



National Council of Resistance of Iran

US Representative Office

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Press Release
For Immediate Release

Contact: Ali Safavi 202-747-7847
August 26, 2016

Media Advisory

Panel Discussion on New Details of Iran's IRGC Involvement in Syria

The US Representative Office of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI-US), has organized a panel discussion on Iran's IRGC involvement in Syria and to roll out a new book, *How Iran Fuels Syria War*, which provides new details on the extent of the Iranian regime's activities in that country.

The event is scheduled for Thursday, September 1, 2016, at 10:30 am at the NCRI Washington office, 1747 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Suite 1125, Washington, DC 20006

Partial list of Panelists:

- **Ambassador Adam Ereli**, former U.S. Ambassador to Bahrain, and former State Department Spokesman
- **Mr. Lawrence J. Haas**, Senior Fellow for U.S. Foreign Policy at the American Foreign Policy Council
- **Alireza Jafarzadeh**, NCRIUS deputy director

How Iran Fuels the War in Syria contains satellite imagery of 18 Operational and Logistical Headquarters in different parts of Syria, including its command structure and key officers. Approximately 10,000 IRGC forces, 5,000 regular army forces, 20,000 Iraqi militias from ten different Iraqi groups, 15,000 Afghan militia forces (Fatemiyoun), 7,000 forces from the Lebanese Hezbollah, and 5,000 militia forces from Pakistan (Zeinabiyoun), Palestine and elsewhere are currently operating in Syria under the command of the IRGC.

The Iranian regime spends one billion dollars annually to pay the salaries of these forces in Syria.

To attend, register [here](#) or email rsvp@ncrius.org

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September 2, 2016

Panel Highlights Iranian Regime's Extensive Involvement in Syria War

In a panel discussion organized by the U.S. Representative Office of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI-US), former U.S. Ambassador to Bahrain and State Department Spokesman Adam Ereli, Vice President Al Gore's Communication Director and senior fellow at the American Foreign Policy Council Larry Haas, and NCRI-US Deputy Director Alireza Jafarzadeh, discussed the Iranian regime's destructive role in the five-year-old Syrian Conflict. A new book, *How Iran Fuels Syria War*, was also made public.

The event, held at the NCRI's Washington Office, was moderated by the Council's Foreign Affairs Committee member Ali Safavi, who said "the startling picture, showing the heartbreaking silence of the five-year-old Syrian child, Omran Daqneesh, covered in dust from head to toe after being pulled from the rubble following an airstrike, mirrors the stunning silence of the West regarding the Syrian tragedy."

In his remarks, Amb. Ereli said that the release of the book, *How Iran Fuels Syria War*, was important "not only because what it tells us about what's going on in Syria, but because what it tells us more broadly about how the Iranian regime operates; it's a taxonomy of influence." Commenting on the extent of Tehran's regional interference, he added that by spending a lot of money, Iran is "not just controlling territory on the ground, but it's buying loyalty. And the people who they're supporting and their children and their children's children are going to be Iranian advocates for many generations to come." He added, "Syria is just the latest example to... create client states."

Offering a broad perspective on policy vis-à-vis the Tehran regime, Mr. Haas said, "Iranian involvement in Syria reflects its continued expansionist and hegemonic ambitions that start in the region and go beyond. If anything, the regime has grown more aggressive in the aftermath of this nuclear deal, not less." He added, "This

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shows the fallacy of two basic U.S. positions of recent years. The first, the hope that a nuclear agreement with Iran would moderate that regime. And that is a hope that drove U.S. policy toward Iran right from the start, going back to the reluctance to comment on the fraudulent election in 2009, reluctance to get behind the opposition... Second, Syria shows the fallacy of the U.S. belief that a reduced U.S. role in the region and beyond would lead to a safer world.”

In his remarks, Jafarzadeh pointed to the critical role the regime in Tehran has been playing to keep Bashar al-Assad in power, disclosing that the Syrian dictator had been intent on leaving the country after suffering setbacks in September 2015, but was dissuaded at the last minute by the Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, as Assad arrived at the Glass Building located in Damascus Airport to depart the country.

