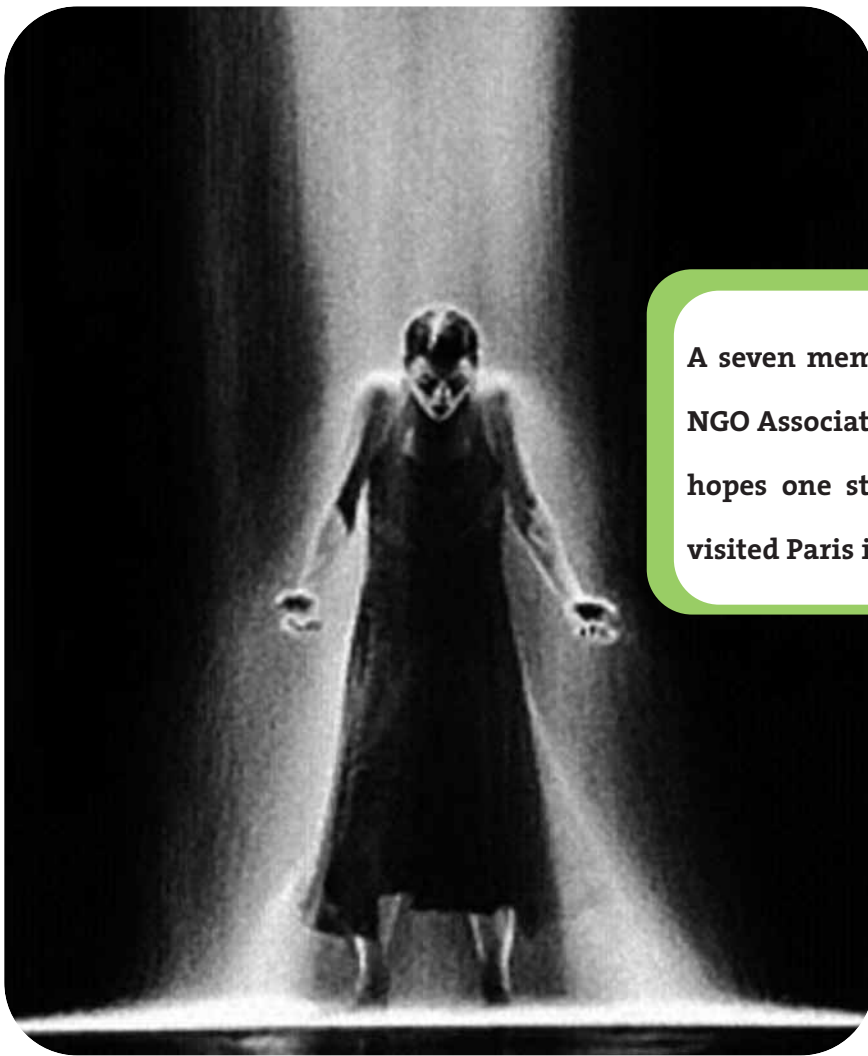


Survivors' Report

Association for the Support of Victims of Mojahedin-e Khalq

FAMILIES' PLEA: Family Contact is Detainees' Right



A seven member delegation from Iran's Nejat NGO Association NGO brought their hopes one step closer to fruition when they visited Paris in September.

Nejat Association was founded in Iran by the relatives of people serving in the Mojahedin Khalq (MKO) under the leadership of Maryam Rajavi. Some have not had contact with relatives inside the organization for ten, even twenty or more years. More recently, several former MKO members living in Iran have joined the growing movement to help rescue their former colleagues. When Saddam Hussein's regime was

swept away and the Mojahedin was granted Protected Persons status under the Fourth Geneva Convention by the US Forces who are guarding them in Iraq, many of the relatives found new hope. Article 116 states unequivocally: "Every internee shall be allowed to receive visitors, especially near relatives, at regular intervals and as frequently as possible." But the Mojahedin has continued to deny its members contact with their

families. This is part of a long term isolationist policy which culminated in forced divorces inside the organization followed by separation of young children from their parents.

Nejat Association has brought a simple message for western governments. 'Since you are responsible for the protection of the Mojahedin in Iraq, you must also abide by international law and intervene to allow the family contact enshrined in the UN Convention which protects them'.

The delegation met with government officials and visited NGOs during the two week visit to Paris. During the visit, Nejat Association created formal links with other Iranian opposition groups outside Iran. ■



Welcome back to Survivors' Report after a long summer break. Our summer has been dominated by concern for the residents of Camp Ashraf. The suicide in August of yet another of the young people trapped in the camp gave rise to renewed calls for their freedom.

During the UN Human Rights Council meeting in Geneva from September 18 to October 6, Awaa Association specifically raised the issue of Camp Ashraf and the people being held there against their will. The MKO insist there is no evidence of this happening. But Awaa alerted human rights representatives to the fact that these victims are being held not by physical chains, but by the mental chains which arise from psychological coercion. A fresh angle of investigation into terrorist organizations will certainly identify most members as victims of systematic psychological abuse and should lead to the radical conclusion that they need rescue not punishment.

