



IRAN TODAY & TOMORROW

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

The Committee in Support of Referendum in Iran (CSRI), a 501(c)(4), 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

April 30, 2007

No. 237

Iran's nuclear threat

Iran Dismisses Talk of Partial Freeze in Atom Work



April 29, 2007-TEHRAN - Iran dismissed on Sunday any suggestion it might

agree to partially suspend its uranium enrichment activities as a way towards ending an international standoff over its nuclear program. Some diplomats and analysts say Iran and the six world powers handling Iran's atomic file may eventually need to accept a partial enrichment freeze under strict U.N. inspections to overcome the deadlock. Both sides have publicly denied this. When asked about a possible partial suspension of Iran's nuclear work, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Ali Hosseini told a regular news briefing: "What has been said about suspension is not correct and it is not true."

More Iran defiance will bring new sanctions: Bush



April 27, 2007-CAMP DAVID, Maryland- US President George W. Bush

said Friday that if Iran continues to defy the UN Security Council's demand to curtail its nuclear program, the result will be new sanctions and greater isolation. Speaking during a summit with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Bush said the two countries "speak with one voice" to the Tehran regime. "Our nations have fully implemented the sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council in response to Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons. "Further defiance by Iran will only lead to additional sanctions and to further isolation from the international community," Bush said. The US president was referring to two rounds of sanctions voted by the Security Council against Iran for refusing to halt its uranium enrichment program. The US and key western powers believe the program is aimed at producing nuclear weapons, while Iran insists it has only peaceful intentions.

Iran must cease all uranium reprocessing: Rice



April 26, 2007-OSLO - US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Thursday

that Iran must stop all uranium reprocessing activities in order to head off further UN sanctions. Rice reiterated an offer by the United States and its major power allies of trade and political incentives for Iran as well as the start of direct negotiations if Tehran accepted UN demands to stop uranium enrichment.

"The only condition for beginning those discussions ... is that Iran suspend its enrichment and reprocessing activities," Rice said during a visit to Oslo for talks with NATO and Russian foreign ministers. "What we can't have is Iran practicing enrichment and reprocessing, because that's what they're doing -- you get better at it over time -- at the same time that we're in negotiations," she said. Rice said Iran had proven it could not be trusted on the issue by hiding its enrichment efforts from international inspectors for nearly 20 years. "There is no confidence about Iran's intentions here, they appear to be moving toward a nuclear weapon," she said.

Iran's meddling in Iraq and Lebanon

As British draw down, violence in Basra is up



April 29, 2007-BASRA, IRAQ - ...The increase in violence comes as Britain begins to disengage from southern Iraq, leaving Shiite political parties and their militias to battle over the spoils. At stake is control of political patronage in Iraq's second-largest city and of the billions of dollars in oil that flow through the country's only seaport. British and Iraqi officials have struggled to explain the increase in violence. Some theorize that rival militias are vying to claim the honor of having driven out "occupiers." Others suggest that Iran is fomenting the bloodshed by providing weapons, training and funding to the factions fighting British and U.S. troops on its doorstep.

U.S. says has nabbed four "terrorists" in Iraq with Iranian EFPs



April 28, 2007-London, – The United States military announced on Friday that it had arrested four "suspected terrorists" with links to Iran during an operation in the Baghdad slum Sadr City. In a statement, the Multi-National Force – Iraq (MNF-I) said that the individuals targeted during the raid were suspected members of a "secret cell terrorist network known for facilitating the transport of weapons and explosively formed penetrators, or EFPs, from Iran to Iraq, as well as bringing militants from Iraq to Iran for terrorist training". The following is the full text of the statement:

BEGINS

FOUR SUSPECTED SECRET CELL TERRORISTS DETAINED

Friday, 27 April 2007

**MULTI-NATIONAL FORCE-IRAQ
COMBINED PRESS INFORMATION CENTER
BAGHDAD, Iraq**

<http://www.mnf-iraq.com>

703.270.0320 / 0299

April 27, 2007

Release A070427d

REPLACES Release A070427c

CORRECTION TO PRESS RELEASE A070427c:

FOUR SUSPECTED SECRET CELL TERRORISTS DETAINED

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Coalition Forces detained four suspected terrorists Friday morning during an operation in Sadr City. The individuals targeted during the raid are suspected members of a secret cell terrorist network known for facilitating the transport of weapons and explosively formed penetrators, or EFPs, from Iran to Iraq, as well as bringing militants from Iraq to Iran for terrorist training. Intelligence reports also indicate the secret cell has ties to a kidnapping network that conducts attacks within Iraq. "Individuals coming into Iraq from other countries for the purpose of endangering Iraqi civilians and disrupting security won't be tolerated," said Lt. Col. Christopher Garver, MNF-I spokesperson. "We will continue to work diligently to rid Iraq of foreign terrorists trying to thwart the development of a stable and peaceful Iraq."

