



IRAN TODAY & TOMORROW

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

The Committee in Support of Referendum in Iran (CSRI), a 501(c)(3), non-profit and independent group, is committed to advance change in Iran through an internationally monitored referendum as the only peaceful means to bring democracy and establish a secular and representative government in Iran.

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Nuclear proliferation

Putin says Iran must not become nuclear power

AFP, Aug. 31, Sochi - Russian President Vladimir Putin expressed concern about Iran's atomic programme on Tuesday and said it must not be allowed to acquire nuclear weapons..."Like our European colleagues France, Germany, Britain, and the US, we are concerned by the fact that questions are being raised about Iran's nuclear programme," Putin said. "We are categorically against an enlargement of the club of nuclear powers, and that includes Iran," Putin said after talks with the German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and French President Jacques Chirac..."We are going to try to obtain certain guarantees from them, including in the form of agreements. This problem can and must be examined by the international community, at this stage in the framework of the IAEA (the UN atomic agency)," said Putin. Putin's comments were echoed by Schroeder,... "The situation gives reason for worries about Iran... The worry is that Iran is not following the agreement to the letter. There will be cooperation between the three European countries and Russia. We want together to prevent Iran getting atomic weapons," Schroeder said.

Tehran's nuke plans may be unstoppable

USA Today, Aug. 30, Washington - Iran, a charter member of Bush's "axis of evil," is believed to be only one to three years away from being able to make nuclear weapons, and a growing number of nuclear experts worry that there may be no way to stop it from becoming the world's 10th nuclear weapons state. "We can't stop Iran from developing the technology and reaching the breakout point," says Anthony Cordesman, a military expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a think tank in Washington.... Henry Sokolski, executive director of the Nonproliferation Policy Education Center, says nothing is likely to stop Iran from being "nuclear ready. They have the people and the hardware," he says. "Whether it's 12 months or 36 months, the idea that you can stop them is hoping for too much."

Nuclear knowledge a vital interest - Rafsanjani

Baztab website, Aug. 30 - Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, head of the State Expediency Council, said: "Nuclear knowledge is part of our vital interests. We shall not lose nuclear knowledge at any cost."

Latest Iranian missile has upgraded warhead

Ha'aretz, Aug. 30 - The warhead of the Iranian Shihab-3 missile has been considerably upgraded, according to photographs published in Iranian newspapers of test launches three weeks ago. It is believed that the improvements will permit slower entry into the atmosphere so the warhead, which may be chemical in nature, will be more durable and its contents will be better protected. It is also believed that the missile's range has been extended...It is also likely that the Iranian effort is not limited to the Shihab-3, which has a range of about 1,300 kilometers, but also to the Shihab-4, planned with a range of 2,000 kilometers or more...It subsequently turned out that the reported success of the Shihab's launch was intended to camouflage a failure in the missile's flight early in the



launch. However the photographs published by the Iranians show several new details. In addition to the new warhead, the missile was fired from an operational vehicle and not from an ordinary surface launcher. In all the other Shihab 3 tests, the warhead was cone-shaped, but this time it has a new, flatter shape and appears to have various short wings

Iran secures nuclear needs through network in Germany

Radio Farda, Aug. 29 – Der Spiegel weekly in an analysis cited Germany's intelligence and security agencies as saying, "Iran acquires technology to produce nuclear weapons under the cover of a network of companies it has set up in Germany."

Der Spiegel wrote Germany's secret services are trying to discover companies that have been well camouflaged, helping Iran in acquiring weapons. The companies are well organized and appear to have legal activities. According to Der Spiegel, employees of the Iranian intelligence and secret services act as clients. Moreover, they supervise the network in Germany that provides the supplies. According to investigations, these illegal activities are concentrated in Hamburg, Cologne and Düsseldorf. The equipment is sent to Austria or Switzerland and then to Iran by individuals in Germany.

Iran is certainly bent on nuclear weapons - Armitage

U.S. State Department website, Aug. 29 – US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage: Well, it's certainly the case that Iran is intent on acquiring nuclear weapons and it certainly is the case that the Iranians, particularly the Defense Minister, issued some rather bombastic statements that found no echo because people realized it was bombast.

Regarding the ability of the Iranians to develop nuclear weapons, they are some time away. I don't like to talk publicly about how long away. They have made various comments to various people about their ability, if they desire, to manufacture weapons, or at least enough weapons grade plutonium in a certain time period. But I think the time period varies with which Iranian is speaking.