At the same time, another group which attended was Habilian from Iran, representing the families of 16,000 victims of terrorist attack inside Iran. Their message was clear; the west cannot treat the Mojahedin as a good terrorist group just because they claim to be fighting against Iran. Victims of terrorist attacks in Iran are no different from the victims of terrorist attacks in New York, Bali, Madrid or London.

The Iranian NGO, Nejat Association, sent a delegation to Paris in September. Among them was a mother who has not seen her son for twenty years. Her only request on this trip was for someone to help so that she could visit her son privately for two hours. Is this too much for a mother to ask for? After twenty years?

Nejat made a direct humanitarian appeal to Maryam Rajavi; that she give permission to anyone in the Mojahedin who wishes it, to have unsupervised contact with their families. The request was answered by a tremulous, negative of silence.

Here is a woman who showed no fear when she placed guns, mortars and grenades in the hands of teenagers and sent them to kill people. Here is a woman who had \$8 US from an Iraqi bank hidden in her bedroom. Here we have a woman who claims she can get the whole Iranian nation to rise up and overthrow the mullahs' regime. Yet apparently the mothers and fathers, sisters, brothers and children of the people she commands terrify her.

Really? Mrs Rajavi. Really?

Why does she cower in fear when faced by someone's elderly mother!

Is it not a basic right of any your followers to meet with their mother?

Really! Mrs Rajavi. Really!

In spite of Mrs Rajavi's efforts to control every aspect of their lives, the growing wave of internal dissent is now so overwhelming that it is being described by the members as an 'internal tsunami'. Even Professor Raymond Tanter, from the Iran Policy Committee, who has spoken on their behalf many times, told Australian SBS reporter, Bronwyn Adcock that "I am not promoting their cause. I am promoting American interests... they are a tool for Western interests... They want to be a part of the West."

Maryam Rajavi has now fully submitted the organization to the exploitation for which she specifically groomed it. Congratulations may be due to her. But for the rest of us, we must urgently turn our attention to the people who are paying the price for her ego-trip, the cult members. ■



IRANIAN-CANADIAN KIDS SENT TO GUERRILLA CAMPS IN IRAQ

National Post, September 23, 2006

Stewart Bell, CanWest News Service

TORONTO - An Iranian terrorist group recruited teenaged children out of Canada and sent them to a guerrilla camp in Iraq, an investigation by the National Post has found.



The Mujahedin-e Khalq sent recruiters to Toronto to entice youths of Iranian heritage into joining an armed resistance campaign aimed at overthrowing the Iranian government.

A banned terrorist organization under Canadian law since 2005, the MEK worked out of a base in residential homes in Toronto, former members of the group said in interviews.

While the bases looked like ordinary households from the outside, inside everyone wore military uniforms and the walls were decorated with MEK flags and portraits of guerrilla leaders, they said.

The Canadian MEK network raised money, staged protests against Iran and lobbied politicians, but it also recruited underage youths to travel to a desolate guerrilla outpost near the Iran-Iraq border called Camp Ashraf.

Former MEK activists said the Canadian base worked closely with a similar U.S. outfit in Sleepy Hollow, Va., called the Pirayesh. The Post was able

to view videos of recruiting sessions conducted there.

A Toronto man who spent five years at Camp Ashraf, beginning when he was 16, said in an interview he underwent military training but was imprisoned when he asked to return home.

The account is consistent with a recent report by New York-based Human Rights Watch, which said the MEK had detained, tortured and killed "defectors" who had tried to leave the camp.

A Toronto human rights group, the Centre for Thought, Dialogue and Human Rights in Iran, says it has documented nine other cases in which children under the age of 18 were sent to Ashraf from Canada. They include youths from Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa.

Among them is Somayeh Mohamaddy, who was a 17-year-old Grade 10 student at Etobicoke Collegiate Institute when she was recruited into the MEK in 1998.

In a letter sent to the Canadian embas-

sy in Jordan, she asked for the government's help getting back to Toronto but she has since said she wants to stay with her fellow "holy warriors".

An immigration tribunal that looked into Mohamaddy case ruled this week that she had gone to the guerrilla camp "with her parents' consent" and that she is a "committed member."

The family's story is told in a five-part series that begins today in the National Post.

Camp Ashraf was captured and disarmed by the U.S. military following the 2003 invasion of Iraq. But most of the "children of the resistance" remain there, either unwilling or unable to leave.

Of the roughly 4,000 MEK guerrillas at the camp, about 300 have returned to Iran and 200 have "defected" to an American-run camp called the Temporary International Presence Facility. ■

MOJAHEDIN KHALQ IN IRAQ

Zebari: MKO Never Allowed to Act in Iraq

Al-Ittihad, August 16, 2006

In an interview with PUK-funded newspaper, Al-Ittihad, Iraqi foreign minister Hoshiar Zebari said about ties with Iraq neighbors:

"In a meeting last week with Turkish officials, we discussed the issue in details and we stressed that Iraq is determined not to allow any terrorist activity be conducted against neighboring countries from Iraq. We will not allow the PKK to have operations against Turkey as we prevent MKO elements from acting against Iran. We also ban members of Ekhvan al-Muslimin in Iraq to act against Syria."