NCRI Deputy Director revealed that Tehran had divided Syria into five military zones, and has established 18 military command centers across the country by the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps’ (IRGC) Qods Force. Iran’s military presence has increased to 70,000 IRGC, regular army forces, Iraqi, Afghan and Pakistani mercenaries as well as the Lebanese Hezbollah, Jafarzadeh emphasized, adding, “The fall of Assad would pave the way for the fall of the clerics ruling Iran; this explains Tehran’s huge financial and human resources spending in Syria.” He stressed that the international community must “end the Iranian regime’s occupation of Syria, exclude Tehran from international talks on Syria, not partner with the regime to fight ISIS, provide political and financial backing to Syria’s moderate opposition and establish a no-fly zone to protect the civilians.”

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November 20, 2016

Who is the MEK?

Formed in 1965, the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI/MEK), the largest and best-organized Iranian opposition movement, is the main component of the coalition, National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), which acts as the parliament-in-exile.

The NCRI and MEK, have been committed to a secular, democratic, non-nuclear republic; gender equality; freedom of religion, thought, press, and association; support for peace in the Middle East; and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The president-elect of the NCRI is Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, who addressed a rally of 100,000 in Paris, well attended by dozens of prominent speakers from all over the world.

A. The MEK role was critical in preventing Iran from obtaining a nuclear bomb

The MEK has been instrumental in exposing Iran's nuclear weapons program. Relying on a vast network inside Iran, MEK revelations of the weapons program significantly contributed to the world peace and the national security of the United States.

These revelations triggered the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspections of the uranium enrichment facility in Natanz and Heavy Water Facility in Arak in 2002 for the first time, and since then, the majority of the visits by the IAEA inspection teams have been to the sites first exposed by the MEK.

Senior U.S. officials including President Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney, and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice have repeatedly pointed to the role the MEK had played in getting the world attention on Iran's nuclear weapons program.

In March 2005, President, George W. Bush, emphasized that the MEK's revelation of Natanz prompted an international campaign to stop the nuclear weapons program of Iran. "Iran has concealed its -- a nuclear program. That became discovered, not because of their compliance with the IAEA or NPT, but because a dissident group pointed it out to the world."

Many of the key front companies exposed by the MEK such as Mesbah Energy, Novin Energy, Kalaye Electric, Kavoshyar Company, and Farayand Technique were eventually sanctioned by the Treasury Department. In July 2011, the MEK exposed a new nuclear organization overseeing the entire nuclear program and run by the military, known as SPND. The U.S. Government designated that entity in 2014. In addition, many companies, key nuclear experts, and military institutions exposed by the MEK have been sanctioned by the United Nations Security Council resolutions 1737, 1747, and 1803.

If it were not for the MEK nuclear revelations, Tehran would have had the bomb by now. Congressman Brad Sherman (D-CA) told a House Foreign Affairs Committee Hearing "We all owe a debt of gratitude to the MEK for bringing this information to the world, and causing the United States and the world to focus on the problem."

B. MEK exposed the terrorist network of Iran

The MEK has played a key role in exposing the terrorist operations by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), and its entity, the Qods Force. MEK's actionable intelligence on Qods Force operations in Iraq saved many lives, and thwarted many terrorist operations by the Iranian regime.

MEK documented the details of the Qods force production and shipment of advanced EFP's (Explosively Formed Projectiles), the number one killer of U.S. forces in Iraq. MEK also exposed Iran's involvement in the bombing of the Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia, which killed 19 American servicemen.

C. MEK enjoys extensive bi-partisan support in U.S. Congress

Over the past two decades, MEK has gained extensive support among a large bi-partisan group of members of congress. Congress strongly rejected MEK's FTO designation, which it viewed as a goodwill gesture to Tehran, as 99 members (52 D and 47 R) called for the group's delisting. Secretary Clinton revoked the designation in 2012, after being urged by the U.S. Court of Appeals- DC Circuit.

