



# 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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April 15, 2005

No. 151

### Iran Policy: Third Option

#### **Thousands attend Iran convention in US Capital**

**Iran Focus, Apr. 14** - Iranian-Americans from across the United States gathered in the Constitution Hall in Washington, DC yesterday to take part in what they called Iranian-American National Convention for Democratic Change in Iran.

Congressman Bob Filner (D-CA), joint-chair of the Iran Human Rights and Democracy Caucus of the U.S. House of Representative; Congressman Tom Tancredo (R-CO), a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee in Congress and Co-chair of the Caucus; Congressman Dennis Moore (D-KS); and Congressman Ted Poe (R-TX) were among the speakers who offered their support to the Iranian people's efforts to topple the clerical regime and replace it with a secular, democratic government.

The crowd gave rapturous applause to words of support from Republican Senators Kay Hutchinson from Texas and James Talent from Missouri.

A number of former government officials, human rights activists, and parliamentarians from other countries also spoke at this convention. They included Dr. Neil Livingstone, a Washington-based terrorism expert and author; Prof. Donna Hughes, Chair of Women's Studies at the University of Rhode Island, and Paul Enzinna, a lawyer from former Secretary of State James Baker's law firm, Baker Botts.

Two former officers of the U.S. Army, Col. Kenneth Cantwell and Army lawyer Captain Vivian Gembara, both of whom served year-long tours of duty in Iraq, addressed the convention, as did Rep. Paul Forseth from the Canadian Parliament.

Speaker after speaker called on the U.S. government to remove the People's Mojahedin of Iran (PMOI), the main Iranian opposition group, from the State Department's list of Foreign Terrorist Organizations. Several speakers said the terror tag was a key impediment to change in Iran at a time when the country is ripe for such change.

Iranian opposition leader Maryam Rajavi addressed the convention via live video link from her home north of Paris. She urged all Iranians from different religions and political tendencies to "come together in greater unity for the sake of bringing about democratic change in Iran".

Delegates representing Iranian communities in 40 states across the U.S., including California, Colorado, Texas, New York, New Jersey, Kansas, Missouri, Georgia, Florida, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Ohio, declared their support for Rajavi's rejection of "appeasement or war" as policy options for dealing with Iran, saying that "the only way to bring about democratic change in Iran is to support the efforts of the Iranian people and their resistance".

The State Department designated the PMOI as a terrorist organization in 1997 in what Clinton administration officials said was part of efforts to thaw relations with Tehran.



REUTERS 

Thu Apr 14, 4:09 PM ET

Iranian Americans cheer during the first National Convention for a Democratic, Secular Iran in Washington April 14, 2005. State delegations of Iranian Americans across the U.S. converged on Washington to build a consensus for democratic change by the Iranian people in their country. REUTERS/Jason Reed

### **Iran Policy Committee tells Congressional hearing that change in Iran is possible through opposition, stresses need to lift restrictions from PMOI**

**United Press International, Apr. 7** –A Washington think tank is lobbying members of Congress to have the Iranian Mujahedeen e-Khalq organization removed from the U.S. foreign terrorist list. Iran Policy Committee member Raymond Tanter, a former National Security Council official under the Reagan administration, said "Iran's nuclear clock is ticking very fast" and many of MeK's supporters see it as a way to create change in Iran so that moderate Iranians can decide the nation's future. MEK is a group with elements in France and Iraq and has opposed Iran's leadership for more than 40 years...

The meeting, held Wednesday, drew over 80 members of Congress. IPC counts former civilian and military officials as its members. It stated in a release Thursday that Wednesday's meeting was initiated by the Iran Human Rights and Democracy Caucus of the U.S. House of Representative. "If Iran were to acquire the bomb before the people are able to change the regime, it might obtain a new lease on life ... and threaten U.S. interests in the region," said Tanter.

## Nuclear proliferation

### **Iran says will never give up uranium enrichment**

**Reuters, Apr. 10**- Iran will not abandon uranium enrichment, despite its negotiations with the European Union on its nuclear programme, a senior official said on Sunday....

Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi said uranium enrichment was Iran's legitimate right, reiterating comments made almost daily by Iranian officials. "Iran will never give up its (uranium) enrichment activities," Asefi told a weekly news conference. "Iran's uranium enrichment suspension is only for a short period of time," Asefi said. "It will be until reaching an agreement with the EU." The European Union says that if Iran resumes enrichment, it will support a U.S. plan to refer Tehran to the U.N. Security Council, which could impose economic sanctions.

### **Extremely dangerous nuclear program with a history full of terrorism**

**As-Siyassa daily, Apr. 8** – After an Iranian official threatened to halt oil exports, US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice announced that the United States will not submit to Iran's blackmail.

She said in remarks to the Conference of US Columnists that Iran's nuclear program is extremely dangerous and previous inability to prevent manufacturing of atomic bombs – reference to Pakistan and India – does not mean failure to prevent this by other countries in the future, especially since Iran has a history full of terrorism.

Rice said Palestinian parties that try to destroy hopes for peace receive the most help from Iran. She added that the world community cannot be in the midst of efforts to establish peace between Israel and the Palestinians and take unseen what the Iranians are doing in support of terrorism.

### **Tehran slams nuclear technology plan proposed by U.N. chief**

**The Associated Press, United Nations, Apr. 7** - Iran on Thursday criticized "discriminatory restrictions" proposed by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan to keep countries seeking nuclear technology for peaceful purposes from enriching uranium or producing plutonium – the key ingredients of nuclear weapons. Iran's U.N. Ambassador Javad Zarif told the U.N. General Assembly that preventing countries with civilian nuclear programs from obtaining full access to nuclear technology will further the disparity between nations with and without nuclear weapons and undermine nonproliferation efforts....

Zarif also noted the report's reference to "a discriminatory and politically motivated initiative outside the United Nations and the nonproliferation regime, which undermines both and achieves nothing other than possibly its political objectives."

## Meddling in Iraq

### **US policy experts argue on how to undermine Iranian subversion in Iraq**



**AFP, Apr. 6** - The key to US success in Iraq is to reassure Syria and Iran about Washington's intentions rather than trying to destabilize them, a former Democratic presidential candidate said Wednesday. Retired general Wesley Clark said President George W. Bush's approach to Syria and Iran encourages the two countries to work against US interests in Iraq and endangers already-overstretched US troops there....Former Pentagon adviser Richard Perle adamantly rejected the idea of reassuring Iran and Syria, saying the two countries support terrorism and fear US success in Iraq because it threatens their governments.

"That's the last thing we should be doing," he said. "We will get no help from countries whose interests are diametrically opposed to our own."

Bush has hammered Iran on its support for terrorist groups and its nuclear ambitions, and pushed Syria's Baath party regime to withdraw from Lebanon. Administration officials also have criticized both countries for aiding insurgents in Iraq.

### **Tehran mouthpiece pushes Iraqis to call for Islamic republic**

**Jomhuri Islami daily, Apr. 10** – Contrary to the exterior image of Iraq that is sketched these days, this country faces many problems which outline an ambiguous future....

The existence of independent religious groups in Iraq that do not compromise with the US and other occupiers is another important issue that will play a role in Iraq's future. The current silence by these groups must not be considered as signaling their death. If the US insists on continuing the occupation of Iraq and making the country's constitution secular, these groups will definitely come to the scene and in that case, a new juncture in Iraq's political life will begin. In light of these problems, it seems that the only way for Iraq to get out of the current situation is for the Iraqi people and scholars to insist on ending their country's occupation and to specify the rule of religion in Iraq in the constitution, and not be satisfied with anything less. Only this resistance would compel the US to retreat and would guarantee the independence, security and territorial integrity of Iraq.

# Iran policy

## U.S. aims to spend money in Iran

**USA Today, Apr. 11** - For the first time in a quarter-century of estrangement from Iran, the Bush administration is openly preparing to spend government funds in that country to promote democracy. Congress has appropriated \$3 million, and the State Department is inviting proposals from "educational institutions, humanitarian groups, non-governmental organizations and individuals inside Iran to support the advancement of democracy and human rights," according to an announcement posted Friday on the Web site of the State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor.... According to the State Department notice, the United States seeks to promote development of political parties, an "open and free media environment," labor unions, other non-governmental organizations and projects that promote respect for human rights.