"Iran nuclear buildup would be nightmare" Germany says

Associated Press, Aug. 29, Amman - An Iranian nuclear arms buildup would be a "nightmare," German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer warned Sunday, saying Europe is looking to head off any dangerous confrontation with Tehran.

Fischer said an Iranian nuclear challenge only adds to Middle East problems that include bringing security and stability to postwar Iraq, resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict and introducing democratic reforms... "It would be a nightmare for the region ... if we saw the beginning of an arms race - a nuclear arms race - in the region," Fischer told reporters in Jordan, where he was meeting with Foreign Minister Marwan Muasher... Fischer didn't elaborate, but said: "We are really very serious about finding a way out of a very dangerous, possible confrontation."

Khatami wants to master nuclear technology

The New York Times, Aug. 29, Tehran - President Mohammad Khatami (said), "We want to be able to master nuclear technology," to enable Iran to manufacture uranium as fuel for its nuclear plants. "We want it and no one can deprive us of having it."....

Meddling in Iraq

Shaanan says heavy Iranian weapons found inside holy shrine of Imam Ali

Al- Jazeera TV, Aug. 31 – Iraqi defense minister Hazim Shaalan said in an interview with Asharq al-Awsat daily that Iraqi forces have found heavy Iranian weapons inside the holy shrine of Imam Ali in Najaf, where the Mahdi Army militia had sought sanctuary. The Iranian weapons included mortar launchers, R.P.G. rocket launchers and B.K.C. automatic rifles along with two tons of explosives.

Sadr's agitation creates opportunities for Iran

The Christian Science Monitor, Aug. 30, Washington, By Ellen Laipson – Acute agitation stirred in the Iraqi Shiite community by radical Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr's challenge to the interim government and US policies has created opportunities for Iran, which almost certainly has ties to every major Iraqi political and sectarian faction. Iraqi Defense Minister Hazem el-Shaanan is the most antagonistic in characterizing Iran's behavior, accusing it of working to destabilize his country... As different power centers in the Iraqi Shiite



community square off, it is hard to avoid the impression that Iran's interests might be best served by supporting the young firebrand al-Sadr. Al-Sadr is best suited to bring the US down a notch, and thus make the US less likely to work directly for regime change in Iran. Iranian President Mohammad Khatami said Aug. 23 that Iraq's interim government risked losing popular support because of its backing for military operations against Shiite Muslim rebels in Najaf, and made clear that responsibility for all the stresses on the Shiite community falls to the US occupying forces and their "collaborators." Iranian parliamentarian, Mahmoud Mohammadi said it more directly: "Moqtada al-Sadr is an anti-occupiers figure and Iran should support him."

GC bases facilitate Iranian agents' border crossings

Al-Manar Al-Yawm daily, Aug. 29 – The Iranian regime's intelligence and military apparatus resort to various methods to facilitate the traveling back and forth of its agents on the Iran-Iraq border. One commander of Fajr Garrison in Ahwaz who is in charge of Shalamcheh border said in this regard: "The Shalamcheh border is closed for pilgrims but open for our personnel. If the issue is coordinated earlier with the Fajr Garrison, all the problems in crossing the border will be resolved." If for any reason the Iran-Iraq border is closed or extremely restricted, the agents of the Iranian regime use business cards for their operatives to secure their crossing back to Iran. Each card costs 50,000 dinars.

Iraqi PM calls for end to Iranian interference

AFP, Aug. 29, Baghdad - Iraq will ask Tehran to stop interfering in its domestic affairs during Deputy Prime Minister Barham Saleh's official visit to Iran which began Sunday, Prime Minister Iyad Allawi has said. "We have to start building clear and frank relations based on not interfering in the two countries' internal affairs," he said in an interview with Iraq's state-run Iraqiya television, broadcast late Saturday. Saleh will "present the facts to our brothers in the Iranian leadership and clarify some misunderstandings so that relations are based on love and brotherhood," Allawi said. "There are negative elements and tensions which run contrary to the interests of both countries."



Iran has 3 bases on Iraqi border

Khorassan daily, Aug. 29 – Michael Rubin, a Pentagon adviser, claimed that Iran has three bases near the Iraqi border in which the al-Mahdi Corps are trained. He also said that according to information obtained, Iran gives more than 70 million dollars a month to Moqtada Sadr's al-Mahdi Corps

200 Iranians, Afghans arrested in Mahdi Army

Etemad daily, Aug. 24 – Va'el Abdolatif, Iraq's minister of provincial affairs, said: Police have arrested 200 Afghans and Iranians who fought in the Mahdi Army.

