



# 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

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### Iran's nuclear threat

#### Treasury freezes US assets of 2 Iranians

**AP** Associated Press

**June 15, 2007-WASHINGTON** - The Bush administration took action Friday against two Iranians suspected of connections to Iran's nuclear program. The Treasury Department action, part of efforts to tighten the financial vise on Tehran, is against Mohammad Qannadi and Ali Hajinia Leilabadi.

Any bank accounts or other financial assets belonging to these two men found in the United States must be frozen. In addition, American are forbidden from doing business with them. It marked the department's latest move to use targeted financial measures against Iran, a country the United States accused of fostering terrorism and whose nuclear ambitions have drawn international rebuke. "Even individuals who are active in Iran's nuclear program are going to be held to account for their conduct and isolated by the international financial community," said Stuart Levey, the department's

#### US concerned about possible secret Iranian atomic work: ambassador



**June 14, 2007-VIENNA**- Iran's refusal to give early notification of new nuclear facilities raises concerns about possible secret atomic work, the US ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said Wednesday. Gregory Schulte said in an interview with AFP that Iran was clearly working to master uranium enrichment, the process that makes fuel for civilian nuclear reactors or, at highly refined levels, atom bombs. Schulte said this is a concern "because Iran has a history of developing covert facilities. Iran has a history of undeclared activities and Iran has not only a history but at present is refusing to provide full information on its centrifuge program, including what they are doing in terms of work on advanced centrifuges," the machines that enrich uranium.

#### US Treasury chief urges allies to help cut off Iran's banks



**Jun 14, 2007-WASHINGTON** - The US war on terror is increasingly focusing on Iran's Revolutionary Guard as a source of "funding and training (for) other terrorist groups," Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson said Thursday. "It is well known that Iran is pursuing nuclear weapons in violation of international agreements and channeling hundreds of millions of dollars to terrorist groups," Paulson said in an address to the Council on Foreign Relations. He said Treasury officials were "increasingly focused" on the dealings of Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps which Paulson claimed helps fund and train "other terrorist groups." "It is increasingly likely that if you are doing business with Iran, you are somehow doing business with

#### Iran faces more sanctions over nuclear advances: EU

**REUTERS**  **June 13, 2007-VIENNA** - EU powers told Iran on Wednesday it faced further sanctions for expanding uranium enrichment and curbing U.N. inspectors' access to its nuclear program. "Iran continues to ignore its obligations and has not taken any steps to build confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of its program," Britain, France and Germany told the International Atomic Energy Agency's board of governors in a joint statement. Sharper Western criticism at the IAEA meeting set the tone for a third round of broader sanctions likely to be drafted by six world powers in coming weeks, barring a reversal by Iran, which its Islamic leaders have repeatedly ruled out. "If Iran refuses to change course, we shall have no alternative to returning again to the U.N. Security Council," said British IAEA ambassador John MacGregor, speaking for the three European Union powers. "If Iran does not re-engage in discussions, further action in New York remains unavoidable," Klaus-Peter Gottwald, Germany's ambassador to the U.N. watchdog, told reporters.

### Iran brushes off new sanctions threat in atom row

**REUTERS**  **June 13, 2007-TEHRAN** - Iran's president said on Wednesday his country was not concerned about any further U.N. resolutions over Tehran's nuclear program and would not allow the West to block Iranian scientific progress. "The Iranian nation does not give the slightest value to your resolutions," President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said in a televised speech in Semnan, a city east of the capital. The U.N. Security Council has imposed two rounds of sanctions on Iran for its failure to halt atomic work which Iran insists has only civilian applications but which the West believes is a covert operation to make atomic bombs.