Mojahedin expulsion from Iraq is underway

Mehr News, August 19, 2006

"MKO's expulsion from Iraq is underway," said Iraqi ambassador to Iran, Mohammed Majid Al-Sheikh in an interview with Mehr News.

Following a meeting with the secretary general of Habilia Association in Mashhad Seyed Javad Hasheminejad, Mr. Sheikh talked to Mehr News and said:

"The scheduled plan of the government to restrict the terrorist MKO and expel its elements from Iraq shows the faithfulness of the government to its promises on fighting terrorism."

Returning Camp Ashraf to Iraq's Treasury

Al-Zamin, September 5, 2006

According to Al-Zaman newspaper, by enacting special economic plans, the Iraqi government is determined to return all Iraqi Army property to the government's Treasury.

Al-Zaman reported:

Iraqi officials have planned to return

the properties given by Saddam Hussein to the military and other security services, to the Treasury. This plan includes returning houses, apartments, and land given to the armed forces by Saddam Hussein. This will include Camp Ashraf the only Iraqi army base still in the hands of the terrorist Mojahedin organisation.

Transferring MKO members to a UN-run camp outside the urban areas has been an option since the disarmament of the group and it may take place once the government's plan is started.

Iraq Must Get Rid of MKO

Ghandil, September 4, 2006

"Democracy or the Return of Shaabanieh Uprising" by Dr. Latif Wakil, professor of political science in the universities of Berlin and Denmark, has been published in the Iraqi newspaper "Ghandil". In the article, mostly on the reasons of Iraq's occupation by the US, terrorists and active Baathist groups in Iraq, Dr. Wakil pointed to the MKO and wrote:

"If we look at the policies of the US in Iraq, it will seem funny that the MKO-an international terrorist organization-is being protected by Americans. Before accusing Iran of sponsoring terrorism, the US should extradite terrorists of MKO to Iran because these people are the masters of Iran's terrorists.

Were Saddam's mercenaries destroyed? Or did they infiltrate Iraqi society? How many of them were killed? How many were captured by Justice? What's important is that these armed criminals are at large, are in touch with each other, and continue their assassinations.

However, it's even more painful that some of these people returned to power and hid their ast under new names or fake movements...

If we can't stop Baathists, we should at least get rid of MKO and other Baathist groups that were involved in suppressing the uprising of Shaabanieh.

Iraq Will Not Tolerate Terrorist

Mojahedin Khalq "Mojahedin

Khalq have six months to leave

Iraq" al Maliki

IranMania, September 24, 2006

LONDON, September 24 (IranMania) - Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri Al-Maliki said that from the beginning Iran accepted the new situation in Iraq and established political ties with it, and "this is laudable".

Commenting on the presence of the members of the banned Mujahideen Khalq Organization (MKO) in Iraq, he said, "The Prime Minister's office has notified the terrorist group to leave Iraq within six months. We will not permit them to stay in Iraq after this period and international institutions are responsible for their prolonged stay. MKO cooperated with the former Iraqi regime and is the accomplice of terrorists. They do not have a good image in Iraq and we do not want a group in our country which is opposed to our good neighbor".

With regard to Iraq's insecurity, he said, "Terrorists in Iraq are followers of the former Baathist and extremist forces, and are backed by foreign elements".

He stressed that the Iraqi government has devised plans and tactics for confronting the terrorists.

"We have been successful to an extent. Restoring security to Iraq paves the ground for economic development and political reforms," he said.

Maliki emphasized that terrorists know no limits and believe in no religions. ■

COMMITTEE 'FORGOT' TO DEFEND HUMAN RIGHTS OF CAMP ASHRAF INTERNEES

By A. Afshar - Mojahedin.ws, September 19, 2006

Mojahedin alias NCRI reported, "The International Committee in Defense of Ashraf" was launched at the European Parliament on Tuesday, September 12.

Participants in the meeting were founding members of the Committee among whom were European lawmakers and political and human rights figures. The meeting was initiated by the Friends of a Free Iran, a parliamentary Committee at the European Parliament co-chaired by Euro MPs, Paulo Casaca and Struan Stevenson". For those who are familiar with the history of MKO and are aware of its being proscribed by the EU as a terrorist organization it might be somewhat shocking to hear that some "European lawmakers and political and human rights figures" so blatantly violate a unanimously adopted law aimed to safeguard the Western citizen's national security and peace.

But it should be obvious that sub-parliamentary "Friends of a Free Iran" is a cover name for MKO activists advertising the policies masterminded by the heads of MKO. The few speeches made by the participants stress nothing more than what the group's propaganda machine has been focusing on during the past few months. The speakers, each in his/her turn, reiterated that "the PMOI members have been living in Iraq since 1986 as political refugees and stressed that the new Iraqi government should reaffirm their status"; "members of the PMOI have been in Iraq for over 20 years and enjoy widespread support among Iraqis";

"that the PMOI enjoys widespread support among Iranians in exile all over the world and is the main obstacle to Iran's regime"; "that all efforts should be concentrated on removing the PMOI from the terror list."

