



# 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

#### **Iran says suspected nuke site was military lab-U.N.**

**Reuters June 29, Russia-** Iran told U.N. nuclear inspectors that Lavizan, a site in Tehran, was used for military research before it was razed but not for atomic activity, as Washington suspects, the U.N. agency said on Tuesday. The United States is likely to seize on this as further proof of its belief that Iran is pursuing nuclear weapons, an allegation that Tehran fiercely denies.

Satellite photos obtained by Reuters from the Institute for Science and International Security (ISIS) show that between August 2003 and May 2004 Iran destroyed all buildings, roads and walkways at Lavizan and scraped away much of the topsoil.

A U.S. official, who declined to be named, told Reuters that Iran's concern about a possible nuclear accident at Lavizan "begs the question of what exactly they were doing there".



Tehran - August 18, 2003



Tehran - March 11, 2004

#### **THE WALL STREET JOURNAL Iran's Nuclear Ambitions**

**Wall Street Journal, June 25** - As far as the "Iranian nuclear challenge" is concerned, we are back where we were nine months ago -- while Iran's nuclear program has advanced by nine months... The talk from Tehran is that the Islamic Republic should be accepted as the latest member of the "nuclear club."....

A peaceful Iran with no ambitions to export an ideology or seek regional hegemony would be no more threatening than Britain, which also has a nuclear arsenal. The real debate on Iran, therefore, can only be about regime change. And this is precisely the issue that the Europeans are loath to acknowledge as a legitimate topic of discussion....

The Islamic Republic will not openly cross anyone's borders, because its strategy is based on "exporting" its revolution through low intensity warfare, largely conducted by local militants in targeted countries, as we now see in Iraq. The Islamic Republic needs a nuclear capacity to raise the stakes if and when anyone -- the U.S. or Israel for example -- decides to take punitive military action to check its ambitions.

## **Stop the mullahs before it's too late**

**Ottawa Citizen, June 23** - The Iran of the ayatollahs has just executed a formidable power play in the Shatt-al-Arab -- the waterway shared by Iraq and Iran at the sea-mouth of -- Mesopotamia) by taking British forces into custody. According to a British intelligence source, confirmed by both Iraqi and American sources -- the boats were (or were probably) laying sensing devices on the bed of the Shatt-al-Arab for the express purpose of detecting Iranian-launched terrorist hits on Basra's extensive oil-exporting facilities.... This would create economic chaos in the West, while supplying both the money and distraction the Iranians need to complete their nuclear weapons program. That it is close to success is indicated by every particle of information reaching the West....We needn't waste time considering whether the United Nations or the European Union might have a plan. Even Britain is up to its ears in high-tech contracts with the Iranian regime, of the sort that tend to make the supplier docile. Once armed with nukes, and even without actually using them, Iran's ability to project power throughout the region -- both diplomatically and through Hezbollah -- is much enhanced.



## **Iran on the verge**

**Intellectual Conservative, June 22** - The threat posed by a nuclear Iran is immense -- and will have a profound impact on the War on Terror. After all, it is well known that Iran is a major supporter of terrorism -- and has been for nearly 30 years. In fact, just last week, Tehran (the Iranian capital) hosted an international summit of terrorist leaders. At this summit, supposedly unbeknownst to Iranian leadership, it was decided that suicide bombers would be used against United States forces providing security for the new Iraqi government. Even more threatening are reports that Iran has amassed four army battalions on the Iraqi border; ready to invade for "security purposes" when the United States finally withdraws troops from Iraq. An economic war should be waged on Iran -- one conducted in conjunction with UN sanctions and pressure from the international community.

## **The New York Times The Iranian bomb threat**

**The New York Times, editorial, June 22** - If international treaties to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons have any power, now is the time to flex it on Iran. Last week the United States, Europe, Russia and China jointly condemned Iran's refusal to explain how it got blueprints and equipment usable for making nuclear bomb fuel. That criticism must be followed up with concerted pressure to keep Iran from joining the growing list of states armed with nuclear weapons.

Tehran has been defying the spirit, and probably the letter, of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty in order to acquire the technology and fuel needed to build nuclear weapons. If it is allowed to continue down this path, it could begin building bombs in two to five years. If Europe, Russia and China now toughen their stands, as Washington is urging, Iran, unlike North Korea, can probably still be stopped... In recent days, Tehran has threatened to resume work on uranium-enrichment equipment. In light of this new belligerence and Iran's failure to cooperate with the I.A.E.A., Europe should overcome its qualms about referring the Iranian nuclear issue to the United Nations Security Council.....