## Rice: Keep eye on Iran



**The Associated Press, Apr. 6** - The world may never know precise details about nuclear efforts in Iran and North Korea but must not "under-react" because of incomplete intelligence,

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Tuesday in an interview with The Associated Press. ... "There are no guarantees where intelligence is concerned," Rice said, "particularly when you're dealing with opaque and difficult societies like the ones that tend to want weapons of mass destruction undercover." ...

International suspicions about Iran and North Korea go far beyond what U.S. intelligence may have found, Rice suggested. Iran says it is not hiding a weapons program behind a legitimate drive for civilian nuclear energy, "but they've been caught in a number of suspicious activities," Rice said. "I don't think that there's any doubt worldwide that there is a lot of concern about the nuclear weapons capabilities of these states. And while we may never know the exact nature of any of these programs, we also have to be very careful not to under-react to the fact that you have closed societies that are ambitious in their policies, that are trying to acquire weapons of mass destruction."

## 8,000 demonstrate in Paris against Khatami's visit

**Reuters, Apr. 5,** - Khatami's visit brought 8,000 demonstrators, organisers said, onto the streets of Paris to protest Western connivance with the Islamic republic. "Receiving Khatami in France encourages the Mullah's regime to increase human rights violations and continue its efforts to obtain nuclear weapons," said Shahin Gobadi, a spokesman for the National Council of Resistance of Iran. The exile opposition group, which wants to oust Iran's clerical rulers, has acted as a whistle-blower on Tehran's nuclear program.



## Iranian opponents demonstrate during Khatami-Chirac meeting

**Radio France Internationale, Apr. 5** - A demonstration was held in Bastille Square, Paris, on the invitation of two French organizations, the Peace Movement and the Anti-Racism, Friendship among Nations Movement in which hundreds of supporters of the PMOI in Europe participated. The participants carried portraits of Maryam and Massoud Rajavi and expressed their opposition to the Iranian president's trip in their slogans. They declared that Mohammad Khatami's trip to France is support for suppression and the atom bomb in Iran, showing the deals between France and Iran. Afshin Alawi of the NCRI said about the demonstration in Bastille Square, "Today's demonstration is to say no to deals with the mullahs' regime and to the reception of Khatami, who actually represents the mullahs who have committed so many crimes in France, and in support of the option for democratic change in Iran with the leadership of the Resistance's President-elect Mrs. Maryam Rajavi."

# Human rights abuse

## Documentary evidence bolsters claims in Kazemi case



**The Globe and Mail, Apr. 11, Ottawa** - Even as Iran's Foreign Ministry accused Canada of taking the "wrong approach" in the Zahra Kazemi case, Ottawa released documentary evidence yesterday bolstering recent claims that the 54-year-old Canadian photojournalist was tortured and raped by Iranian security police before she died. Ten days ago, Shahram Azam, an Iranian military doctor and former Tehran emergency-room physician who examined Ms. Kazemi before she died, released gruesome details of the abuse she suffered while in Iranian custody...

The Department of Foreign Affairs released translations of key documentary evidence it used last November in determining that Dr. Azam's account is true.

This includes an official letter from the Iranian Ministry of the Interior instructing Baghiatollah Hospital to employ Dr. Azam in its emergency room, for up to 120 hours a month.

It also includes a timesheet from the hospital showing Dr. Azam had worked an 18-hour shift beginning on the afternoon of June 26, 2003, and ending early the following morning.

The Globe and Mail obtained the hospital documents independently and commissioned a separate translation, which corroborates the Department of Foreign Affairs' version. In addition, The Globe and Mail has obtained a copy of handwritten notes made by Dr. Azam during his preliminary examination of Ms. Kazemi. An independent translation of the notes closely matches Dr. Azam's exhaustive account at an Ottawa news conference 10 days ago. The notes say she was admitted to the hospital at 11:30 p.m., dehydrated and in a coma. They list the severe bruising, deep scratches, crushed bones and genital trauma that Dr. Azam concluded were evidence of torture and rape.