The only issue "The International Committee in Defense of Ashraf" preferred not to deal with was the plight of the members held forcefully within the walls of Ashraf. It seems that even the claimed "human rights figures" present at the meeting had completely forgotten that there were many human beings residing at Ashraf with a few rights to be defended. ■

CAMP ASHRAF – TIPF

" You can decide better in real life who is a friend or who is an enemy, and you can oppose them..." Ali Moradi

The Temporary International Persons Facility (TIPF) based at Camp Ashraf (aka Camp Barbarian) has been used to house defectors from the Iranian Mojahedin-Khalq organisation since 2003 when the group was captured and disarmed by US Special Forces.



From the time that US and ICRC officials began interrogating the 3,800+ Mojahedin combatants confined to Camp Ashraf itself (the MKO's former main military base in Iraq), disaffected mem-

bers took the opportunity to request asylum from the Mojahedin. The TIPF was established to house these people. Late 2003, the Iranian regime announced an amnesty for members who wis-

hed to return to Iran. Over 300 have since then returned to their families. Some have also become active in efforts to help free their colleagues who remain trapped in the Mojahedin's clutches in Camp Ashraf.

Around 200 former members remain in TIPF who do not wish to return to Iran. After being granted refugee status they are now petitioning the UNHCR to be sent to third countries, under the terms of the Fourth Geneva Convention which states that protected persons cannot be forcibly repatriated. Over the summer they staged a sit-down protest.

The Mojahedin has sent its own members to infiltrate the TIPF and influence these individuals. They have encouraged them not to cooperate with other former MKO members and to continue to insist on staying in Iraq until third country destinations are found for them.

Indeed, the one single message which will fatally undermine the MKO's *raison d'être* is that it is safe for ordinary members to return to Iran and that the amnesty announced by the Iranian leaders back in 2003 is genuine.

However, the ex-members at TIPF are among 12,000 foreign refugees in Iraq which the UNHCR is committed to find places for. As former members of a foreign terrorist entity, which is on every western terror list, there is little chance that they will be given any priority or even any chance of moving from Iraq for the foreseeable future.

In Europe, the groups of former MKO members who are affiliated to Survivors' Report have been active in trying to

help these 200 individuals who remain in limbo.

Radio Farda reported that Awaa Association visited Geneva over the two week session of the new UN Human Rights Commission to lobby for help to be given to re-locate these victims.

Payvand television in the Netherlands ran a three-part series of programmes about TIPF and the problems faced by those in the camp. Among the main issues addressed was finding ways for them to come out. Again, the importance of family contact was identified as a crucial element in offering rescue to the individuals trapped in both camps.

Radio France reported on the arrival of a delegation of Nejat NGO from Iran. They met with governmental and non-governmental officials over two weeks to highlight the plight of people trapped in Camp Ashraf and TIPF. In particular they asked the international humanitarian community to facilitate family visits as the most effective way for help to reach them.

The Mojahedin websites accused the Nejat delegation of being torturers and murders sent by Iran's Intelligence Service.

The Mojahedin website *Hambastegimeli* also quoted Mr. Emanuel Giang the head of UNHCR in Iraq as saying: "The process of transferring and resettling these people in a third country is very long and complicated. Their presence in Iraq and their past ties to the MKO are important factors that can slow the process." The TIPF 200 are among 12,000 Iranian refugees in Iraq waiting to be relocated.

Nejat Association delegate Ali Moradi was a sergeant in Iran's Army when he was captured by Iraq at the start of the Iran-Iraq war. After spending 9 years in an Iraqi POW camp he was given to the MKO to boost numbers. Moradi never accepted the Mojahedin's worship of Rajavi and was among the first to leave after the 2003 invasion of Iraq. During an interview in Paris, Moradi gave a personal message to those in both Camp Ashraf and in the TIPF.

"For over twenty years the Mojahedin has lived in isolation in Iraq, fighting with the whole world. For years you have listened every day to the leader boasting he will overthrow the regime in Iran. With a song against the USA he wanted to overthrow the US Government. He also fought with Europe.

"For years you have listened to his dreams of power. But you are now all in prison. Even my friends in TIPF have been unable to get out of that place. The truth is, because the Mojahedin is on the terror lists, you cannot get asylum in those countries.

"You have to make your own decision in a good way, in good time. Make your own efforts to get released from that prison camp. If you want, you can go to Iran, to your family. You can be in a real society again. You can decide better in real life who is a friend or who is an enemy and you can oppose them. And even if you want to eventually go to European countries, you can choose Iran as the better way. Many others have done this now."

OPEN CAMP ASHRAF UP FOR FAMILY VISITS!

PARIS, September 19, 2006

For three years, U.S. forces have protected a terrorist group in Iraq even though most of them want to return home to their families.

