

Nejat Newsletter

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Cement ties to MEK Terrorists!

WESTERN BLOGGERS SEP 26, 2019

Iran hawks cement ties to former US-designated terrorist group

United Against Nuclear Iran's CEO embraces the MEK as his group prepared to host Pompeo. Demonstrators rally to support a leadership change in Iran outside the UN headquarters in New York City, New York, US, Sept. 24, 2019.

NEW YORK — Leading Iran hawks are increasingly open about their ties to a controversial opposition group, triggering Iranian retaliation and posing a quandary for the Donald Trump administration.

On the eve of the hawkish United Against Nuclear Iran's annual summit featuring Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, UANI CEO Mark Wallace Tuesday convened a gathering of Iranian opposition groups. The event was billed as an unprecedented gathering of diverse opposition groups, including Kurds, Balochs and Azerbaijanis.

"This is the first time in history, since the Iranian revolution in 1978 and 1979, that such a broad cross-section of the leaders and delegates from Iranian dissident ... groups have gathered in a convention for Iran's future," Wallace said. "This gathering demonstrates the willingness of many here today to set aside many of the disagreements of the past."

But attendance was dominated by the Mujaheddin-e-Khalq (MEK) and its allies. Iran considers the MEK a terrorist group, as the United States did until 2012.

Also read

UNGA 2019US and world powers continue to talk past each other on Iran at UN

UANI denied any involvement with Tuesday's event and said Wallace convened it in his "personal capacity." The program for the event at the Roosevelt Hotel, however, listed UANI as the organizer. UANI said that was an error.

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MEK's paid speakers, "to be or not to be"

NEJAT BLOGGERS

SEP 24, 2019

The latest news on US politics included a bad one for the Mujahedin Khalq Organization (the MKO/ MEK/ PMOI/ Cult of Rajavi). President Trump fired one of the most vocal supporters of the MEK, his national security advisor John Bolton because he "disagreed strongly with many of his suggestions, as did others in the Administration".

Bolton is notoriously known for his warmongering attitudes, especially, against Iran. He is well known for his op-ed in the New York Times in 2015, headlined: "To Stop Iran's Bomb, Bomb Iran." [1]

This extremely anti-Iran stance makes him sexy enough to get in bed with the MEK. That's why after his departure from the White House all reports and analysis point out to his many appearances in the MEK's events as a paid speaker.

"One group that is no doubt devastated by Bolton's departure is the MEK — the Iranian exile group that wants regime change in Tehran, by force if necessary, and has paid Bolton & Rudy Giuliani to make speeches", tweeted Edward Wong of the New York Times. [2]

Barbara Slavin, director of the Future of Iran Initiative at the Atlantic Council, a Washington-based think tank, welcomed Bolton's departure from the administration. "Bolton is an absolutist; it's all or nothing, black

and white. He's not very good at step-by-step or incremental agreements, and those are the only kinds of agreements that are realistic with adversaries," Slavin told the Middle East Eye. "So I think he's been a major impediment to diplomacy. He is a war-monger. He's somebody who's advocated for bombing Iran, as recently as this past summer, and he has ties with the Mujahideen-e Khalq, an Islamo-fascist cult. So I'm glad he's out." [3]

Jason Rezaian of the Washington Post states, "His absence also means that the Mujahideen-e Khalq (MEK), a reviled Iranian opposition group that long lived on the State Department's list of foreign terrorist groups, no longer has a powerful ally in the White House." [4]

Rezaian truly suggests that the MEK's money does mean more to Bolton compared with its almost no support among Iranians. "The MEK can claim no popular support, and among Iranians of nearly all political orientations, inside the country and in the diaspora, it was Bolton's paid alliance with the cult-like group that made him such an odious character," he writes. [5]

Daniel Larison of the American Conservative who had previously warned about Bolton's paid sponsorship for the MEK, a few months earlier, in June, denounced Bolton's policy towards Iran due to his notorious links with the Cult of Rajavi. "Bolton's long relationship with the MEK discredits everything he has to say about Iran," he wrote. "No one that has praised

this cult as a potential replacement for the Iranian government should have anything to do with U.S. policymaking at any level, much less at the White House. No one foolish or fanatical enough to side with this cult should be entrusted with any government position." [6]