# Meddling in Iraq and export of terrorism

## **RGC crossed border to claim disputed territory in Iraq**

**Telegraph, June 30** - America's military commander in Iraq ordered British troops to prepare a full-scale ground offensive against Iranian forces that had crossed the border and grabbed disputed territory, a senior officer has disclosed.... "Some Iranian border and observation posts were re-positioned over the border, broadly a kilometre into Iraq," a Ministry of Defence spokesman said. The incident began last July when Revolutionary Guards pushed about a kilometre into Iraq to the north and east of Basra in an apparent attempt to reoccupy territory which they claimed belonged to Iran. The Revolutionary Guard Corps has 125,000 soldiers, making it 25 per cent larger than the entire British Army, and is equipped with 500 tanks, 600 armoured personnel carriers and 360 artillery weapons...

## **The New York Times Two Iranian Guards at U.N. expelled for filming New York sites**

**The New York Times, June 30, United Nations** - The United States has expelled two security guards at Iran's United Nations mission after they were seen filming and photographing New York landmark buildings and parts of the city's transportation system, American officials said Tuesday. "They were asked to leave because we were very concerned about their activities, which weren't compatible with their stated duties," said Richard A. Grenell, the spokesman for the American mission. The language is common diplomatic wording for espionage cases.....

## **60,000 arrested for illegal crossing of Iranian border into Iraq**

**Al-Iraqi TV, June 26** - The Monzarieh Complex on the Iran-Iraq border started its work and welcomed travelers. The commander of Border Forces said since the formation of this force, some 60,000 Iranians, Pakistanis and Afghans who intended to enter Iraq without passports have been arrested and returned to Iran.

## **9/11 panel links Al Qaeda, Iran**

**Washington Post, June 26** - While it found no operational ties between al Qaeda and Iraq, the commission investigating the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks has concluded that Osama bin Laden's terrorist network had long-running contacts with Iraq's neighbor and historic foe, Iran.... In relation to Iran, commission investigators said intelligence "showed far greater potential for collaboration between Hezbollah and al Qaeda than many had previously thought." Iran is a primary sponsor of Hezbollah, or Party of God, the Lebanon-based anti-Israel group that has been designated a terrorist organization by the United States....

"What the commission report is raising is that the relationship might have been much tighter and was in fact operational and not just spiritual," Hoffman (a terrorism expert who heads the Washington office of Rand Corp.) said...



## **Iraqi PM: Iranian intelligence officer arrested while blowing up oil pipelines**

**Al-Qarar daily, June 24, Iraq** - Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi's official spokesman said an Iranian officer with the rank of captain was arrested in Iraq's Divaniya while

blowing up oil pipelines. The spokesman said, "The Iranian officer carried official documents and admitted that Iranian officials had facilitated his entry into Iraq for sabotage."



### **Goodbye US occupiers, welcome Iran occupiers?**

**Al-Ahali weekly, June 23** – A few weeks ago, when hundreds of thousands of Iranians came to Iraq under the cover of religious trips and for uncountable reasons, I wrote a piece about "Iran's assault" in this column. Now

we feel more danger from the East..

The "Committee for the Commemoration of Martyrs" with the obvious backing of the Revolutionary Guards Corps has recently been formed. The leaders of the Revolutionary Guards participated in the first conference of this terrorist organization. Terrorist organization? Of course. What is the meaning of sending thousands of suicide bombers to our country? The text of the order mentions the reason: "For suicide operations against Western occupiers, their friends and allies in the holy sites."

This terrorist organization that calls itself the "Committee for Commemoration of Martyrs of the Global Islamic Movement" has distributed thousands of (membership) forms to "suicide operatives" -- terrorists that commit suicide bombings and murder innocent Iraqi people -- to send them to heaven and reward them with heavenly angels for the killing of the innocent, orphaned children and widowed women, destroying means of people's subsistence, creating chaos and crisis, and for obstructing the efforts for stability and security in Iraq. Is this the behavior of a government or the behavior of bullies and criminal drug trafficking gangs? What respectful government sets up this kind of an organization gives it financial aid and encourages trouble making to create chaos and commit the biggest sin which is killing human beings? On the other hand, the Islamic Republic dispatches countless members of its intelligence agency to our country without any control or supervision. The Islamic Iran is a big neighbor and it can certainly create problems in our country... Now we see that our neighbor, the Islamic Iran, is getting more and more prepared to dive in? Dive after dive? And this is the mistake of the Islamic Iran. If this country mistakes in its calculations based on its infertile ideology it will pay a heavy price.



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### **THE WALL STREET JOURNAL Shedding light on attempts to engage Tehran mullahs**

**The Wall Street Journal, June 18** - We'll say this on behalf of the latest staff reports from the 9/11 Commission: They are far more interesting than the media coverage suggests. Americans who go online to read the reports will actually learn a few things. For example, they'll discover new details about the links between al Qaeda and Iran. The conventional wisdom has been that these Shiite and Sunni cultures couldn't meet, but the report says they did so "to cooperate against a common enemy" -- the infidel U.S. Specifically, al Qaeda operatives trained in Iran, and al Qaeda helped Iran-backed Hezbollah terrorists obtain explosives. Al Qaeda

was also probably involved in two attacks on U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia, including the 1996 bombing of Khobar Towers that killed 19 Americans and injured 372 and had previously been blamed largely on Hezbollah. This certainly sheds some useful light on State Department attempts to "engage" Tehran's mullahs as they attempt to build a nuclear bomb .