Mojahedin Khalq combatants are being held against their will in Camp Ashraf say former members who have returned home in the past two years. In September, a seven member delegation from the Iranian NGO, Nejat Association, arrived in Paris to alert public opinion to the situation of 3,000 men

and women held against their will in the Iraqi base of the Iranian Mojahedin Khalq under the leadership of Maryam Rajavi.

U.S. forces claim they cannot intervene inside the camp, leaving residents unable to access humanitarian help from the

ICRC and the UNHCR.

Several cases of retention by force have been confirmed by personal testimony from former captives in the MKO camp who say that basic human rights are being violated daily. Significant among these cases are Iranian prisoners of war (POWs) captured by the Iraqi forces during the eight year Iran-Iraq war and who were then delivered by Saddam Hussein to the Mojahedin to boost numbers.

Nejat Association comprises former members and families of the Camp Ashraf captives. They demand the immediate and full implementation of UN Protected Persons status so that they can have free and unfettered contact with their relatives inside the camp.

Arash Sametipour, a former combatant of the MKO who spent several years in Evin prison says: "We know that the majority of people trapped inside Camp Ashraf would like to leave. We hear this from those who have recently escaped the group. What we are asking is for the international community to implement all the conditions of the Fourth Geneva Convention so that the residents of Camp Ashraf can get help from their families."

Nejat Association says this is a grave humanitarian crisis and that Camp Ashraf residents should not be used as pawns in political wrangles between western governments



and Iran.

The Iraqi government has announced that Camp Ashraf must be dismantled and the residents removed from Iraqi territory. Responsibility for the safety and wellbeing of these individuals now rests with western governments and international humanitarian agencies.

Nejat Association press conference in Paris

The seven member Nejat Association delegation in Paris held a press conference on September 22 to call international efforts to help rescue their former friends and colleagues who remain imprisoned in Camp Ashraf.

Mr. Alain Chevalerias, from the French Centre du recherche sur la terrorisme introduced the meeting. Mr. Babak Amin, head of the delegation, presented a background of Nejat's activities, pointing to the growing success of their activities and the increasing number of families working to liberate their loved ones. He also described Nejat Association's activi-

ties during the previous week in Paris when they met with governmental and non-governmental officials and human rights centers and the press.

The other delegates, Arash Sametipour, Ali Moradi, Ali Asghar Torabi, Zahra Bozorgmehr, Masumeh Rezaiee and Nasrin Dadkhah each spoke about their own involvement and the various activities planned by Nejat NGO for the future.

The delegation had been welcomed warmly in Paris and the Association plans to send other delegations to European countries and North America regularly.

During the Question and Answer session, Mr. Amin affirmed that Nejat will open offices in western countries.

Mr. Ali Moradi, a POW during the Iran-Iraq war who had been sent to the cult by Saddam Hussein, described the situation in Camp Ashraf and TIPF. He detailed the ways and solutions which individuals can choose in order to be rescued from Rajavi's cult. He confirmed that the majority of the people in Camp Ashraf are willing to meet their families if given the opportunity.

Mr. Arash Sametipour had been recruited while a teenager in the USA by an MKO recruitment team which included Alireza Jafarzadeh, and sent with others to Iraq.

Sametipour confirmed that Jafarzadeh was specifically in charge of 'preparing' recruited members to be sent to training camps in Iraq. Sametipour appealed in particular to US officials to prevent the MKO's recruitment networks from acting in Washington.

Sametipour said the presence of this terrorist group and its activities near the White House is a serious issue and represents a potential threat for the US community.

Mrs. Masumeh Rezaiee, mother of Camp Ashraf resident Saeed Husseini, explained that she has not seen her son for twenty five years. She said, "All I ask of the international community is to provide the possibility that after all these years I meet with my son privately for two hours".

Babak Amin read a statement from Nejat Association with the families' demands:

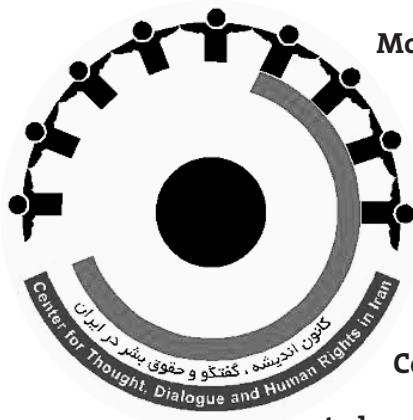
Babak Amin read a statement from Nejat Association with the families' demands:

1. The possibility of meetings between captured members and their families freely and without the presence of the cult representatives.
2. The captured members be able to call or write their families directly and without the interference of cult leaders.
3. The members should be interviewed outside of organizational conditions in the presence of ICRC representatives.
4. The members should be enabled to decide their future situation themselves and should continue to be influenced by Rajavi's organizational pressure.
5. Since Rajavi's organization is recognized as a terrorist group, we hold the leaders of the cult directly and personally responsible for the captured members' lives. ■

REPORT ON SYSTEMATIC VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN MKO /NCRI CAMP ASHRAF IN IRAQ

Centre for Thought, Dialogue & Human Rights in Iran (CTDHR) – Toronto

September 12, 2006



Mounting evidence from the immediate families of Mojahedin-e Khalq members has revealed that the majority of residents at Camp Ashraf in Iraq are being deliberately denied contact with the outside world, and that their families have been banned from visiting them. This is in clear breach of the conditions set out by the Fourth Geneva Convention under which the residents of Camp Ashraf have been granted protected persons status.

