



# 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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### Feature

#### **US terrorism report slams Iran, hails Saudi action**

*AFP WASHINGTON, April 29*

The United States again condemned Iran as the world's leading "state sponsor of terrorism" but praised Saudi Arabia, which it said had made significant strides in combating extremist violence. As in previous years, the State Department identified Iran as the chief exporter of terrorism units annual "Patterns of Global Terrorism" report, accusing the Islamic Republic of fomenting terrorist attacks throughout the Middle East, particularly against Israel.

"Iran remained the most active state sponsor of terrorism in 2003," the report said, maintaining that Tehran's intelligence and security services were responsible for supporting extremist groups and that the country had failed to meet pledges to act against Osama bin Laden (news - web sites)'s al-Qaeda network.

Iran's "Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and Ministry of Intelligence and Security were involved in the planning of and support for terrorist acts and continued to exhort a variety of groups that use terrorism to pursue their goals," it said.

The most egregious of these actions were Iran's continued funding of and arms transfers to Palestinian "rejectionist groups," its attempts to thwart the efforts of the US-led coalition in Iraq (news - web sites) and its refusal to turn over al-Qaeda operatives it says are in custody, according to the report.

"During 2003, Iran maintained a high-profile role in encouraging anti-Israeli activity, both rhetorically and operationally," it said, citing Tehran's backing for Hezbollah, Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command. All of those groups are designated "foreign terrorist organizations" by Washington and subject to US sanctions, as is Iran.

The report said Iranian officials had encouraged Palestinians to carry out suicide bombings against Israeli civilians and cited comments by a member of the country's conservative religious

Leadership urging Iraqis to follow that model in combating the US-led coalition there.

It also suggested that after Saddam Hussein (news - web sites)'s ouster in April, Iranian operatives tried to sow discontent with the occupation among their fellow Shiite Muslims in southern Iraq and that elements of the government assisted members of terrorist organizations in escaping the coalition.

#### **For Iranian mullahs Mission in Iraq**

##### ***History is repeated***

##### ***Intellectual Conservatives***

*April 26 By Hedayat Mostowfi*- It seems that the Iranian regime is now staging a new play in Iraq. The Godfather of international terrorism is now acting as a mediator to bring peace and stability to its neighbor. Why does the world need Iran to broker a deal between the coalition forces and the insurgents? Iran has dispatched thousands of well trained and heavily armed agents and funneled millions of dollars into Iraq right after the fall of Saddam to wreak havoc in that country. Elsewhere in the Middle East, former FBI director stated unequivocally that

Tehran was behind the deadly bomb attack against the Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia. On another front, the clerics are in hot pursuit of nuclear weapons in defiance of the international community. It simply does not make any sense to "save the day" by asking Iran to be the arbiter..... (Full article in <http://www.intellectualconservatives.com/>)

## **Iran's covert actions in Iraq**

### ***The Washington Times***

*April 25, by Constantine C. Menges* -April 4, 2004, Sheik Muqtada al-Sadr, a pro-Iranian Iraqi cleric, called on his followers to "terrorize your enemy"...

This threat is the current September 11, because the administration has not yet "connected the dots" revealing Iran's secret but discernible activities...

The Iranian dictatorship is acting to bring about a "second Iran" in Iraq in five ways:

(1) Those Iraqi Shi'ite clerics who agree with the heretical Khomeini view that the clergy should rule society in all aspects are used by Iran to build a power base from their mosques and associated social services...

(2) Iran established the Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq as a political movement that could win elections or take power town by town with the help of covert Iranian funds and propaganda. This organization also has an Iranian-trained and -armed paramilitary group of about 30,000...

(3) Iran is working covertly with Iraqi extremist Sheik al-Sadr to use political and coercive means, including murder, to intimidate and take over Iraq's Shi'ite leadership. The murders of several prominent Shi'ite clerical leaders who favored democracy and cooperation with the coalition repeats Iran's covert actions since December 2001 in post-Taliban Afghanistan...

(4) Hezbollah, the Iranian-supported and often -directed terrorist organization has moved hundreds of cadres into Iraq as reported since last November. They along with Hamas, another Iranian-supported terrorist organization, have opened offices in Iraq and are recruiting Iraqis to be the foot soldiers and suicide killers...

(5) Iran has spent heavily seeking to dominate radio and television broadcasting in Iraq... Indeed, if Iran brings about an anti-U.S., pro-Iranian Shi'ite extremist regime in Iraq, the risks to the United States and its allies from terrorism and weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) would dramatically increase. And it would defeat the Bush "forward strategy for freedom" in the entire Middle East....