Congress held hearings in the House and the Senate strongly supporting the safety & security of thousands of MEK members based in camps Ashraf and Liberty in Iraq, as they were being subject to attacks instigated by Tehran. There were several pieces of legislations in support of MEK members in Iraq, e.g., H.Res.704 with 224 co-sponsors (126 D and 98 R).

In addition, the National Defense Authorization Act for the fiscal year 2016, signed by President Obama and became law, included a language in support of the "security and protection" of MEK members in Camp Liberty, Iraq.

Secretary of State John Kerry lauded the resettlement of all members of "exiled Iranian opposition group, the Mujahedin e-Khalq, or MEK," from Iraq to Europe in September 2016, emphasizing that "their departure concludes a significant American diplomatic initiative that has assured the safety of more than 3,000 MEK members whose lives have been under

threat...I first became involved in this effort when I was in the Senate ... I'm very proud that the United States was able to play a pivotal role in helping to get this job done."

Also, the U.S. military fully protected all the MEK members in Iraq and recognized them as "protected persons" under the 4th Geneva Convention, long before the group was delisted.

D. MEK has been leading the opposition against the regime at home and abroad

MEK has been in the forefront of opposition to the mullahs since early days of the 1979 revolution, when it soon became the number one target of the Iranian regime's repression.

The rulers of Iran view the MEK as an existential threat due to its support at home, and undermining the regime's Islamic extremist ideology among a vast majority of the Iranian population, especially the youth. MEK's modern, tolerant and democratic view on Islam has been the antithesis to the Islamic fundamentalists and the velayat-e faqih system. The MEK has been the main victim of repression in Iran. In summer 1988, the Iranian regime, by direct order of Supreme Leader Khomeini, massacred 30,000 political prisoners, most members of MEK. Over 100,000 of its members have been murdered since 1981, and many of its supporters are currently jailed in notorious prisons across the country. Most of those arrested and sentenced to death after the summer 2009 uprising in Iran, belonged to the MEK.

After having failed to physically eliminate the MEK, Tehran waged an international effort to have the MEK designated as a terrorist organization, which eventually failed after all the designations were overturned in Europe and the U.S. with the help of over 20 court rulings. Eventually, Tehran embarked upon a multi-million-dollar campaign of character assassination and demonization, which described the MEK as a cult, to justify the policy of appeasement. None of those efforts succeeded.

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November 21, 2016

7 Myths and Facts about the Mujahedin-e Khalq (MEK)

Myth 1: The State Department designated the MEK as a Foreign Terrorist Organization because MEK engaged in terrorism.

Fact: On October 9, 1997, a day after the MEK's designation, the Los Angeles Times quoted a "senior Clinton Administration official" that the designation of the MEK "was intended as a goodwill gesture to Tehran and its newly elected moderate president, Mohammad Khatami." A bi-partisan House Majority letter in 1998 rejected the designation as a "wrong headed policy, which would only embolden the regime, and described the MEK as "a legitimate resistance movement."

A House resolution was introduced with 99 bi-partisan co-sponsors (including chairs of the committees on Intelligence, Oversight, Armed Services and subcommittee on Terrorism) calling for the removal of the FTO designation. U.S. Court of Appeals, DC Circuit, found no evidence of terrorism, and gave a deadline to Secretary Clinton, leading to the September 2012 delisting.

Myth 2: The MEK was responsible for the death of U.S. military officers and contractors in Iran between 1973 and 1976.

Fact: According to independent studies published by the University of Baltimore, DLA Piper, and the Iran Policy Committee, which took into account newly declassified information, then newspaper reports, as well as interview with various U.S. Government officials and the survivors, the murder of U.S. personnel in Iran four decades ago was in no way related to the Mujahedin-e Khalq. All MEK leaders and officials and ninety percent of its cadres were arrested between September and November 1971 by the Shah's SAVAK. All members of MEK central committee, including its founders, were executed by June 1972 (13 months before the first U.S. officer was killed in Tehran). The sole surviving leader, Massoud Rajavi, originally sentenced to death, was given a life term after an extensive international effort on his behalf. He remained incarcerated for eight years and was ultimately released from prison in January 1979 after the Shah fled Iran.