Based in Toronto, the Center for Thought, Dialogue and Human Rights in Iran, has been working closely with a few of the families whose children have been detained in Camp Ashraf.

They say their children are denied any contact with their parents and are unable to leave the camp. In every case that these families did eventually manage to meet with their children, the visit was supervised by at least one Mojahedin official and they were never left alone.

One such instance is that of Somayeh Mohammadi daughter of Mustafa. Somayeh was 17 years old when, in 1998, she was taken to Washington, D.C. and then flown to Jordan with a group of similar youths on what they were told was a month long trip to visit the Mojahedin base in Iraq. According to Mustafa Mohammadi, her father, MKO officials seized Somayeh's travel documents in Jordan and never returned them to her.

In 2004, Somayeh Mohammadi requested help from the Canadian Embassy in Jordan to get home. Embassy staff traveled to Camp Ashraf to interview Somayeh, but during the entire interview, Somayeh was accompanied by Mr. Behzad Safari, a Mojahedin official, who refused to leave even when requested by the Canadian authorities to do so.

In every case that families describe there is clear evidence that psychological coercion is being used systematically inside Camp Ashraf to prevent family contact. The young people whose parents seek contact reject their families and refuse to talk to them out of fear of being labeled as disloyal and agents of the Iranian government. The punishment following such an accusation would be severe – over 50 former

MKO members freed from Abu Ghraib prison in 2003 had been incarcerated there solely on the basis of this accusation.

The repercussions of such undue psychological pressure have been revealed recently in the growing incidence of suicide among the residents at Camp Ashraf. Unfortunately two of the young people identified in this report are now dead.

Mr. Yasser Akbari Nasab-Far had been sent to Iraq from Germany along with his brother, Mousa Akbari Nasab-Far, when he was under 16 years old. Yasser had made numerous requests to leave both Camp Ashraf and the Mojahedin organization. His requests were ignored until he committed suicide by setting himself on fire sometime in August 2006. The MKO officially announced the incident on September 11, 2006, after over a month's delay.

The announcement claimed that Yasser took his own life to protest the conditions caused by the U.S. control of Camp Ashraf.

The fact that Yasser's is not an isolated case must be a matter of serious concern for human rights organizations. Reports of similar incidents of suicide from inside the camp identify the common reasons as not being able to have contact with friends/families and losing hope of ever gaining their freedom again. The death of Ms. Faezeh Akbarian, 21 years old, was explained by the MKO as a heart attack; an indication of attempts to cover-up the growing incidence of suicide in the absence of any official inquiry.

The use of psychological coercion in reward and/or punishment is so endemic that even in death the Mojahedin divides and categorizes its members as "Us" and "Others".

Following the suicide of Neda Hassani in 2003, who set herself on fire to protest the arrest of Mrs. Maryam Rajavi in France, she was identified as a martyr and a true "Mojahed" by the MKO. But the organization refused to publicly acknowledge that Mr. Yasser Akbari Nasab-Far had ever been a member. Such methods are employed to discourage the expression of dissent and the desire to leave by residents of the camp.

Through personal testimony, CTDHR has identified a pattern of systematic violations of Universal Human Rights protocol, in particular Articles 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 18, 19, 20 and 29, which are taking place in Camp Ashraf. The Camp is administered exclusively by the Mojahedin – which exists outside any legal framework - and as such is not subject to national or international law and its leaders Massoud and Maryam Rajavi are not accountable to any external authority.

In this atmosphere it is unsurprising that abuses of all kinds are gradually coming to light. The dissociated MKO members in the American run TIFP next to Camp Ashraf have listed names and dates of various abuses, including sexual abuse, rapes and murders. Because people do not feel safe to openly testify against the organization – again due to the effects of psychological coercion – these incidents have not received proper attention and investigation whether by American forces or by United Nations officials.

One young man – a Canadian citizen – had been forcibly detained in Camp Ashraf between the years 2000 and 2004, and was rescued only due to the perseverance of his family. On a recent trip to Europe accompanied by his father, he was arrested at Schiphol Airport in Amsterdam at the request of the German authorities and spent two days in prison before being deported to Canada. The reason for this incident was that the Mojahedin had been using his identity papers, which had been confiscated upon his arrival in Camp Ashraf, to illegally move members in Europe.

This young man, who was aged 15 when the Mojahedin held him in their camp, has provided the names of 90 youngsters who were taken to Iraq while below 17 years old. There are also reports that up to 900 teenagers were taken to Iraq between 1997 and 1999. These teenagers were trained for four months in Camp Ashraf for operations inside Iran. Many of them participated in military operations against Iran while they were under 18 years old.

During the training period all their personal belongings, including pictures of their families, were confiscated and there was no contact with family members allowed.