### Iran uses fronts to avoid U.N. sanctions



**June 13, 2007-** Iran is using newly created front companies in a bid to frustrate U.S. and

United Nations sanctions on its suspect nuclear programs, according to records and information supplied by a leading Iranian exile dissident group. In two cases, Iranian authorities have simply changed the name and headquarters mailing address for companies recently targeted for sanctions by the U.S. Treasury and the U.N. Security Council. Both firms-- the Pars Tarash Co. and the Farayand Technique Co. -- are involved in the testing, production and storage of centrifuges needed to enrich uranium, a critical technical hurdle in the production of nuclear weapons. The charges about the use of the new front companies were made by the Paris-based National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), which supports the overthrow of the regime in Tehran. Council press spokesman Shahin Gobadi said the charges showed the futility of negotiations and compromise to get Iran to give up its nuclear ambitions. "The mullahs will never give up on their quest to obtain a nuclear bomb," he said, calling for "comprehensive technological, weapons, diplomatic and oil sanctions" on Tehran. The NCRI is the political arm of the People's Mojahedin, a secular Iranian umbrella group that broke

violently with the Islamic leaders of the 1979 revolution shortly after the ouster of U.S.-backed Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. The U.S. Treasury Department on Friday named both Pars Tarash and Farayand Technique in a new sanctions order, freezing any of their assets in the United States and banning any trade with U.S. firms and citizens.

### US warns firms trading with Iran



**June 13, 2007-Washington** -The US is threatening to get much tougher with international energy companies that do business with Iran. Oil firms may face fines and other penalties if they sign deals to develop Iranian reserves of oil and gas, a State Department source told the BBC. The statement marks an escalation of US financial pressure aimed at persuading Tehran to abandon alleged plans to develop nuclear weapons. A law already on the statute book gives the US government wide ranging authority to penalise companies doing business with Iran the IRGC," he said.

### U.N. Monitor Urges Defusing of Stalemate Over Iran

**The New York Times**  **June 12, 2007-WASHINGTON-** The director general of the United Nations nuclear inspection agency warned Tehran and Washington for the first time on Monday that their yearlong stalemate over Iran's nuclear activities was turning into a "brewing confrontation" that he said "urgently needs to be defused." In his statement to the member countries of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the director general, Mohamed ElBaradei, stopped just short of saying that the confrontation could become a military conflict, though his aides said that was clearly the implication.

## IAEA Warns Of Iran Atomic Risk Amid EU - Tehran Talks

**REUTERS** 

**June 11, 2007-VIENNA** - Iran's nuclear behavior poses a serious concern it might gain the ability to build atom bombs, the U.N. atomic watchdog agency said on Monday as Tehran and the EU resumed talks but dampened expectations of a breakthrough. Underlining tensions, Tehran cancelled a meeting set between its deputy nuclear negotiator and two top International Atomic Energy Agency officials as he was loath to discuss substance on IAEA questions about Iranian activity, diplomats said. Javad Vaeedi did meet Robert Cooper, a top aide to European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana, for 4 1/2 hours to smooth the way to further talks between Solana and Iranian chief negotiator Ali Larijani. Vaeedi called the session "constructive" and Cooper spoke of "progress." But both cautioned people not to expect "miracles."

There was no sign of headway towards settling the core dispute. Iran refuses to suspend its expanding nuclear fuel program in exchange for a suspension in U.N. sanctions and negotiations on trade benefits offered by world powers.

## Iran's meddling in Iraq

### Iraqi Political Sources: Iran and Maleki are the beneficiaries of the explosion in the Holy Shrine

**NCRI, June 15, 2007-** Almalaf website reported: Iraqi political sources believe that those who planned the destruction of the minarets of the Holy Shrine in Samarra are the ones who plan to undermine the newly formed political establishment and continue in crisis mode to remain in power. The article continues: "The explosion of the minarets of the Holy Shrine occurred after the Supreme National Security Council of Iran in a meeting decided to intensify acts of terrorism in Iraq. This was reported on Tuesday by Almalaf. "This is happening at a time when the shadow of a U.S. military action against Iran is looming. These explosions again muddle up the issues in Iraq and in the region. The real question is who benefits from this chaos?"