The pro-democracy Iraqi media also needs to be enlarged, and, as a corollary, the pro-extremist, Iranian-funded media needs to be restricted....

The best defense against Iranian destabilization of Iraq is helping Iran's people to politically liberate themselves from their dictatorship. While the Iranian regime has a 25-year record of effective and brutal terrorism and secret action abroad, it is weak, fragile and vulnerable at home.

Polls and a series of partially open elections since 1997 reveal more than 75 percent of Iranians completely reject the extremist Shi'ite clerical regime... The people know the dictatorship has spent much of Iran's oil wealth supporting terrorism, Islamic extremism and on WMDs and ballistic missiles...

President Bush has spoken eloquently and often about the Iranian people's right to freedom. Now he needs to instruct his State Department to cease all its open and secret "dialogue and engagement" activities with the clerical regime. These legitimize the dictatorship and discourage those in Iran who might otherwise act to bring about a democratic future.

Taking these actions now in Iraq and encouraging the Iranian people to liberate themselves this summer could result in two democracies. Otherwise, there is grave risk the removal of Iraq's Saddam Hussein will ultimately result in two Irans -- two Shi'ite extremist regimes in the region.

*Constantine C. Menges, a senior fellow with the Hudson Institute, is a former presidential special assistant for national security affairs and a former Central Intelligence Agency officer.*

## The fruits of appeasement

**FrontPage Magazine, April 23** -Imagine a different November 4, 1979, in Teheran. Shortly after Iranian terrorists storm the American embassy and take some 90 American hostages, President Jimmy Carter announces that Islamic fundamentalism is not a legitimate response to the excess of the Shah but a new and dangerous fascism that threatens all that liberal society holds dear....

The Iranian hostage-taking of November 1979: that debacle is where we first saw the strange brew of Islamic fascism, autocracy, and Middle East state terrorism—and failed to grasp its menace, condemn it, and go to war against it.

That lapse, worth meditating upon in this 25th anniversary year of Khomeinism, then set the precedent that such aggression against the United States was better adjudicated as a matter of law than settled by war....

Throughout this tragic quarter-century of appeasement, our response usually consisted of a stern lecture... (but) did not preclude trading arms to the Iranian terrorists or abruptly abandoning Lebanon after the horrific Hezbollah attack....

An Ayatollah Khomeini who turned back the clock on female emancipation in Iran, who murdered non-Muslims, and who refashioned Iranian state policy to hunt down, torture, and kill liberals nevertheless seemed to liberal Western eyes as preferable....

## Iran's Iraq war

**World Magazine, April 24**-Observers say it is an open secret that Iran is supporting insurgency militias with dinars as well as dogma. Hardliners in Iran's 25-year-old fundamentalist theocracy see poetic justice in the rise of a radical of their own in Najaf, where the founder of their own revolution, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, once studied.

Mr. Sadr receives orders directly from Iran's head of state, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, according to a briefing prepared by Italian intelligence and defense forces for the Italian parliament earlier this month....

The report said Mr. Sadr could not have mounted simultaneous attacks in the past month—from Baghdad to Basrah—without political, military, and financial support from the ayatollah.

Agents from Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards have infiltrated Iraq in recent months to arm and organize Mr. Sadr's troops, working under cover of Islamic charity groups in Baghdad, Karbala, Najaf, and Kufa. The Italians say Ayatollah Khomeini's government is spending \$70 million a month to prop up the front organizations. Coordinating the efforts is Iranian cleric Mohammad-Hossein Haeri, an ally to Mr. Khamenei.



## World won't tolerate nuclear armed mullahs

### Nuclear - armed Iran would be 'intolerable' - Bush

**Reuters, April 21, Washington** - A nuclear-armed Iran would pose an intolerable threat to peace in the Middle East, President Bush said on Wednesday, adding that any such threat would be ``dealt with'' by the United States and its allies.

In strongly worded remarks before an audience of newspaper editors and publishers, the Republican president pressed the secretive leadership of the Islamic republic to heed U.S. and European demands not to pursue a nuclear weapons program...

"The development of a nuclear weapon in Iran is intolerable. And a program is intolerable. Otherwise they will be dealt with, starting through the United Nations."



## Mullahs' interferences in Iraq

### **GC commander acknowledges ambitions in Iraq and Afghanistan**

**Channel 1 TV, April 23** – Yahya Safavi, commander of the Islamic Republic's Revolutionary Guards Corps: The Guards Corps is preparing to confront extra-regional threats. The most important responsibility of ours along with the rest of the armed forces, the Islamic Republic's Army is to prepare to counter possible threats from extra-regional forces.