Iranian conspiracy

Baghdad daily, Aug. 23, Iraq – Until recently, the Iranian regime spoke with two different tones about the crisis in Iraq. One was an official and diplomatic language which recognized the Iraqi interim government and... the other was the unofficial language which incited Iraqis to fight against the U.S. But now the mask has fallen from the face of the Iranian government, such that their official comments have fallen in line with the hard-line religious current supporting terrorism in Iraq. Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi called for a meeting with foreign ministers of neighbor states to discuss the Najaf crisis. Instead of rebuking the insurgents, Kharrazi likened this city to Hiroshima and Nagasaki to incite the world public opinion against the Iraqi government. This is while in Iran, thousands of unarmed political opponents were executed and even foreign journalists were not protected from this. The Iranian government is the same regime that in the early 80's routed the Kurdish movement in Iranian Kurdistan.

Export terrorism

Al-Qaida 'explosive expert' caught in Pakistan came from Iran: Sources

Associated Press September 2, QUETTA, Pakistan - A suspected al-Qaida operative who was captured along with another man during raids in this southwestern city is an "explosives expert" who had arrived here from Iran, a security official said Thursday. The suspects, an Egyptian named Sharif al-Misri and another man of Middle Eastern origin identified as Abdul Hakeem, were caught Sunday when Pakistani intelligence agents acting

on a tip raided a home in Quetta, the capital of Baluchistan province. The men's arrest was announced Wednesday by Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed. A security official who is familiar with the investigations of the two suspects told The Associated Press on Thursday that al-Misri had arrived in Pakistan from Iran, where his wife and children have been living since the U.S.-led coalition ousted the government of the Taliban from Afghanistan in late 2001. "He (al-Misri) is an explosives expert. He has told us that his wife and children live in Iran," said the official, who spoke only on condition of anonymity. He said al-Misri admitted training militants in Afghanistan but insists he has done nothing against Pakistan. "So far, it is not clear why he came here," said the official. "We suspect, he was on some mission, but we don't have any details." Pakistan, a key ally of the United States in its war on terror, shares a border with Iran. Pakistani and Iranian border guards often arrest people, mostly Pakistanis, who try to illegally cross the border to travel to Europe in an effort to seek better jobs. The latest arrests came weeks after Pakistani police and intelligence agents arrested Ahmed Khalfan Ghailani, a Tanzanian with a US\$25 million bounty on his head, and Mohammed Naeem Noor Khan, a Pakistani computer expert allegedly with links to al-Qaida operatives around the world. The arrests led to a terror warning in the United States, and counterterror operations in Britain, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia. Pakistan has arrested more than 550 al-Qaida suspects and turned most of them over to the United States after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks in America.

Republicans accuse Tehran of sponsoring terrorism, manufacturing WMDs

News Network TV, Aug. 31 – On the first day of their convention, the United States Republicans in a declaration accused the Iranian government of sponsoring terrorism and manufacturing weapons of mass destruction.

International front against Islamic fundamentalism

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution
ajc.com

Iran let off too easy

September 1, By MASOUD DOLATI On Sunday, Aug. 15, a 16-year-old girl in the town of Neka, Iran, was executed by hanging. During her trial for charges of "engaging in acts incompatible with chastity," the teenage victim did not have a lawyer. She defended herself. She told the religious judge that he should punish the main perpetrators of moral corruption, not the victims. After her execution, the judge said he had her executed for her "sharp tongue." In summer 1988, the Iranian regime massacred about 30,000 political prisoners in the course of a few months. According to a report by Amnesty International at the time, a mass grave was discovered when the rain washed away the soil in one of the shallower graves. People started digging up the graves in the middle of the night to recover the bodies of their loved ones. The Iranian regime is now more than a local tyranny. It is a global threat that has to be dealt with urgently. Yet, it seems that policy-makers cannot come to a solid conclusion regarding Iran, perhaps because the stakes are too high. However, without an objective and firm policy, the next global disaster could be a nuclear Iran. The wave of global terrorism started in 1979, with the assault on the U.S. embassy in Tehran. Iran then started sponsoring satellite terrorist groups around the world. Hostage taking in Lebanon marked the 1980s. In 1987, Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini issued a "fatwa" (decree) to murder the British author Salman Rushdie. During 1980s and 1990s, 450 terrorist operations were carried out by Iran's terror squads in Europe and the Middle East. Amazingly, despite the mounting evidence, Iran was never held accountable. Several European countries, including France, Germany and Britain, promoted engagement in return for lucrative trade deals. France has emerged as Iran's leading trading partner. In return, last year, the French launched a raid on the headquarters of the principal Iranian opposition group, the National Council of Resistance of Iran. In an attempt to curry favor with Tehran, the Clinton administration blacklisted a council member organization, the People's Mojahedin, in 1997. The United States went a step further, bombing the Mojahedin camps in Iraq in return for Tehran not meddling in Iraq during and after the 2003 invasion. Not surprisingly, the clerics did not keep their side of the bargain and sent thousands of troops and millions of dollars to Iraq to fuel the insurgency. Appeasing the mullahs might have had short-term economic benefits, but it caused great perils for the rest of the world in the long run because it emboldened the mullahs to persist in their terrorist ambitions. Tehran's traditional apologists