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In 1972, a communist current took advantage of the absence of MEK's Muslim leaders and carried out a bloody coup within the organization. It purged many Muslim members and murdered a number of them, including Majid Sharif Vaqfi and Mohammad Yaqini.

The leaders of this splinter group, responsible for the assassination of the Americans in Iran, Vahid Afrakhteh, Bahram Aram and Taghi Shahram were all killed. Afrakhteh was arrested by the SAVAK in 1975, confessed to the killing of the U.S. officers and executed in early 1976. The Rockwell contractors were killed in retaliation for the arrest of Afrakhteh by his associates in August 1976. Aram was killed in a clash with the Shah's security forces in October 1976 and Shahram was executed by the Khomeini regime following the 1979 revolution.

In addition, U.S. military officers testified before Congress that after the 2003 invasion of Iraq, the U.S. Government carried out a 16-month investigation of all MEK members based in Camp Ashraf in Iraq and found no evidence connecting any current members of the MEK to the killing of the Americans in the 1970s. The U.S. Government then recognized all the MEK members as "protected persons" under the 4th Geneva Convention, and the U.S. military fully protected them.

Myth 3: The MEK supported the takeover of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran in 1979.

Fact: The MEK had no role in the US Embassy occupation in 1979. The regime's then-Supreme Leader Khomeini created the hostage crisis to consolidate power for the clergy and purge all liberal elements from the government and suppress the secular opposition. On November 4, 1984, on the fifth anniversary of the embassy takeover, then-Chief Justice Ayatollah Abdol Karim Moussavi-Ardebili said on Tehran Radio: "[The embassy takeover] brought about the fall of the Provisional Government, the isolation of the liberals and the confusion of left wing groups and the [MEK] and exposed their real faces. As Imam Khomeini said, this revolutionary move was greater than the first revolution."

Ervand Abrahamian, an MEK detractor, wrote in his book, "The Iranian Mojahedin," that the MEK's criticisms of the regime at the time included: "Engineering the American hostage crisis to impose on the nation the 'medieval' concept of the velayat-e-faqih. To support the last accusation, they [the MEK] published articles revealing how the student hostage-takers were linked to the IRP [ruling Islamic Republic Party]; how the Pasdars [Revolutionary Guards] had facilitated the break-in; and how those who had refused to toe the IRP line were forced out of the compound."

Myth 4: The MEK participated in the suppression of the Iraqi Kurds following the 1990 Persian Gulf war.

Fact: The source of this allegation is none other than the Iranian Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS).

This fabricated claim absent any evidence to support it has been long debunked. In a 1999 letter to a court in the Netherlands, Hoshvar Zebari, then- the foreign policy spokesman for the

Kurdistan Democratic Party of Iraq (KDP) and later-to-become Iraq's Foreign Minister, wrote: "(We) can confirm that the Mujahedeen (sic) were not involved in suppressing the Kurdish people neither during the uprising nor in its aftermath. We have not come across any evidence to suggest that the Mujahedeen have exercised any hostility towards the people of Iraqi Kurdistan."

In 1995, an official United Nations document refuted those allegations, noting that they were part of a well-orchestrated misinformation campaign by the Iranian regime to discredit the MEK. "From our independent investigation and discussion with parties involved, we find these allegations false," wrote International Educational Development, a non-governmental organization with consultative status with UN.

Myth 5: The MEK ideology is Marxism or a synthesis of Islam and Marxism.

Fact: The MEK is a moderate Shiite Muslim movement. The origins of the "Islamic-Marxist" label dates back to early 1970s, when the Shah's secret police, SAVAK, sought to erode the organization's growing popularity among young Iranians. The Iranian scholar Afshin Matin-Asgari described it as "an ingenious polemical label" used by the Shah's regime to discredit its enemies.