### **Main aim, to create an Iranian-style Islamic republic in Iraq**

**Telegraph UK, April 25** -A leading Lebanese terrorist accused of blowing up the American embassy in Beirut in the 1980s is being held responsible for the increase in suicide bomb attacks against coalition targets in southern Iraq...

Western intelligence officials have uncovered evidence that the attacks are being coordinated by Imad Mugniyeh, a leading figure in Lebanon's extremist Hizbollah Shia Muslim terror organisation.

Mugniyeh, who is now in his fifties and has a close relationship with Iran's Revolutionary Guards, has been based in Teheran since the end of the Lebanese civil war, and is also known to have close links with Osama bin Laden's al-Qa'eda terrorist network...

Mugniyeh, the head of Hizbollah's external security apparatus, has deployed scores of Lebanese Hizbollah fighters in Iraq, and set up secret training camps along the southern part of the border with Iran. The Hizbollah fighters are working closely with members of Iran's Revolutionary Guards, with whom they developed a close relationship during the 1980s... "This is all part of a strategy devised by hardliners in Iran to repeat their success in Lebanon and drive coalition troops out of Iraq," said a senior intelligence official. "Their main aim is to create an Iranian-style Islamic republic in Iraq."...

At the same time as Iranian officials were negotiating with Sadr, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's hardline spiritual leader, was circulating a cassette tape in Arabic to a number of Iraqi mosques in which he called on the Iraqis to "unite and expel the occupiers to ensure the establishment of a new power based on Islam".

## Time's up for Tehran mullahs

### **Mullahs have no longer opportunity to survive**

**VOA, Farsi service, April 23** – Larry Elder, an American journalist, said Iran's leaders must realize that they have no opportunity for survival and their time is over. He delivered a speech on fundamentalist Islam at a conference in Los Angeles and said in part: The war we are engaged in is not only a military or economic or political war, it is an ideological war...

After a regime change in Iran, a future full of opportunities will await the people. The world's sympathy for pressuring the regime's leaders will make them realize that they no longer have any opportunity to survive and their time is over.

## Human rights violations

### **Student detained after rally outside UN office**

**Peik-e Iran website, April 25** -United Students' Front – Press Statement: Amin Kurd, an active member of the United Students' Front, was detained by the State Security Forces following the rally by families of political prisoners and freedom-lovers outside the United Nations office in Tehran. The rally was held with slogans such as: Political prisoners must be freed; Referendum, referendum, this is the cry of the people; Violence is condemned;

Imprisoned students must be freed. A number of families of imprisoned students and political prisoners, including Iraj Jamshidi, attended the rally.

### **Hunger-strike asylum seekers to be evicted**

**The Herald, April 23** -Three Kurdish Iranian asylum seekers who stitched up their mouths and went on a month-long hunger strike are to be evicted from their homes.

Campaigners are appealing to Glasgow City Council to halt the evictions over concerns that Fariborz Gravindi, 30, Faroq Haidari, 32, and Mokhtar Haydary, 31, will be forced to sleep on the streets...

Mr Gravindi, who has been told he must leave his bedsit in the south side of Glasgow tomorrow, said: "I feel extremely terrible. I have no idea how I'll manage with no roof over my head or permission to work. I will be living on the streets."

Mr Haydary, who has been sleeping on the floor of Mr Gravindi's bedsit, since being evicted from his own accommodation two years ago, said he only saw a future of terror and hopelessness.

He added: "It is almost impossible to put into words how I feel. Not only do we have the prospect of being sent back to a life of torture and death, but we will also have a life of destitution while we wait. Doesn't the government realise that we would go back to Iran if we could?"

### **Islamic Society's leading member sentenced to 3 years in prison**

**Peik-e Iran website, April 14** - A member of the Boo Ali Sina's Islamic Society's Central Council (Yahiya Safa Arian) was sentenced to three years punitive imprisonment...

According to this student, he has been sentenced two years for threatening national security, six months for insulting the officials and six months for anti-government propaganda. He has been sentenced to three years imprisonment overall.

### **Unemployment rate of 15 to 29 year olds to become 52% in 2 years**

**Peik-e Iran website, April 22** -If the country's unemployment growth rate of 13.2% continues, the rate unemployment of people between 15 and 29 years of age will reach 52% by 2006.

### **Death due to injection of expired anesthetics**

**Mehr news agency, April 14** -On April 4<sup>th</sup>, 15 people who were scheduled to undergo operations in Iranmehr hospital, suddenly fell into comma. Some say five of these individuals passed away in recent days. One patient's companion said, "We also do not know why such an incident occurred. However, some say that this was caused by injection of expired anesthetics."