4 Iraqis Held on Suspicion of Smuggling Iranian Arms



April 28, 2007-BAGHDAD — The American military said Friday that it had detained four Iraqi men suspected of helping smuggle deadly homemade bombs from Iran to Iraq and taking guerrillas from Iraq to Iran for training. The men were detained in the morning during an

operation in Sadr City, a vast Shiite neighborhood in eastern Baghdad whose residents are mostly loyal to the radical Shiite cleric Moktada al-Sadr. The district is the base of a powerful militia, the Mahdi Army that Mr. Sadr founded and that rebelled twice against the Americans in 2004. "Individuals coming into Iraq from other countries for the purpose of endangering Iraqi civilians and disrupting security won't be tolerated," Lt. Col. Christopher Garver, a military spokesman, said in the statement. "We will continue to work diligently to rid Iraq of foreign terrorists trying to thwart the development of a stable and peaceful Iraq."

US, Iraqi raid in Mahmudiyah nets Iranian-marked rockets, mortars

MNFI website, April 28, 2007-Mahmudiyah, Iraq – A U.S. and Iraqi raid in a Mahmudiyah apartment complex detained eight suspected extremists and discovered three caches containing mortar systems, rockets and ammunition April 22. Soldiers of the unit examined the weapons, which were stamped with recent dates and Iranian markings. Also found was bulk ammunition for a PKC machine gun. The munitions were seized for further investigation.

Thompson: Iran helping kill U.S. troops



April 28, 2007-IRVING, Texas - Fred Thompson, the politician

and actor considering a White House bid, said Friday he favors helping the Iranian people overthrow the government of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad if the chance arises. The former Tennessee senator accused Tehran of "playing a larger part in killing our soldiers" in neighboring Iraq. Many Iranians don't like their government, "and I think we ought to capitalize on that," Thompson told The Associated Press. "There is a chance they may mobilize themselves, and we need to assist them if that happens."

General Says Iraq Pullback Would Increase Violence



April 27, 2007-WASHINGTON- The top military commander

in Iraq, Gen. David H. Petraeus, warned Thursday that an American troop pullback this fall would lead to an escalation in sectarian killings and worsening violence. In his comments on Thursday, as well as in private briefings to lawmakers a day earlier, according to one lawmaker who was involved, he talked about numerous obstacles to stabilizing the country, including evidence of new assistance going to Al Qaeda of Mesopotamia from outside Iraq and what he called "exceedingly unhelpful activities" by Iranian-backed Shiite militants. American forces, he said, found evidence of this in a 22-page document on a computer seized during a raid last month that outlined details of a Jan. 20 attack on the provincial headquarters in Karbala in which five American soldiers were abducted and killed. Also worrisome, he said, was the continued evidence that Iran was providing support to Shiite militants. Citing the computer document American troops seized in the Karbala raid last month, he said...the document appeared to be a record of attacks by a militant cell that it intended to hand over to the Iranian Revolutionary Guard. Also worrisome, he said, was the continued evidence that Iran was providing support to Shiite militants. "There are numerous documents which detailed a number of different attacks on coalition forces, and our sense is that these records were kept so they could be handed in to whoever it is who is financing them," General Petraeus said.

Petraeus: More Iran involvement in Iraq



April 26, 2007-WASHINGTON- Iran's role in fomenting violence in Iraq is greater

than the U.S. military understood even a month ago, Gen. David Petraeus said Thursday. Iraqi Shiite militia members -- a secret cell of the Jaysh al-Mahdi, which is loyal to cleric Muqtada Sadr -- have received funding, advanced explosives and training on Iranian soil, and "in some cases advice and ... even a degree of direction," Petraeus, the commander of U.S. ground forces in Iraq, said. There's no question ... that Iranian financing is taking place through the Quds force of the Iranian Republican Guards Corps," he said. The U.S. military is holding the leaders of the Khazali cell that in January attacked a U.S. Army team in Karbala, kidnapping four and killing five. The Iranian involvement has really become much clearer to us and brought into much more focus during the interrogation of ... the heads of the Khazali network, and some of the key members of that network that have been in detention now for a month or more," Petraeus said. We think that records are kept so that the individuals that carry out these attacks can demonstrate what they're doing to those who are providing the resources to them, providing the additional funding, training, arms, ammunition, advanced technologies and so forth," Petraeus said.

'Iran's Quds Force helped kill 5 US troops in Iraq'



April 26, 2007 - US General David Petraeus, head of the coalition forces in Iraq, accused Iran's secretive Quds Force Thursday of helping an armed network that killed five US soldiers in January in the Shiite shrine city of Kerbala. Petraeus acknowledged in Washington that a complex and "very tough" situation existed in Iraq, but also accused Iran's Quds Force of helping an Iraqi network to murder five US soldiers in Kerbala. In March, the military announced the arrest of two brothers, Qais and Laith Khazali, in connection with the murders of five soldiers. Petraeus now says the Khazalis were supported by Iran's Quds Force. "There is no question that the Al-Khazali network was connected to the Iranian Quds Force - received money, training, arms, ammunition, and at some points in time even advice and assistance," he told reporters.