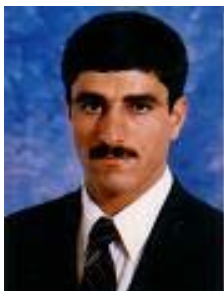
## Religious freedom in Iran virtually non-existent

**The Christian Post, Apr. 10** - Religious freedom in Iran continues to be virtually non-existent for Christians and other minority groups. In a recent document on international religious freedom presented to the UN Commission on Human Rights, the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) reported that while the Iranian Constitution guarantees a few recognized religious minorities – including Christians – the freedom to practice their religion, these rights are frequently withheld. The WEA, which recently participated in the work of the 61st UN Commission on Human Rights, stated in its report titled "A Perspective On Global Religious Freedom: Challenges Facing The Christian Community" that numerous accounts come out of Iran describing Christians facing harassment, intimidation and imprisonment because of their religious beliefs.... Recently, religious liberty intercessors have been following the plight of 47-year-old Hamid Pourmand, the Iranian army colonel and Protestant lay pastor, who was arrested in the Islamic Republic of Iran on Sept. 9, 2004. Sources say Pourmand will be brought before the Sharia Court some time between Apr. 11 and 14, to face charges of apostasy from Islam and proselytizing Muslims, both of which are punishable by death.

According to the WEA, video footage offers documentation of some of the forms of torture that the Iranian government inflicts on its own citizens. "This documentation includes footage of a fully conscious prisoner hearing his sentence read aloud and then having his eyes torn from their sockets by an official," the WEA reported.

The global ministry said that stoning also continued to be a relatively common state-sanctioned practice against non-Muslim religious minorities, especially in apostasy cases.

## Political prisoner facing imminent execution in Iran



**Iran Focus, Apr. 9** - Iran's Supreme Court has upheld the death sentence against a longtime political prisoner in Iran, making his execution imminent. Hojjat Zamani, 29 years old, has been imprisoned in the notorious Evin Prison in Tehran since the year 2000 for being a member of the main Iranian opposition group, the People's Mojahedin Organisation of Iran (PMOI). Zamani reportedly endured severe torture in Evin Prison, later escaping and fleeing to Turkey. He was arrested however and turned over to agents of Iran's Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS). Zamani was sent back to Iran where Amnesty International reported he was once again subjected to

torture...Zamani along with two other Mojahedin political prisoners, Jaafar Aghdami and Valiollah Feiz-Mahdavi, wrote a letter to the United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan on January 24, calling on him to set up a special fact-finding mission to "investigate the plight of families of political prisoners, particularly those whose loved ones were tortured or executed in mullahs' prisons in the 1980s". A prison official only identified as Sheikhan reportedly threatened Zamani by saying that he would face imminent execution unless he recanted his letter and collaborated with the regime, after the smuggled letter was distributed to human rights activists outside Iran. Zamani's two brothers, Fallah and Khazal, were executed by the Iranian regime an earlier date.

### **13-year-old boy killed by Iran security forces during clashes**

**Iran Focus, Apr. 9** - The city of Mahabad (western Iranian province of Kurdistan) was placed under de facto martial law after three days of social unrest and numerous clashes between residents and agents of Iran's State Security Forces, leaving one 13-year-old boy dead.

The 13-year-old boy was killed when an SSF agent hit him on the head with a truncheon, according to eye-witnesses. Clashes between anti-government protesters and security forces in Mahabad erupted on Wednesday evening, but reached their peak on Thursday night. Thousands of residents took to the streets to chant slogans against the ruling authorities, witnesses reported. SSF agents attacked the crowd but protesters, who were mainly youths, took part in hit-and-run clashes which spread to several districts of the city. Government buildings and patrol cars were attacked after news spread of the death of the teenage boy. A number of SSF agents were beaten up by demonstrators. Dozens of protesters were arrested during the unrest or in the house-to-house searches that security forces undertook in several neighborhoods after midnight. No information is available on their fate.

### **Ottawa pulls out of "doing business with Iran" conference**

**The Globe and Mail, Apr. 6** - The federal government said Wednesday that Canada will not participate in a "Doing Business with Iran" conference in light of new and damning evidence in the Zahra Kazemi case. Dan McTeague, the parliamentary secretary to Foreign Affairs Minister Pierre Pettigrew, told CBC Newsworld Wednesday that the conference, which the federal Agriculture department was to attend, will go ahead as planned but without government presence. "The government of Canada will not be participating in that conference and will withdraw participation of the Canadian government in that conference. The issue of trade among Canadians and Iranians is something that's quite different, but in terms of underscoring Canada's concern at the highest levels, we have, of course, now proceeded with withdrawing Canadian participation and support in that conference," Mr. McTeague said.