Larison strictly warned about the MEK-Bolton dirty connections. "Bolton's ties to the MEK should be mentioned in every story that reports on him and the administration's Iran policy, but unfortunately they are only rarely included in media coverage," he stated. [7]

"It is unacceptable for a top government official responsible for shaping U.S. foreign policy to have been the paid shill of this awful organization that previously killed Americans," Larison continued. "It is wrong for an official with ties to the MEK to be influencing decisions on Iran policy. There are many reasons why Bolton should be fired, and this is right at the top of the list." [8]

On September 10th, after Bolton's departure, Daniel Larison published an article on The American Conservative, titled "Good Riddance, Bolton" in which he expresses his pleasure to the "good news". According to the senior editor of TAC, as far as Bolton is not a member of the administration his ardent support for the MEK is not dangerous for the region. "He should never have been hired, but at least he is out of government. Now he can go shill for the Mujahideen-e Khalq (MEK) full-time," Larison suggests. [9]

Definitely, the Saudi funded establishment of the Mujahedin Khalq is able to buy the support of any warmonger figure in the US political scene but as far as the group is despised by the Iranian nation, its paid sponsors are not capable of running their agenda. To be or not to be in the US administration team will not make Bolton a proper person to run the MEK's agenda. The MEK can keep on expending dollars to buy the support of American high profiles. However the will and determination of the Iranian nation is certainly against the will of the longtime traitors who fought alongside Saddam Hussein against their country fellow men and opened fire against innocent civilians in the Iranian cities.

By Mazda Parsi

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- [4] Rezaian, Jason, Bolton's departure will fundamentally alter Trump's Iran policy, The Washington Post, September 10, 2019.
- [5] ibid
- [6] Larison, Daniel, Bolton's Relationship with the MEK Is a Scandal, The American Conservative, June 6th, 2019.
- [7] ibid
- [9] Larison, Daniel, Good Riddance, Bolton, The American Conservative, September 10th, 2019.

John Bolton Out!

September 20, 2019

Media mentions of the MEK mostly associate the group with the Trump administration's extremist stance toward Iran. That is, the MEK constantly talk about regime change; which makes them 'flavor of the month' for all regime change pundits in the US, Saudi Arabia, Israel and the UK.

Their presence in the Balkans is linked to Daesh (ISIS) and a possible war against Iran, which would result in the crowning of Maryam Rajavi as the country's leader. This could be a miscalculation apparently. Nobody seems to know since America has no real expertise on Iran at all.

The MEK is said to have the ear of the White House. So, it was a devastating blow to Maryam Rajavi when her buddy John Bolton was removed from his position as national security advisor. She need not have worried since Mike Pompeo was happy to gather up the reins of mission impossible 'maximum pressure'.

Now that the US and Iran are back to the brink of war Rajavi might feel she can breathe easy again. Not so fast. The disintegration of her political cult will come from within. The MEK in Albania are on the verge of mutiny. All those lies have come back to haunt.

After all, didn't John Bolton promise they would be celebrating in Tehran by April this year.

Reactions to John Bolton's removal have continued. One thread of news concerns the MEK hosting the President of Albania in Camp Ashraf 3 in Albania.

This attracted little interest in spite of their over publicizing it on their sites. This is because the President of Albania is essentially a nobody – the leader of the opposition with no powers. It was clear to observers that he had been tasked by the CIA to visit the camp to help change the mood inside among the members.

The members are demoralized and want to leave. The people inside Camp Ashraf say they are forced to stay regardless of Bolton or not because they have no alternatives. They admit they are slaves.