Videos have been given to CTDHR by the families of these children, taken at 'farewell' parties held for the teenagers by MKO officials on the eve of their transfer to Iraq from Canada or the USA. One such video shows the goodbye party of Majid Zabeti a 14 year old whose father and mother were killed in Iran in 1982, and his 14 year old friend Mohammad Reza Mohaddessin, son of the spokesperson of MKO. The underage kids are showered by gifts and encouragement from the

adult members of the MKO.

Over a hundred hours of videos, as well as pictures and other documents to support the stories told to our Centre by these families.

Some of the names of children who were taken to Iraq while below 18 years old follow – (the full list is available by request to the address below)

Boys:

1. Mustafa (Mohammad) Rajavi, son of the leader of MKO Massoud Rajavi. He tried, unsuccessfully, to escape Ashraf in 2003. Mustafa and two other friends took an 'Aifa' truck at night and hit the fence and tried to climb on the roof of the truck to jump over the fence but Mustafa was arrested because he is under constant surveillance.
2. Amir Vafa Yaghmaei was a citizen of Sweden. He left Ashraf after 2 years with help from the Swedish government. His father, Mr. Esmail Vafa Yaghmaei was so loyal to Massoud Rajavi at NCRI that he ignored several requests by his own son, who was 16 when sent to Iraq, and refused to help him. Amir was abused inside Camp Ashraf for almost 2 years.
3. Hanif Nourbaksh was 15 years old and US citizen who was taken to Iraq in 1999. During his first month he claimed, "I am a US citizen and want to return to the USA", which was ignored. One day he started running naked around the base (Artesh 1) but was caught by Mahmoud Ghaemshahr and Afshin Faraji, head of the commandos, and beaten in front of many eyewitnesses. After that frightening incident he kept quiet for a while. Then one morning in the holy month of Ramadan in 1999 his voice was heard again as he was screaming under beatings for writing anti-Rajavi slogans on the walls of the camps' recreation area. Hanif was sent back to the US later that year.
4. Alireza Bagheri (a cartoonist), was under 16 when sent to camp from Germany. He is still in Iraq and waiting for his release. He was punished two times for his satire, including a caricature of Massoud Rajavi on a podium.
5. Hooman Mohammadi is currently returned to Sweden since he had Swedish citizenship.

(the names of a further 56 boys withheld)

Girls:

1. Aseye 13 years old who was under the care of Raziye in San Francisco, USA. When she was leaving from Washington to go to Iraq she took a knapsack full of dolls with her.
2. Fereshte Khalili, 13 years old. At the time of her departure she was crying and was not willing to leave the USA. Her father had been killed in Iraq but she was not informed about his death.
3. Elham Kia Manesh, 18 years old, US citizen
4. Elham Zanjani, 18 years old, Canadian citizen.

Both Elhams were given the task of throwing eggs at President Khatami when he was attending a UN meeting in New York. The F.B.I. arrested both girls along with several others.

They were released on bail on condition they did not leave Washington. The MKO told Elaham M. and Elham Z. that since there is not enough money to hire lawyers for them they better fly to Iraq for a while until their case is dismissed. Elaham Zanjani and Elahm Kia Manesh are both still in Camp Ashraf and afraid to ask to be sent back to the USA due to the possibility of prosecution by the F.B.I.

6. Somayeh Mohammadi, 17 years, daughter of Mustafa Mohammadi, a Canadian citizen. Somayeh lost her immigration status because the MKO did not allow her to follow up her citizenship application. Currently Somayeh is stateless without any proper documents.
7. Zoha Soltani, adopted by Mrs. Khanlari .They kept her in Canada
8. Mahvan Etemadi, 16 years old, Canada
9. Nadereh Afshar, 15 years old, Toronto, Canada. She was fostered by Naghi Shafiei and Mina Aslan Pour
12. Homa, was with Nadereh Afshar, Toronto, Canada
13. Bita, daughter of Safa, 14 years old, Canada
14. Maryam, 16 years old, Los Angeles, USA
15. Zolal, 17 years old, Washington, D.C. Zolal was cared for by her aunt who objected to the MKO decision to take her to Iraq

The teenage girls and boys who were sent to Iraq in 1997 and 1998 were mostly those who had been evacuated from Iraq in 1991, during the first Gulf War on the grounds of safety, Their evacuation was made against their parents wishes on the order of Massoud Rajavi. The majority of these children – as young as two months old - were sent to the EU and North America in 1991 using false documentation and fostered with Mojahedin supporters. The lack of real identity docu-

ments barred families from formally adopting the children in their country of residence. When the children were returned to Iraq – using the psychological coercion techniques typical in Mojahedin recruitment – they were transferred using forged documents so that it is again difficult to trace the movement of these children. Since 2003, all residents at Camp Ashraf have been formally identified by US Forces.