## International unity against Islamic Fundamentalism



### **50,000 Iraqis in Ashraf support PMOI's political presence in Iraq**

**As-Safir daily, June 22** - 50,000 Iraqis in the city of Ashraf

declared their support for the PMOI's political presence in Iraq. The gathering was a historical "NO" to Iran's ruling terrorist dictatorship and its meddling in Iraq. Shiekh Saleh Abu-Khomreh, President of the National Front of Iraq who spoke also on behalf of the Iraqi Peace Party and the Council of Tribes in Kirkuk, said, "The presence of throngs of Iraqi people in this place alongside their sisters and brothers in



the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran is the greatest indication of solidarity between the two nations of Iraq and Iran... We are confident that Mrs. Maryam Rajavi deserves our full support in her struggle against fundamentalism and religious dictatorship, the common enemies of the peoples of Iraq and Iran."

### **The Washington Times Expatriates protest business contacts with Iran regime**

**The Washington Times, June 18, Auvers-sur-Oise, France** - Thousands of Iranians from across the world streamed into this Paris suburb yesterday to demonstrate against French government leaders, whom they accuse of conspiring with Iran's terrorist regime in exchange for lucrative trade deals. Joined by dozens of local and international supporters, the protesters also marked the first anniversary of a huge police raid on the offices of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), a France-based political coalition that the State Department classifies as a terrorist organization....Four months ago, dozens of French politicians, lawyers and human rights activists formed a committee calling for justice for the NCRI. "We make the distinction between terrorism and resistance," said committee Chairman Pierre Bercis, who also is the president of New Human Rights. "These fighters are not terrorists. They have committed violent acts only against their own terrorist regime." Mr. Bercis said the idea that the NCRI was a terrorist group has been disappearing in the past year as more people show support. Backers of the NCRI think that its members are legitimate resistance fighters against Iranian terrorism and Islamic fundamentalism. The organization had enjoyed the protection of French authorities. That changed last year, when the French Interior Ministry sent more than 1,000 police to arrest about 170 Iranian dissidents, including NCRI President Maryam

Rajavi. Before the raid, Paris and Tehran had signed an accord to boost bilateral trade ties. NCRI spokesman Shahin Gobadi said the timing of the two developments was no coincidence. "The raid was specifically requested by Iranian authorities in exchange for back deals," Mr. Gobadi said. Citing multibillion-dollar contracts that have been awarded in recent months to French companies such as Total, Renault, Alcatel and Alstom, Mr. Gobadi said France has become Iran's second-largest trading partner in the European Union. A spokesman at the French Ministry of Foreign Trade acknowledged that trade between the two countries has increased dramatically in the past two years.

## Appalling human rights situation in Iran

### Four more death sentences in Tehran, Shiraz

**Kayhan daily, June 28** – A man was sentenced to death by the judge of the 74<sup>th</sup> branch of the Tehran Penal Court.

**Khorassan daily, June 28** – The judge of Tehran's Penal Court issued a death sentence for a 27-year-old man.

**Kayhan daily, June 27, Shiraz** – Two young men 17 and 22 years old named Mojtaba and Aziz were sentenced to death by the 12<sup>th</sup> branch of the public court in Shiraz.



### Government stifles defiance of Iranian dress codes

**Feminist Daily News, June 24** - In cities throughout Iran, government authorities have ordered a crackdown on women in lighter dress this summer. The conservative government, which took power in February, has ordered that any woman seen defying the Iranian female dress code will be subject to fines, prison and even flogging. The BBC NEWS quoted one police chief as saying the alterations made to the dress code are a source of "social corruption." He warned that any woman doing so will be punished. Iran's interpretation of Islamic law regarding women's dress dictates that women must wear the chador, a long, loose-fitting black cloak worn over clothing, and a head covering... Summer temperatures even in northern cities such as the capital Tehran reach highs in the upper 90s, making the dark chador even more oppressive for women.



### Iran ranks second in the world in execution – NGO

**Radio Farda, June 24** – Just like previous years, the Islamic Republic of Iran ranked second after China in carrying out execution sentences. The non government Italian organization, "Hands off Cain", which issues reports every year regarding death sentences in the world, presented last year's report to the press in Milan... According to the annual report issued by "Hands Off Cain", at least 5,599 death sentences were carried out across the world in the year 2003. Ms. Zamparutti says: "Of course, the actual number of sentences carried out is more than this because some countries, such as China and the Islamic Republic, avoid giving the official figures."