Pompeo embraces the Cult killed Americans

WESTERN BLOGGERS

Sep 26, 2019

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will attend a meeting linked to a terror cult that has murdered 6 Americans

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo speaks to the media before departing from al-Bateen Air Base in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Thursday, Sept. 19, 2019, as U.S. special representative on Iran Brian Hook, left, listens. (Mandel Ngan/Pool via AP)

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo Associated Press

- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo plans to attend a meeting at the UN General Assembly that is linked to the Mujahedin-e-Khalq (the People's Mujahedin of Iran).
- MEK is a notorious Iranian cult which has murdered at least six American civilians and thousands of Iranians.
- It was once a designated terrorist organisation.
- MEK has given enormous speaking fees to American politicians willing to

speak at its events, including Rudolph Giuliani, John Bolton, Joe Lieberman, and Howard Dean.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo plans to attend an event at the UN General Assembly to-

morrow that is linked to a notorious Iranian cult which has murdered at least six American civilians and spent over 20 years protected by Saddam Hussein's regime.

The Mujahedin-e-Khalq (or People's Mujahedin of Iran) "is an organisation that fancies itself as the official Iranian opposition in exile," said David Patrikarakos, an analyst and author of Nuclear Iran: The Birth of an Atomic State.

"In truth, it's a cult-like group that was for years on the State Department's list of terror organisations and has little support in Iran due to the fact that it fought with [Iraqi leader] Saddam's forces during the Iran-Iraq War."

The meeting, dubbed the "2019 Iran Summit," will feature Pompeo and Mark Wallace, a long-time US advocate of MEK. Former US senator Joseph I. Lieberman, who has previously spoken at MEK events, will also attend the Pompeo-Wallace event.

Officially, MEK will hold a separate event, according to the Washington Post, putting a small degree of separation between Pompeo and MEK itself.

When asked about the meeting's links to MEK, a State Department official "dismissed the concerns about the MEK's

participation in Wallace's event, [telling the Washington Post], "Have you looked at the people attending the U.N.?"

MEK is currently based in an Albanian compound and does not report the sources of its funding. It has a long history of violence against civilians, hostility towards Israel in rhetoric that borders on anti-Semitic, and sponsorship of attacks against the West.

Despite this, the group has managed to purchase its way to credibility in some US political circles by offering huge speaking fees to US lawmakers willing to share a stage with violent militants. A MEK front group called the National Council of Resistance of Iran is already using Pompeo's name in its propaganda.

The MEK supported the overthrow of the US-backed regime of the Shah in the 1970s conducting scores of terror attacks against US military and commercial targets inside Iran, as well as supporting the 1979 takeover of the US embassy.

It later broke with its revolutionary comrades and defected to Iraq, and the patronage of its president, Saddam Hussein.

A US State Department analysis concluded that the group

Pompeo embraces the Cult killed Americans

had killed six Americans, including military officers and civilians doing business in pre-revolutionary Iran, as well as thousands of Iranian civilians in terror attacks.

This history of aligning with two of America's most hated enemies in the Middle East — Iraq and Iran — along with its pursuit of a terror campaign inside Iran that killed thousands of civilians, a conclusion reached by the US State Department, led to the group being designated a terror organization by the US government until 2012.

How did a group widely considered among the most bizarre and violent in the region become acceptable company for current US government officials? Money.

After the US invasion of Iraq and defeat of Saddam in 2003, the group immediately began throwing hundreds of thousands of dollars at anti-Iran politicians in Washington, usually in the form of speaking fees to address the group's rallies and events.

Former National Security Advisor John Bolton, former NYC mayor and current lawyer to

the president Rudy Giuliani, former senator Joseph I. Lieberman, and former Vermont governor Howard Dean as well as a slew of lesser-known figures have all addressed the group and publicly taken up their cause. MEK is known for paying very large speaking fees.

This attention — and American desperation for a dissident group to support against the current Iranian regime — led

That's because in Iran, MEK is regarded as a bunch of traitors who fought alongside Saddam Hussein and have a history of murdering Iranian civilians in terror attacks.

"The fact that the Secretary of State is openly meeting with them will only serve to provoke the Iranians with little gain for the US or its interests," said Patrikarakos. He pointed out that the group is widely hated even by Iranians who otherwise



Iranian "Khalq" for MEK, Pompeo and Bolton

to the group being delisted as a terrorist organization in 2012.