The unfortunate incident of Yaser Akbari Nasab Far's suicide is the most recent cry for help, and also an alarming sign that is coming out of this camp, which is located in the middle of a war zone, in the outskirts of Baghdad and which operates with total disregard for any International or State laws. The immediate attention of all International Humanitarian organizations is required in order to prevent yet more individual suicides or to avert and even more catastrophic possibility such as the mass suicide of all the residents on the order of Massoud or Maryam Rajavi.

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insisting "my past means nothing", but it wasn't enough. I still wasn't seen as 100 per cent obedient.

In 1992 they asked me if I'd like to go to Iraq for some military training. I knew as a member of an "armed struggle" this might be required, so I didn't resist, although I knew I could never kill anyone. I learned how to drive a truck, march and shoot a gun, but I clearly wasn't soldier material. I loved the camp and the irresponsibility - I obeyed orders and it felt liberating. I had this childlike feeling that if I put myself in their hands, I'd be OK. Then they decided marriage was banned. I couldn't agree as I wanted marriage and kids. I was punished and they put huge pressure on me to conform. I returned to London, telling myself I'd sort my head out then return refreshed to the movement, but it wasn't to be.

In 1993 I met my husband, another

disillusioned member, and we were drawn to each other. I resisted constant pressure to be re-recruited and we broke away for good in 1996. We acted as counsellors to each other, de-programming ourselves from the horrific abuse we had endured. But we didn't recover properly until 1999, when we read literature from the Cult Information Centre. I was furious when I learned that everything we'd been through was on a "recruitment techniques" list! The anger and betrayal I felt was enormous, but I felt relief that it wasn't my fault, and I could put a name to it - psychological coercion. It didn't mean you were weak, evil or stupid.

We believed we had reached the pinnacle of human existence, that the worst thing in life was to be ordinary. Well, we're ordinary now and it's wonderful. We had a son in 2000 and live

in a three-bedroom semi in Leeds. A life where we make our own decisions is amazing.

I still think of myself as Muslim, I still think it is a good belief system, but I eat pork and drink like a fish.

Spreading the word about the dangers of cults is my new cause. When people are recruited into these groups they have no critical ability. It can happen to anyone, any time. If you're lucky you end up with a timeshare [apartment]. If you're unlucky you end up blowing people up on the Tube.

For more information contact: iran-interlink.org or khodabandeh.org; cultinformation.org.uk ■

PERSONAL COLUMN: THE FORMER ISLAMIC MILITANT

Mojahedin took me to Iraq and taught me to kill.

Anne Singleton, 48, was recruited into the mujahedin at university, and was active for seven years. She left the organisation in 1996 and now campaigns to warn others

Interview by Lynne Wallis



Manchester University in the early 1980s was very political. My then boyfriend Ali, an Iranian, was interested in the mujahedin, and I became interested in them and Islam. I have never been religious, but the structured life Islam offered made sense to me.

The mujahedin seemed to be the only group who were doing anything, fighting the regime of the Ayatollah Khomeini in Iran after the revolution. I went to so many meetings that I neglected my studies and flunked my exams (I completed my degree at Sheffield poly). Their religious role-modelling was intense, and their behaviour so righteous. They were willing to sacrifice their own interests for that of their society. I worshipped them.

In 1985 the mujahedin leader Massoud Rajavi took over and mar-

ried a woman called Maryam whose role was to encourage women to break away from male control. As a feminist, this appealed to me. They had used bombers from the early 1980s. They said they wanted to break the atmosphere of terror by killing their oppressors, and it seemed noble. I spent all my spare time with the movement, caring for members' children, cooking and monitoring media reports. If they asked me for a £10 donation I'd give £100 to impress them with my commitment. They flattered me, and then would make me feel guilty, pushing for more so I'd feel worthy enough to be recruited. I got totally hooked.

I did temporary jobs and lived frugally in bedsits, my walls covered with posters of their martyrs - suicide bombers and women with guns. I felt part of something very right. Everyone else had posters of Che Guevara who was part of an armed struggle. I was just supporting a different revolution. We saw fighting films and listened to heroic poetry and revolutionary music. I had had such a boring childhood, this was what I had been looking for. My workingclass family was quite political but never did anything except watch telly. There wasn't much debate, so I grew up

seeing life as black and white.

I moved to London in 1989 and found some activists at a safe house in Finchley who treated me as a trusted supporter. The UN Human Rights Rapporteur visited Iran in 1990 and we wanted to put pressure on him to ask about all the mujahedin prisoners so we went on hunger strike. After five days I felt high as a kite. My perceptions changed, and I felt I had transcended normal humanity. I had so much energy and felt as if I were walking in a bubble. Food deprivation is a classic recruitment technique used to weaken resistance.

I quit my job as a computer programmer and became a full-time worker for the mujahedin. I didn't question a thing, even the violence, which they inure people to so cleverly. I was shown a film of a female suicide bomber blowing up an ayatollah in Iran. It was horrific, and very shocking, at first, but I was shown the film many times, and each time was less distressed.

Then they put it on over dinner and I didn't bat an eyelid. I believed she had a duty to perform, this brave, wonderful martyr.

I barely saw my parents, I'd ditched all my friends, and I'd publicly burnt the diaries I'd kept since childhood,

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