awareness within the British public of the human rights abuses.

**Is it customary in the UK that a terrorist group can register a charity to collect donations to be used for extremist agenda?**

who is familiar with the MEK that the purpose of these registered charities is money laundry. Money is paid as donation by cheques and cash in large sums and then transferred to the [UAE \(Dubai\)](#) for so called charity spending and at that

then another charity is registered immediately to replace it. The MEK is equally known for its people smuggling as well as money laundry.

Is it customary in the UK that

violates its own regulations? Certainly, the MEK is not an unknown group. The Charity Commission should ensure that a full investigation is conducted into this blatant breach of its own rules.

**PERIODICAL PUBLICATION  
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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.



## Mothers, the Forgotten Victims

The campaign group '**Mothers, the Forgotten Victims**', linked to Nejat Society, published the story of one mother. Her MEK son contacted his mother and tried to persuade her to send him money. He told her he was now blind and needed an eye operation in Baghdad to restore his sight. He gave her the details of a bank account in Europe to send money. Nejat Society recommended that she didn't send money to an unknown account. So, the mother offered to come to Baghdad and pay for his treatment directly at the hospital. The contact ended abruptly, and she didn't hear from her son again. Instead, the son then tried to recruit his sisters – who were living abroad – telling them their mother had been arrested and was under torture in Iran. This didn't work either. This mother said she was sure that her son was doing this under pressure it was so unlike him. Some of the former MEK women members wrote that perhaps the biggest crime Rajavi committed against them was not the unnecessary hysterectomies but taking their children from them at very young age.