In a Washington Post op-ed, on August 19, 1981, former Undersecretary of State George W. Ball wrote, "The sloppy press habit of dismissing the Mujahedeen as 'leftists' badly confuses the problem, Masud [Massoud] Rajavi... is the leader of the movement. Its intention is to replace the current backward Islamic regime with a modernized Shiite Islam drawing its egalitarian principles from Koranic sources rather than Marx."

U.S. military commanders who worked closely with the MEK in Camp Ashraf for several years testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee in October 2015 that the MEK is not communist; rather it is Muslim.

Myth 6. MEK is a cult-like organization with little support inside Iran.

Fact: Tehran embarked on a multi-million-dollar campaign to demonize its main organized opposition by describing it as a cult to justify western policy of appeasing Tehran. The head of a security minded think-tank told the media that he "was offered \$80,000 by a man tied to Iran's mission in Canada ... They wanted me to publish a piece on the Mujahedin-e Khalq... to label it as a terrorist cult."

Many U.S. military officers, in direct day-to-day contact with the MEK in Camp Ashraf for over six years, when Ashraf was under their protection, testified before Congress that they had seen no cult like behavior. To the contrary, the movement has had extensive presence in Europe and availed very open access to the media and the public. It organizes its annual rally in Paris, attended by over 100,000 as well as public events in its main headquarters in Auvers-sur-Oise near Paris.

The movement soon emerged as the leading opposition movement shortly after the 1979 revolution.

The rulers of Iran view the MEK as an existential threat due to its support at home, and undermining the regime's Islamic extremist ideology among a vast majority of the Iranian population, especially the youth. MEK's modern, tolerant and democratic view on Islam has been the antithesis to the Islamic fundamentalists and the velayat-e faqih system. The MEK has been the main victim of repression in Iran. In summer 1988, the Iranian regime, by direct order of Supreme Leader Khomeini, massacred 30,000 political prisoners, most members of MEK.

Over 100,000 of its members have been murdered since 1981, and many of its supporters are currently jailed in notorious prisons across the country. Most of those arrested and sentenced to death after the summer 2009 uprising in Iran, belonged to the MEK.

Myth 7. MEK paid former US officials and Treasury launched an investigation.

Fact: The MEK has not paid any former US officials. In 2012, the Treasury Department launched an investigation into Iranian American citizens who, in exercising their first amendment rights, had organized different conferences and seminars in which former US officials spoke. After more than a year of investigation, Treasury Department sent letters to the communities, informing them that it had completed its review of the case and that no laws had been violated. The pro-Iranian regime lobby in Washington failed to silence those who spoke in favor of a firm policy against the Iranian regime.

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November 27, 2016

Iran Regime Apologists Grasp at Straws Regarding the MEK

The following is the letter sent to Politico on November 23rd, which NCRI-US releases publically, since Politico has refused to publish.

The Politico
1000 Wilson Blvd, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA, 22209

Dear Editor,

Daniel Benjamin's 3,326-word tirade (Giuliani Took Money From a Group That Killed Americans, Does Trump Care?, Politico Magazine, Nov. 23), is a litany of threadbare, oft-repeated, and long-debunked allegations, originally concocted by the murderous mullahs of Iran, against the main Iranian opposition movement, the Mujahedin-e Khalq (PMOI/MEK).

It amounts to nothing more than a pitiful attempt to overshadow the failure of policy of appeasing the Iranian regime, which is universally condemned as the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism and the leading per capita executioner of its own citizens and for the slaughter of over 100,000 dissidents, including 15-year-old girls and pregnant women.

One is reminded of the infamous saying, "Tell a lie that's big enough and repeat it often enough, and the whole world will believe it."

In the best-case scenario, Mr. Benjamin's hyperbolic regurgitation of a defamatory MEK narrative from his time in office suggests that, unlike policy experts in Washington, he is unaware that these allegations and characterizations have since been refuted in detail by independent research, and formally discredited by successive high judicial investigations. His boss, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, demonstrated her lack of confidence in Mr. Benjamin's position in 2012 by removing the terrorist designation of the MEK to make US counter-terrorism policy consistent with those of the EU, UK, France, a large bi-partisan group of U.S. Congress members, and many bipartisan senior former leaders whose integrity Mr. Benjamin has impugned. We are left only with the awkward specter of one former official, now in academia

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promoting his byline, who would profit from studying issues before attempting to write about them.