in Washington, including former National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski and the Council of Foreign Affairs, recommended dialogue with Iran. Without question, another round of dialogue with Iran would give the clerics more time in their efforts to procure nuclear weapons. The option before the world community is not one of appeasement vs. military action. Both options completely ignore the crucial role Iranians have to play in their country's future. There is a resilient pro-democracy movement in Iran that has been demanding regime change. Last February, Iranians overwhelmingly boycotted the parliamentary elections. In addition, Iran has a very strong and well-organized opposition movement. Supporting the Iranian people's demands for regime change and reaching out to the Iranian opposition movement is a wise and prudent approach. This has to be augmented by firm and clear action, including the removal of the terror tag against the opposition movement and sending Tehran's nuclear file to the United Nations Security Council. *Masoud Dolati of Atlanta is the president of the nationwide Committee in Support of Referendum in Iran.*

Deteriorating conditions of human rights

Man hanged in public in Arak

Iran Focus Sep. 2 Tehran- A man was hanged in public in the city of Arak, (central Iran) on Sunday, August 29. As the unnamed man was being taken to the gallows, the crowd on the scene called for his life to be spared. Officials, however, went ahead with the hanging. The victim, accused of murdering his wife, was the father of three.

16 year old in Karaj sentenced to death

Etemad daily, Aug. 31 – A 16 year old young man in Karaj was sentenced to death. The 16 year old Afghan teenager, named Feis Mohammad, was referred to the special court for juvenile delinquents in Karaj. After several trial sessions, Judge Loqman Kiapasha, head of the court, sentenced him to death.

Protesting villagers gunned down by SSF

Hambastegi website, Aug. 31 - State Security agents in Isfahan's Shahin Shahr district gunned down a number of residents and injured two people in Murcheh Khurt village. This occurred when the villagers protested the plundering of their farming water. Some government agents along with the state security forces reportedly attacked the protesting villagers. As a result, two brothers were shot and injured. One of them suffered wounds on his leg and the other on his intestines. One of them is reportedly in critical condition. The State Security Forces arrested eight of the villagers and sent them to prison. The judiciary has demanded 3 million toumans bail for the release of each person.

Death and the maiden in Iran

The Daily Telegraph, August 29, By Alasdair Palmer Atefeh Rajabi appears to have been a fairly normal 16-year-old: sulky, disobedient, and eager to have sex. In London, those attributes earn lectures from parents and teachers on the importance of acting responsibly and not being offensive. In the city of Neka in Iran, where Atefeh Rajabi comes from, they get you hauled up in front of a judge. Atefeh's typical teenage behaviour meant that she was charged and found guilty of "acts incompatible with chastity". The judge in the Islamic court ruled that the appropriate penalty was death. That's right: death. Her sentence was confirmed by Iran's Supreme Court. Two weeks ago, on August 15, the 16-year-old girl was hung from a crane in the main square of Neka, in full public view, in order to keep "society safe from acts against public morality".....



Protest in Iran

Anti-government riot rocks Iran's key Persian Gulf oil port

Iran Focus, Ganaveh, Aug. 25 – Government buildings in this major oil terminal and strategically-located Persian Gulf port were still smoldering this morning after day-long clashes yesterday between several thousand protesters and security forces.

Trouble started when a large crowd gathered outside the governor's office to protest against the planned transfer of the local hospital to the nearby town of Borazjan. When officials in the governor's office refused to give in to their demands, angry young men began chanting slogans against the governor and clashed with local police. The confrontation quickly turned violent and protesters seized the governor's office. Across the town, protesters attacked government buildings, including the mayor's office and the customs department, and set fire to police vehicles. A dozen demonstrators were injured in the clashes, as anti-riot units of the State Security Forces came to the aid of the local police. Security agents beat up the protesters with truncheons and fired shots to disperse the crowds. Dozens of protesters were arrested and taken for questioning.