Even if you set aside its history of murdering Americans and supporting despotic regimes, it is unlikely that the group will ever become a credible political partner of the US.

oppose the current regime.

"Indeed, working with them discredits the West in the eyes of normal Iranians who otherwise aren't crazy about the Islamic Republic," he added.

Mitch Prothero, Businessinsider.com

MEK's Heshamt Alavi Ex. of Washington's Ignorant Iran Experts

RUSSIA TODAY

Nebojsa Malic

Sep 22, 2019

Ignorant Iran 'experts' just the beginning of Washington's foreign policy troubles

An explosive essay calling out the lack of legitimate expertise about Iran ought to be a wake-up call for the US foreign policy field. Yet the same problem also affects Washington's analysis of Russia, China and many other places.

Imagine a field of study in which less than a third of the experts had related doctorates, half of them could not read, speak or write the language required, and just as many have never set foot inside the relevant country. Preposterous, you might say – yet scientific observation has shown that this is precisely what the US expertise on Iran looks like, according to an essay by political anthropologist Negar Razavi, recently published in the journal *Jadaliyya*.

Yes precisely @nargesbajoghli. This is a good opportunity for DC folks who took offense at my @jadaliyya piece on #Iran expertise to do what experts ****SHOULD**** be doing: Raise questions publicly abt evidence/agenda behind this problematic trope/repeatedly disproven claim.

<https://t.co/9AixPnIaLP>
— Negar Razavi (@razaraz)
September 14, 2019

Razavi describes the think-tank culture of DC as “a wider system of knowledge production in Washington – one which has consistently rewarded ungrounded, ideologically driven assessments of the Islamic Republic at the expense of qualified, in-depth, and evidence-based analysis.”

This is her conclusion after two years of “ethnographic fieldwork” in the US capital, attending hundreds of events, following the writings and presentations of think-tank experts, and interviewing over 180 people between 2014 and 2016. In other words, this was a serious academic study.

This culture of “expert impunity” when it comes to Iran has combined with historical and contemporary US grievances against Tehran to produce the current policy of confrontation, in which allegations are treated as unquestioned facts while any nuanced assessments are dismissed as the work of “regime apologists,” according to Razavi.

Your occasional reminder that a couple of years ago @CNN had a contracted Russia analyst who, by all accounts, has never been to Russia and can't

speak any Russian.
<https://t.co/tH2eFjAbX>
— Bryan MacDonald (@27khv)
September 16, 2019

If this sounds familiar, that's because the problem is not limited to Iran. Though Razavi focused exclusively on the state of Iran expertise, her assessment applies in equal measure to the self-styled experts on Venezuela, or Russia, or China, or the Balkans...

The examples are legion. Razavi herself mentions (though not by name) “Heshmat Alavi,” a supposed expert on Iran who recently turned out to be a construct – an online persona operated by the Iranian exile group Mojahedin-e Khalq (MEK). This is an outfit that seeks regime change in Tehran, and has been endorsed by former National Security Advisor John Bolton and President Donald Trump's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani.

Gordon Chang, who predicted the “coming collapse of China” in a 2001 book, has been embraced by CNN and Fox News alike as an expert on Beijing – despite the obvious failure of his prediction to actually materialize. Likewise, Swedish economic Anders Aslund has heralded the demise of Russia since 2000 – and cashed in his “expertise” with the Atlantic Council and the governments of Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan and the Baltic states.

Also on rt.com Russia 'expert'

says Ukraine economy doing great, citing mail-order bride blog

Then there was the never-ending parade of “Russia experts” on cable news shows helping cultivate and propagate the hoax of President Donad Trump’s “Russian collusion” over the past three years, only to see the Mueller Report conclusively quash their fabrications. Have there been apologies? Of course not. As Razavi points out, being an “expert” in DC means never having to admit wrongdoing.

Her essay reveals how actual experts and scholars – who warned against things like the 2003 invasion of Iraq or ‘Russiagate’ – have been sidelined or smeared time and again, while the think-tank factories churned out false expertise on cable channels and social media. Their takes would then find their way into official papers at the State Department and the Pentagon, morphing along the way into facts that “everybody knows” and no one is allowed to question.