Indeed, several independent studies make it palpably clear that the MEK had no role in the assassination of US military officers and Pentagon contractors in Iran more than 40 years ago. Neither was it involved in any form or shape in the takeover of the U.S. embassy in Tehran, nor did it take part in the crackdown on Iraqi Kurds or Shiites, and nor did it ever pay any politician. The targets of the MEK's military operations, which the group unilaterally ceased in June 2001, were, according to international law, legitimate military targets, including the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) whose crimes are only surpassed by the Third Reich, and which is responsible for the death of hundreds of foreign nationals, including Americans.

There was nothing "inexplicable" about Secretary Rumsfeld declaring the MEK members in Camp Ashraf as protected persons in 2004. "A 16-month review by the United States has found no basis to charge members of an Iranian opposition group in Iraq with violations of American law, according to senior American officials," wrote the New York Times.

Contrary to Mr. Benjamin's assertions, the delisting of the MEK was no act of charity. America's second highest court forced Mr. Benjamin's hands. Nor did the MEK's challenge to the designation begin in 2012. Ever since it was blacklisted in 1997, as "a goodwill gesture" to the murderous mullahs of Iran, as acknowledged by Benjamin's colleagues at the time, the MEK challenged its designation.

At the time of MEK's 2008 challenge, Mr. Benjamin's predecessor, Ambassador Dell Dailey urged the Secretary to revoke the designation because it had no basis in fact or law. The call fell on deaf ears as the State Department was contemplating opening a consular office in Tehran at the time, according to the New York Times.

The Court of Appeals finally heard the case and in 2010 unanimously rejected the designation, saying that the Secretary had provided no evidence to justify the decision. But the State Department refused to heed the court's ruling, prompting the MEK to file a writ of mandamus. In their briefs to the court and during the oral hearing, Benjamin and his cohorts vehemently argued against the delisting. The court, of course, felt otherwise, and granted the writ of mandamus, the first since 1803, delivering a sharp rebuke to the State Department, calling its delay "egregious" and ordering it to take action or it would delist.

Ironically, in his many appearances before Congressional hearings, Mr. Benjamin never uttered any of these allegations when grilled by members from both sides of the aisle, because he knew that despite several classified briefings provided to the members on the MEK, Congress strongly rejected MEK's FTO designation, which it viewed as a goodwill gesture to Tehran, as 99 members (52 D and 47 R, including seven committee chairs) called for the group's delisting.

As for the situation at Camp Ashraf, Mr. Benjamin is being disingenuous. In violation of repeated and written commitments to protect the residents of Ashraf, the State Department handed over the control of the Camp to the government of Nuri al-Maliki, a puppet of Tehran. The FTO designation and Mr. Benjamin's unjustifiable foot dragging in complying with the Court of Appeals ruling, set the stage for the Iraqi security forces to launch three deadly assaults

on the residents, resulting in the deaths of more than 100 residents and the wounding of over 1,000 more.

Oddly enough, Mr. Benjamin piece repeats the talking points contained in a letter sent in the same week by an Iranian regime's senior official, Javad Larijani, to Federica Mogherini, the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. One wonders about the coincidence!

Mr. Benjamin remarks are in sharp contrast to Secretary of State John Kerry's views, who lauded

Benjamin fails to refer to what the MEK has done to expose the Iranian regime's terrorism and reveal the Iranian regime's major nuclear sites, which triggered the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) inspections of the uranium enrichment facility in Natanz and Heavy Water Facility in Arak in 2002 for the first time. Since then, the majority of the visits by the IAEA inspection teams have been to the sites first uncovered by the MEK.

Relying on a vast network inside Iran, MEK revelations of the nuclear weapons program significantly contributed to the world peace. If it were not for the MEK nuclear revelations, Tehran would have had the Bomb by now. Congressman Brad Sherman (D-CA) told a House Foreign Affairs Committee Hearing "We all owe a debt of gratitude to the MEK for bringing this information to the world, and causing the United States and the world to focus on the problem."