### Iran FM: U.S. Will Regret Detention of 5 Iranians in Iraq

**FOX News, June 12, 2007-TEHRAN, Iran** - Iran will make the United States "regret" its detention of five Iranian officials in Iraq, Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said Tuesday. Mottaki was referring to five Iranian officials detained in the northern Iraqi city of Irbil by U.S. troops in January, who still remain in U.S. custody. The U.S. military has said they are suspected of links to a network supplying arms to Iraqi insurgents — an accusation that Iran has denied. "We will make the Americans regret their ugly and illegal act," Mottaki was quoted by the official IRNA news agency as saying. He didn't elaborate on how Iran will make Washington regret the action. Unconfirmed reports say the five included the operations chief and other members of Iran's elite Quds Force, which is accused of arming and training Iraqi militants.

## EU parliamentarians urge to remove PMOI from the list

### Italian Parliament resolution urges implementation of EU Court ruling on Iranian opposition

**Italian Radio, June 15, 2007-** At the eve of the meeting of the EU Council of Ministers, the Foreign Relations committee of the Italian Parliament unanimously adopted a resolution urging the Italian government to respect the ruling of December 12th, 2006 by the EU Court of First Instance which annulled the EU

Council of Ministers' decision to include Peoples Mojahedin of Iran in the terrorist list.

### Outdated Facts on Iranian Opposition

**Danish News Agency (Ritzau), June 14, 2007-** EU is presenting outdated evidence from six years ago to keep the Iranian opposition group in the terrorist list but the attorneys and politicians denote that these are old facts and this group must be de-listed. "Although their evidence is 6 years old, EU insists in keeping the group in the list. The EU and Danish government have always overlooked presenting any documents to justify the listing of Iranian Mojahedine- Khalgh (MEK)." "Muller, the Danish Foreign Minister has sent a top secret letter to the European Committee of the Parliament explaining that Iranian MEK had a number of hit and run operations in 2000 and 2001 against the Iranian forces, police branches and governmental offices at the Iran-Iraq border. "Jurists and politicians have criticized this information. They emphasize that the European Union should only review the past 6 months and decide if there is a reason to keep individuals or groups in the list."

## Human rights violations

## Iran ranks among worst human trafficking states – U.S.



**IRAN FOCUS June 12, 2007-London** - The U.S. State Department accused Iran on Tuesday of being a major hub of human trafficking. The State Department 2007 annual Trafficking in Persons Report listed Iran alongside Algeria, Equatorial Guinea, North Korea, Sudan, Bahrain, Oman, Syria, Burma, Kuwait, Qatar, Uzbekistan, Cuba, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela as the worse offenders. "Iran is a source, transit, and destination country for women trafficked for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation and involuntary servitude", the report said. "Iranian women are trafficked internally for the purpose of forced prostitution and forced marriages to settle debts. Children are trafficked internally and from Afghanistan for the purpose of forced marriages, commercial sexual exploitation, and involuntary servitude as beggars or laborers.

"According to nongovernmental sources, Iranian women and girls are also trafficked to Pakistan, Turkey, Qatar, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, France, Germany, and the United Kingdom for commercial sexual exploitation. Media sources reported that 54 Iranian females between the ages of 16 and 25 are sold into commercial sexual exploitation in Pakistan every day.

## Iranian arms in Afghanistan

### Gates Links Tehran to Arms Entering Afghanistan

**The New York Times**  
ON THE WEB

**June 13, 2007- RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany** - Iranian

weapons are entering Afghanistan on such a scale that it is hard to believe Iran's government is not aware of the movement, Defense Secretary Robert Gates said on Wednesday. U.S. officials have said for several months that they have evidence of Iranian weapons entering Afghanistan but have stopped short of linking the arms to the Iranian government. But Gates said he had seen more information since the original evidence was uncovered. "I have seen additional analysis in the interval that makes it pretty clear there's a fairly substantial flow of weapons," he said on a visit to U.S. military bases in Germany. "Given the quantities that we're seeing, it is difficult to believe that it's associated with smuggling or the drug business or that it's taking place without the knowledge of the Iranian government," he told reporters

### Afghan Forces Found Bomb Like Type Used in Iraq

**The New York Times**  
ON THE WEB

**June 12, 2007-KABUL, Afghanistan** - Afghan security

forces found a sophisticated roadside bomb of the type used in Iraq in the center of Kabul last month, the first time such a device has been discovered in the capital, an Afghan intelligence official said Monday. The bomb was primed to hit a convoy of high-ranking Afghan officials or international forces, the official said. Roadside bombs of the E.F.P. type have been frequently used in Iraq, and military officials there have said the sophisticated bombs have their origin in neighboring Iran. Colonel Carl said that the Kabul bomb was the second such bomb found in Afghanistan, and that it was a little more sophisticated than the first, which was found in April in western Afghanistan, a region that borders Iran. at Ramstein Air Base in western Germany.