The result of this unholy alliance of tanks and think-tanks has been decades of misshapen US foreign policy, with arguably disastrous results – from trillions in squandered treasure to millions of deaths around the world.

Nebojsa Malic, senior writer at Russia Today

Madam Rajavi, let my mother see her grandson

[Hamid Ghanbari Araa is the son of Abdul Ali Ghanbari](#), a veteran MEK member who died in Albania from cancer a few years ago. His mother is Pari Mohammadi who is still in Camp Ashraf 3 in Albania. Hamid managed to escape the MEK and moved from Albania to Germany with the help of his wider family. He since returned to normal life, married a German woman and has now had a baby. He sent a video to Iran Interlink asking for our help by broadcasting it. [Which we did](#). In the video he explains that this is my newborn child and all I want is to talk to MEK to let me take my baby to Albania so my mother can see him. I am not asking to allow her to come her. He says that after a long push and pull with Ali Malek their contact in Germany, my mother called for a few minutes saying she had asked her supervisors for permission, but they said it is not possible for me to see you if you come here.



Hamid says, I know my Mum, it’s not that she doesn’t want to see her grandson, they just won’t let her. My wife wanted to talk with our MP and get higher authorities involved. But I resisted this path as I know the MEK and thought that quietly talking directly with them would be the best way. I tried to convince Ali Malek of my good intentions. He simply replied, “You’ve had your fair share, a call from your mother, she called you once and that’s more than enough”. After that he won’t answer my calls anymore and there is no other way to contact someone from the MEK. After all this effort, this is why I am broadcasting this video. All I want is for the MEK to allow my mother to see her grandson, wherever and however they want. The video is just to ask for help. Maybe there are still people in the NCRI with enough influence to help. I don’t want more than this. Frankly, my wife and I are mind boggled. Why are they doing this. That we are forced to put a video out. Why does the MEK make enemies out of friends. A simple human act could have been done and gone away. But you have failed.

**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.



(Continued from the first page)

The group may be reluctant to be seen as openly rooting for the MEK, which advocates for overthrowing the ruling clerics in Tehran and has critics even among Iranians who oppose Tehran. A Los Angeles-based Iranian American pro-democracy activist told Al-Monitor that people in that community had advised UANI against being involved in an event including the MEK and controversial ethnic separatist groups.

“Terrible choices,” the activist said. “Many separatist groups [were invited] ... They [UANI] did not listen.” Several days ago, an umbrella group of several Iranian Kurdish political parties — including the Kurdistan Democratic Party-Iran (PDK-I), Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan (PDKI) and two branches of the left-wing Komala party — announced it would skip the event but did not offer a reason. The event had signs for several of the groups, but their seats were empty.

Openly embracing the MEK could also put the Trump administration in an uncomfortable spot. The administration does not officially support regime change, but recently stopped ruling out the MEK as a political alternative. Regardless of UANI’s denials, Al-Monitor spoke with several participants at the event who believed the group was involved. Tehran seems to think so as well, and announced Tuesday that it would be designating UANI a terrorist group following similar action against the hawkish Foundation for Defense of Democracies (FDD).

“On the one hand, the United States deceitfully speaks of compromise and negotiation,” Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Seyyed Abbas Mousavi said Tuesday. “And on the other hand, it organizes, finances and arms criminal and terrorist groups ... and provides them with intelligence.” Jason Brodsky, UANI’s policy director, denounced the remarks in a tweet from inside the Future of Iran conference: “First FDD is declared as a terrorist organization. Now, Iran’s regime follows by declaring UANI a terrorist organization. The regime’s war on research continues.” He later wrote on Twitter that, like Wallace, he was attending in his personal capacity.

Minutes later, UANI’s CEO invited to the stage Rudy Giuliani, Trump’s lawyer and a longtime MEK advocate. “I call them the regime of terror,” Giuliani said to thunderous applause. “We’re here today, and we’re going to support a regime of freedom.”

Laura Rozen contributed to this report. Julian Pecquet , Al-monitor.com