## Feature

### **House Iran Human Rights and Democracy Caucus holds hearing on threats posed by Iranian regime, need to de-list PMOI**



**INTV, Apr. 7** – upon the invitation of the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Human Rights and Democracy, senior members of the Iran Policy Committee were called for a hearing at the U.S. Congress.

Over 100 members of the House of Representatives from Democratic and Republic parties, representatives from the State Department, senior aides, European and North American diplomats based in Washington, mass media, think tanks, consulting firms, legal firms and research magazines also attended.

Congressman Bob Filner (D-CA) introduced the Committee on Human Rights and Democracy and asked members of the Iran Policy Committee to present their evaluation of the threats posed by the Iranian regime and the right policy for the United States.

Professor Raymond Tanter, senior member of the National Security Council under the Reagan Administration, author of several books on Middle East and professor of international affairs at George Town University, introduced members of the Iran Policy Committee including Retired

Maj. Gen. Edward Rowny, former ambassador in the talks to reduce strategic weapons; Dr. Neil Livingston, expert on terrorism and CEO, Global Security options; Dr. Paul Leventhal, Founder and President Emeritus of Nuclear Control Institute; Captain Chuck Nash, President of Emerging Technologies International; Lt. Col. Bill Cowan, prominent analyst; and Ms. Clare Lopez, Executive Director of Iran Policy Committee attended the hearing.

Dr. Paul Leventhal said the Iranian mullah regime poses a very serious nuclear threat and noted the instrumental role of the National Council of Resistance of Iran in exposing the main nuclear sites in Natanz, Arak, Ab-e Ali, etc. He said that Khatami claimed recently during a journalists' tour to Natanz that if Iran had intended to have a nuclear weapons program, it would have kept its sites secret. This is exactly what Iran has done and if it were not for the revelations made by the National Council of Resistance, today Khatami would not be showing this site to reporters.

Ms. Claire Lopez pointed out: The terrorist designation of the People's Mojahedin of Iran aimed to appease Iran. So, keeping the PMOI in the list blocks the way for change in Iran.

Dr. Lopez stressed that the best organized Iranian opposition group is the People's Mojahedin that has very strong networks of support in Iran and abroad and along with the National Council of Resistance seeks to establish a democratic and popular government in Iran.

Prof. Tanter stipulated that the terrorist designation of the PMOI enabled the mullah regime to go on offensive and open its way for advancing its ominous, terrorist objectives. While de-listing of the PMOI puts the regime on defensive.

Congressman Tom Tancredo (R-CO), member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, who co-chairs the House Committee on Human Rights and Democracy, endorsed the evaluations of the Iran Policy Committee and said: Today, every one knows that the terrorist designation of the PMOI was not because of any act of terrorism but to send placating signals to the mullah regime in Iran. I have repeatedly argued with people in the State Department that this designation must be lifted from the PMOI. This is the view of many members of the Congress, Tancredo said.

## **American Human Intelligence and An-Iranian Rebels**

**Global Politician- Capt. Vivian Gembara, Esq. – Apr. 11-**"Humint" --- this military shorthand for "human intelligence" has entered the vernacular. It is on the tongues of every politician, agency head and military leader. It is the one thing that those on the left and the right agree has impaired the U.S.'s ability to combat terrorism. Caught off guard by the September 11th attacks, we have seen the errors of our ways --- too much focus on technology and too little focus on spies and other human sources. While Washington has seized on the issue with the zeal of the newly converted, rhapsodizing about the need to cultivate humint, there still seems to be no understanding of the urgency of the issue or the very essence of it. We are missing significant opportunities now in the war on terror and no amount of goodwill can undo the damage caused when you ignore one of the principles of human intelligence gathering- 'listen to your men and women in the field.'

Imagine for a minute being dropped from a helicopter into a place where you didn't know anyone, couldn't speak the language and had only a vague idea about the terrain. Add hostile natives armed to the teeth and you begin to understand the circumstances U.S Special Forces operate in daily. The military's finest, they also possess that most elusive and valuable of qualities --- near-perfect instincts. That U.S. officials chose to ignore one of their early suggestions in Iraq is evidence of their own shortsightedness as well as the nation's still uneasy relationship with the notion of humint.