### General: Iran Aids Karzai, Maybe Taliban

**The New York Times**  
ON THE WEB

**June 12, 2007-KABUL, Afghanistan** - Iran gives political

and material support to President Hamid Karzai's Western-backed government, but it also may be aiding the Taliban as a way of hedging its bets in neighboring Afghanistan, NATO's top general here said Monday. In an interview with The Associated Press, U.S. Army Gen. Dan McNeill said Taliban fighters are showing signs of better training, using combat techniques comparable to "an advanced Western military" in ambushes of U.S. Special Forces soldiers. Iran's possible role in aiding insurgents in Iraq has long been hotly debated, and last month some Western and Persian Gulf governments charged that the Islamic government in Tehran is secretly bolstering Taliban fighters. "In Afghanistan it is clear that the Taliban is receiving support, including arms from ... elements of the Iranian regime," British Prime Minister Tony Blair wrote in the May 31 edition of the Economist.

## Feature

### MEK sense



**June 15, 2007 By Tom Tancredo and Bob Filner**

Since the theocratic regime of Ayatollah Khomeini seized power in 1979, and under Khomeini's successors, Iran has consistently out-manuevered the United States and our allies through a crafty combination of diplomatic manipulation; exploitation of commercial considerations; support for terrorists and kidnapers; the use of proxy agents in Iraq, Lebanon and elsewhere; and, in recent years, playing the nuclear card. Earlier this year, we were relieved to see the 15 British sailors and marines return home from their captivity in Iran unharmed. But it is shocking and galling that Iran managed to win a propaganda victory over the West through a brazen act of piracy on the high seas and clear violations of the Geneva Conventions' rules on the treatment of prisoners. Also this month, U.S. military commanders have reported that Iran is supplying weapons to both Sunni and Shi'ite militias in Iraq — directly putting our troops at risk of death or serious injury, while causing a terrible toll for thousands of Iraqis on both sides of the Sunni-Shi'ite divide. And just in the past few days, in utter defiance of the world community, Iranian officials have confirmed that 3,000 centrifuges used to enrich uranium are in place at the illicit nuclear facility at Natanz and that the goal is to eventually install 50,000 centrifuges. These recent developments, on top of Iran's ongoing efforts to spread its extremist jihadist ideology, have brought us to a crisis point in dealing with the Iranian threat. We need to develop a better strategy to protect our national interests and the security of our friends and allies in the region. As members of Congress from opposite sides of the aisle, we have been working for years to inject new policy ideas into the U.S. framework for dealing with Iran. It is clear that the United States and the international community must make better use of all the tools at our disposal for dealing with the multiple threats emanating from Iran. These tools include a range of financial and economic sanctions. Bipartisan legislation is currently pending in Congress to strengthen existing sanctions regimes by preventing new investment in Iran's oil and gas sector and requiring the divestiture of existing investments. We strongly support our colleagues' initiatives in these areas. But, to be truly effective, sanctions must be multilateral. Tehran has been able to count on China and Russia to push for the weakening of measures proposed by the United States. The official U.S. line regarding our policy toward Iran is that "all options are on the table." Yet there is one vitally important option that is not "on the table," but should be: empowering the Iranian democratic opposition, in general, and, specifically, recognizing one of the most effective and best organized Iranian opposition movement, the Mujahedin e-Khalq (MEK). The Iranian government has gone to tremendous lengths, both directly and indirectly, to discredit and weaken the MEK, largely through disinformation programs. Why is the regime so obsessively focused on a relatively small opposition group based largely in the Iranian diaspora? The MEK is a moderate, democratic, secular organization that has consistently opposed the regime's extremist policies with a message of democratic reform and individual freedom — a message that Iran's ruling mullahs don't want their people to hear. Furthermore, the MEK has been a remarkably reliable source of intelligence on Iran's clandestine nuclear program and on Iranian meddling in Iraq. But, in a bizarre twist of U.S. policy, the MEK has been labeled by the State Department as a foreign terrorist organization, originally placed on the blacklist in 1997 as a concession to "moderates" in Tehran who were then believed to be ascendant — one of the regime's key strategic victories over America and the West during the past three decades of fruitless negotiations. Listing the MEK as "terrorists" is both an injustice and manifestly contrary to U.S. interests. To remedy this situation, there is growing bipartisan support in Congress to urge Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to remove the MEK from the terrorist list, using procedures enacted into law in 2004 to de-designate listed organizations that no longer qualify for such treatment. The MEK has voluntarily disarmed and renounced violence. Despite inaccurate information to the contrary, the MEK has never targeted U.S. citizens or interests. The MEK, and the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), a coalition of which MEK is a member, have tremendous reach inside of Iran and a capacity to help build a successful grassroots movement to bring about democratic reform. From its base in Iraq, where 3,800 MEK members live under the protection of coalition forces, the organization has provided intelligence on Iran's support for terrorism in Iraq. Lt. Gen. David Odierno, commander of the Multinational Corps-Iraq, has described the MEK as "extremely cooperative" in ensuring security. An Iran committed to a belligerent, revolutionary agenda will continue to threaten its neighbors and global security. Long-term stability in the Middle East depends upon a stable, secular, democratic Iran that does not export terror, violent upheaval and a radical ideology. Our efforts should be directed at fostering democratic change within Iran by empowering the very opposition organizations that share our goals and values. [Rep. Tom Tancredo, a Republican, represents Colorado's 6th Congressional District.](#) [Rep. Bob Filner, a Democrat, represents California's 51st Congressional District.](#)