What Mr. Benjamin has tried to overshadow by attacking possible nominees of Mr. Trump and parroting stale and discredited slanders against the MEK, is the stark reality that the American people soundly rejected the policy of giving concessions to the turbaned tyrants of Iran. This policy must change and the Iranian regime must be held to account for the many crimes it has committed against the Iranian people and the international community. This is what Mr. Benjamin and the pro-Tehran lobby are finding very difficult to digest.

Soona Samsami
U.S. Representative,
National Council of Resistance of Iran
Washington, DC

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December 9, 2016

Bi-Partisan Lawmakers Endorse Resolution to Bring to Justice Perpetrators of the 1988 Massacre of MEK Political Prisoners in Iran

The bi-partisan support is growing for a House resolution introduced by Rep. Michael McCaul (R-TX), the Homeland Security Committee Chair, Eliot Engel (D-NY), House Foreign Affairs Committee (HFAC) ranking member and Ed Royce (R-CA), the HFAC chairman. The resolution condemns the deteriorating situation of human rights in Iran and the Iranian regime “for the 1988 massacre, and for denying the evidence of this manifest set of crimes against humanity.”

H.Con.Res.159, co-sponsored by some 50 House members, urges the United Nations “to create a Commission of Inquiry to fully investigate the massacre and to gather evidence and identify the names and roles of specific perpetrators with a view towards bringing them to justice.”

The measure notes that “the massacre was carried out pursuant to a fatwa, or religious decree, issued by then-Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, that targeted...the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq (MEK),” quoting Amnesty International, “between 27 July 1988 and the end of that year, thousands of political prisoners [in Iran], including prisoners of conscience, were executed in prisons nationwide.”

While stressing, “the majority of those killed were supporters of the PMOI [MEK],” the resolution emphasizes that “in a recently disclosed audiotape, the late Hussein Ali Montazeri, a grand ayatollah who served as Khomeini’s chief deputy, noted the regime’s efforts to target the MEK and said that the 1988 mass killings were ‘the greatest crime committed during the Islamic Republic, for which history will condemn us.’”

On November 27, 2016, an Iranian regime court sentenced Ahmad Montazeri, the 60-year-old cleric son of Ayatollah Montazeri to 21 years in prison for releasing the tapes.

Representatives from both sides of the aisle equally cosponsored the resolution, which states, “those personally responsible for these mass executions include senior officials serving in the current Government of Iran.” Hassan Rouhani’s Justice Minister Mostafa Pour-Mohammadi who

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had earlier denied the massacre ever took place, boasted that he was “proud” of having carried out “God’s commandment” to execute MEK members.

“This is an important legislation which needs to be followed up with policy steps by the U.S. Administration in standing with the victims of repression and with those who want to establish democracy in Iran,” said Soona Samsami, the U.S. Representative of the National Council of Resistance of Iran.

The resolution urges “the Administration and United States allies to publicly condemn the massacre, and pressure the Government of Iran to provide detailed information to the families of the victims about their loved ones and their final resting places.”

More about the NCRI-US:

The National Council of Resistance of Iran-U.S. Representative Office (NCRI-US) is registered as a non-profit entity in Washington, D.C. The NCRI acts as the parliament-in-exile with some 500 members (half of them women), including representatives of ethnic and religious minorities. Founded in 1981 in Tehran, NCRI aims to establish a democratic and non-nuclear republic in Iran, based on the separation of religion and state.

NCRI-US is involved in disseminating information to the U.S. Congress, the executive branch, think tanks and non-governmental organizations, media, academics, universities, and the general American public. It has held press conferences (including the ground breaking revelations of the nuclear sites in Natanz and Arak), provided briefings, offered speakers for panels and lecturers for colleges, provided expertise for major Television programs, authored commentaries in major print media and blogs, published books and papers, and testified before Congress. NCRI-US is located at 1747 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Suite 1125, Washington, DC 20006.

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