In April 2003, the U.S. government rejected an offer that they may already regret. The tender came from non-Iraqi soldiers based in Iraq - all members of the NLA, a militant wing of the NCRI (National Council of the Resistance of Iran), a group intent on overthrowing Iran's current Islamic fundamentalist regime and replacing it with a democratic government. As exiles in Iraq, they aim to overthrow Iran's current Islamic fundamentalist regime and replace it with a democratic government. The NLA found a generous patron in Saddam Hussein. The former dictator helped fund their military and gave them key property throughout Iraq. In return, they protected the border against Iranian infiltration.

U.S. Special Forces were also first to encounter the NLA and to understand their value as potential human intelligence sources. From the start, it was clear this was no "mom and pop" army. Special Forces found the NLA waiting for them in neatly consolidated units. Hundreds of NLA tanks were positioned in the "surrender" posture described in U.S. leaflets. They offered to

work alongside the U.S. to stabilize the country in exchange for support in their opposition to Iran's mullahs.

Classified as a terrorist organization by the State Department in 1997, the NLA bears the burden of an outdated and inaccurate label. Talk of working with this "terrorist organization" triggered alarm bells in diplomatic circles and resulted in U.S. officials summarily rejecting any talk of negotiation. Led by General Ray Odierno, 4th Infantry Division Commander, we were tasked with delivering the bad news. The NLA we encountered outside of Baqubah were just as the Special Forces described - fluent in English, Arabic and Farsi; familiar with the terrain and eager to work with us. Meetings that we anticipated would run several hours wound up lasting two days. Our prepared non-negotiable terms proved far more difficult to deliver when faced with the magnitude of our own lost opportunity.

The following day, 4th ID soldiers began disarming and delivering NLA soldiers to Camp Ashraf for interrogation. They remain there today. Until they can shed their terrorist label, the NLA will remain under the watchful eye of U.S. soldiers at Camp Ashraf.

U.S. officials' current reluctance to re-evaluate the NLA's status is in keeping with the missed opportunity of April 2003. At the time, the error of disbanding the Iraqi Army and security forces was clear as lawlessness led to rampant looting and destruction of Iraqi government facilities. Fully equipped with tanks, weaponry and battalions of trained soldiers, the NLA's offer answered a need that was vastly underestimated. Our immediate refusal was naive. It would have been a far more useful to our troops, and our intelligence efforts, to work with the NLA. Under our direction, they could have secured buildings and provided us with another set of eyes and ears within the communities. Surely their feedback and willingness to help in this capacity far outweighs any information we could have hoped to reap from Camp Ashraf interrogations. Adding insult to injury however is the inconsistent and uneven handling of other militias in Iraq. Despite known ties to the Iranian regime, U.S. officials permitted the Badr Corps, a militant Shiite wing of the Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution, to remain both intact and active.

While shortsighted policy decisions caused us to miss the opportunity then, the stakes are even higher now. The NLA is a potentially indispensable intelligence source on Iran. Our current challenges with Iraq have been attributed to a lack of credible intelligence. By comparison, Iran's known nuclear capabilities make intelligence much more crucial in the event of war. The recent admission by U.S. officials that they had employed UAV planes over Iran for several years only underscores the real threat that Iran poses. It was unwise not to take advantage of a valuable human resource as our soldiers battled daily in Iraq. It is merely reckless to continue to detain and alienate the NLA as we face a more mysterious and formidable threat in Iran. Though September 11th left us wearier of over reliance on technology and military might, the U.S. handing of the NLA, and other potential human intelligence resources, hardly suggests we are that much wiser.

***Captain Vivian Gembara** in JAG forces as an attorney for the U.S. military for 4 years, and was deployed in Iraq for 12 months beginning in April 2003. During that time, she participated in negotiations for the eventual capitulation of the NLA. She was a member of the 4th Infantry Division team that negotiated and drafted the capitulation agreement between the United States and the People's Mujahedeen (MEK), an armed pro-Iranian opposition force. Cap. Gembara was awarded 7 medals, 2 bars and other honors. Prior to her military service, she received a J.D. (Juris Doctor) degree from William and Mary School of Law.*