### **Tehran's Tentacles**

**Chicago Tribune, June 15, 2007-** It's impossible to talk about Hamas, apparently on the verge of vanquishing a rival Palestinian faction in Gaza on Wednesday, without talking about Iran. Iran has been arming Hamas terrorists via smuggling tunnels under the Egypt-Gaza border. A Hamas takeover of Gaza would create immense new security problems for Israel and potentially carve out a terrorist haven in the region. It's impossible to talk about the Taliban resurgence in Afghanistan without noting that Iran is now apparently helping to arm its erstwhile arch foes. On Wednesday, Defense Secretary Robert Gates said that sizable shipments of Iranian weapons are flowing to the Taliban, probably with the knowledge of the Iranian government. It's impossible to view the Wednesday bombing of two minarets at the revered Shiite shrine of Askariya in Iraq -- raising the threat of a renewed sectarian bloodbath -- without acknowledging that any setback for the U.S. security plan is a victory for Tehran. In short, it's impossible to view the serious

violence that erupted across the Middle East on Wednesday -- and the portents for even greater trouble in the region -- without tracing the significant and rising influence of Iran. Now imagine a Tehran with nuclear weapons -- and the ability to spread nuclear expertise to its terrorist clients throughout the region.

### **Barren Negotiations With Iran Come As No Surprise**

**Global Politician, June 13, 2007 By Hedayat Mostowfi-** The much anticipated negotiations between the United States and Iran started underway on Monday, May 28, 2007. Once more the negotiations were announced as a "breakthrough". But realistically, what can be anticipated from these negotiations? Communication with the Iranian mullahs has never been a problem. Both countries have communicated during the Iran-Contra crisis, during the tenure of the Clinton administration and before the invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq. The problem has been the behavior of the Iranian mullahs. So, the fact that Monday's negotiations bore no actual result should not come as a surprise. The US wants the Iranian regime to stop providing weapons, money, and training for terrorist militias in Iraq and to stop interfering in Iraq's internal affairs. The mullahs have already proclaimed the negotiations to be a sign of US acknowledgement of Iranian power in the region. However, the mullahs aim to take full control of Iraq; this is Iran's objective. The goals of the two states are as far apart as they could possibly be