Human rights violations in Iran

Women Bear Brunt of Tehran's Crackdown



April 28, 2007-BEIRUT, Lebanon - Iranian police shoved and kicked them, loaded them into a curtained minibus and drove them away. Hours later, at the gates of Evin prison, they were blindfolded and forced to wear all-enveloping chadors, and then were interrogated through the night. All 31 were women -- activists accused of receiving foreign funds to stir up dissent in Iran. But their real crime, says Mahboubeh Abbasgholizadeh, was gathering peacefully outside Tehran's Revolutionary Court in support of five fellow activists on trial for demanding changes in laws that discriminate against women. Activists say that while world attention has focused on the West's standoff with Iran over its nuclear program, the abuses of women's rights have intensified, using fear of a U.S. attack as a pretext.

Iran to filter "immoral" mobile messages



April 28, 2007-TEHRAN - Iran's Telecommunications Ministry will start filtering "immoral" video and audio messages sent via mobile phones, state television reported on Saturday. The Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution, a body set up after Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution, has instructed the ministry to buy the equipment needed to prevent any misuse of Multimedia Messaging Service (MMS), it said. MMS allows users to send multimedia messages that include images, video and audio. "...in order to prevent possible misuse of MMS, immoral actions and social problems, the Telecommunications Ministry will filter immoral MMS," the television said.

Amnesty: Iran's Execution Rate Nearly Doubled Compared to 2005



April 28, 2007- More than nine in 10 of all known executions in the world took place in China, Iran, Pakistan, Iraq, Sudan and the United States last year, but the global total dropped to 1,591 from 2,148 in 2005, according to an Amnesty International report released yesterday in Rome. Iran executed at least 177 people last year, Pakistan at least 82, and Iraq and Sudan at least 65 each, according to the report.

Iran: 150,000 women detained for breaking dress code

Adnkronos International, April 26, 2007-Tehran - Some 150,000 women have been detained in Iran for violating strict new Islamic dress code rules, the country's top police officer has announced. "During the first four days [since the code came into effect] we have picked up 150,000 women who were not properly veiled, but many of them were released after they signed an admission of guilt and a formal apology," General Ismail Ahmadi Moghaddam told journalists. However, 203 legislators in Iran's Majlis parliament in a letter addressed to Moghaddam, expressed their support for the way police acted. Radical Islamist deputy, Seyyed Mehdi Tabatabai, said that "those who do not respect the dress code and who refuse to wear the hijab have no place in an Islam country and should leave."

Iran: Student Spokesman Arrested



AKI, April 25, 2007-Tehran -The spokesman of the Muslim Students Association at a Tehran polytechnic was arrested on Wednesday, Iranian news agency ILNA reports. Babak Zamanian was reportedly arrested because of interviews he gave to Farsi language radio stations that broadcast outside Iran. The students of the Amir Kabir Polytechnic made front page news around the world last December when they managed to prevent President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, on a visit to their campus, from making his speech. It was the first time since his landslide victory in June 2005 that Ahmadinejad had been challenged in public.

Dozens of protesters burned pictures of the Iranian president crying 'dictator go away', 'death to dictatorship' and threw firecrackers, forcing him to interrupt several times a speech and leave before scheduled.

'Uncovered' women target of crackdown



Times Wire Reports, April 25, 2007- Iranian police have arrested nearly 300 women accused of not covering up enough, some for wearing too tight an overcoat or letting too much hair show from under their veil, authorities said. The campaign in major cities is the toughest such crackdown in nearly two decades, raising fear that hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad intends to reimpose tough Islamic constraints on women's dress that had loosened in recent years. The 2-day-old crackdown was already angering moderates.

"They don't understand that use of force only brings hatred toward them," said Elham Mohammadi, 23, a student.

Feature

Dealing with the Iranian Threat in Iraq



Global Politician, April 28, 2007 -Professor Daniel M. Zucker - After more than four years of war in Iraq, it is now clear that much of the continued violence in Iraq is due to the interference of the Islamic Republic of Iran and its proxy agents in the internal affairs of its western neighbor. Iran, through its support of the Shi'ite fundamentalist parties—Moqtada al-Sadr's Al-Daawa and Abdul-Aziz al-Hakim's SCIRI (the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq)--and their respective militias (Jaish al-Mahdi, and the Badr and Wolf Brigades) and through the deployment of its Sepah al-Qods (the Iranian regime's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps' most secretive, elite, and skilled unit, responsible for all terror attacks abroad), has effectively gained significant influence and control over Iraqi society, especially in the south around Basra. So too, through monetary and logistical support of al-Qa'eda in Iraq, the IRI has managed to keep Iraqi Shi'ites and Sunnis at each others throats and prevented the United States from succeeding in introducing a western style democracy to the region. Iraq is now the premier battleground in the war between Islamic fundamentalism as represented by both the Tehran regime and al-Qa'eda, and those oriented towards a modern, non-fundamentalist, secular, democratic society, which in Iraq includes over half of the total population.