



# 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 deception

#### **UN Says Iran Changed Story on Nuke Centrifuges**

**Reuters, June 1** - Iran has acknowledged importing parts for centrifuges capable of making bomb-grade uranium which it previously said were made in Iran, the U.N. nuclear watchdog said in a confidential report Tuesday. Washington has accused Iran of pursuing a nuclear arms program. Tehran denies this, saying its nuclear program is only to generate power. "Iran has acknowledged that, contrary to ... earlier statements, it had imported some magnets relevant to P2 centrifuges from Asian suppliers," said the report by the International Atomic Energy Agency, or IAEA, which was obtained by Reuters. This was "a further example of how Iran persists in distortion and half truths," said one Western diplomat on the IAEA board. But IAEA chief Mohamed ElBaradei, who authored the report, said previously that it was too early to say if Iran's program was peaceful or not. "The jury is out on whether the program has been dedicated exclusively for peaceful purposes or if it has some military dimension," ElBaradei told a meeting of NATO parliamentarians. The United Nations has been investigating Iran since an exiled Iranian opposition group reported in August 2002 that Tehran was hiding a massive uranium enrichment plant at Natanz and other sites from U.N. inspectors. The report also said high enriched uranium, or HEU, enriched to the point where it contains 36 percent uranium-235 -- the level at which it can be used in a bomb was found at Farayand, a different site never previously named by the IAEA. The IAEA had previously said it had found HEU at the uranium enrichment plant at Natanz and the Kalaye Electric Co.

#### **More highly enriched uranium contamination found in Iran - IAEA**

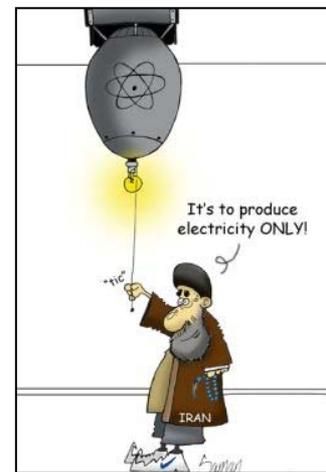
**AFP, June 1** - UN nuclear inspectors have found more contamination in Iran by highly enriched uranium that could be bomb-grade, the watchdog UN atomic energy agency said in a report, according to diplomats. The contamination by 36 percent U-235 was at a site in Farayand, following on such contamination already found at the Kalaye Electric Company in Tehran and the Natanz pilot enrichment plant, diplomats said in relating details of a report by the International Atomic Energy Agency. The diplomats said the IAEA now felt it could not verify that the contamination was, as Iran insists, from contaminated equipment bought in Pakistan. "It is unlikely, based on the information currently available, that the agency will be able to conclude that the 36 percent uranium-235 contamination found at Kalaye and Farayand was due to components originating from the state in question," the report said, according to comments read to AFP by a diplomat close to the IAEA.

#### **Iran, terrorists and nukes**

**The Washington Times, May 27** - "If Iran goes nuclear, you worry that Hezbollah goes nuclear." So said Paul Leventhal, president of the Nuclear Control Institute in a New York Times article and an interview yesterday with The Washington Times. Mr. Leventhal points to an often-overlooked danger that Iranian possession of nuclear weapons would pose: that the regime could pass along nuclear

weapons to Hezbollah or other terrorist organizations that it supports. It is not beyond the realm of possibility that Hezbollah could try to smuggle a crude nuclear device into the hold

of a ship or a truck and deliver it to a highly populated Israeli city. According to Mr. Leventhal, if such a fissile device functioned poorly, it would result in an explosion with the power of 1,000 tons of TNT, resulting in radiation contamination and a catastrophic number of casualties. If such a device functioned properly, it could result in an explosion with the power of 15,000 tons to 20,000 tons of TNT — roughly equivalent to the bomb dropped on Hiroshima in August 1945.



## Meddling and export of terrorism

### **Chalabi Warned Iranians, U.S. Says**

**Washington Post, June 2,**

The FBI is investigating an intercepted Iranian message that alleges Iraqi exile leader Ahmed Chalabi told Tehran officials that the United States had broken Iran's secret code, U.S. officials said. The message alleges Chalabi said he had been told about the code-breaking by a drunken U.S. official, one senior Bush administration official said. The New York Times reported in today's editions that about six weeks ago, Chalabi told the Baghdad station chief of Iran's Ministry of Intelligence and Security that the United States was reading the communications traffic of the Iranian spy service, one of the most sophisticated in the Middle East.

### **Iran mullahs to dispatch "battalions of suicide bombers" to Iraq**

**The US Alliance for Democratic Iran, May 27** - For the fourth time in little over a week, several hundred "students" demonstrated outside the British embassy in Tehran last Sunday in a government-sanctioned protest against "the actions of U.S.-led forces in Iraq."...That was not all. A government-sponsored website in Iran quoted a member of a state-run paramilitary student organization as saying that: "Tens of students from the University of Science and Technology in Iran will be sent to Karbala on Thursday, May 27, as the advance party of the Karbala-bound Battalion to join the defenders of the holy shrines in the city and to fight the occupiers of Islamic lands." The website, Rouydad, added that state-organized groups such as Hezbollah and Bassij "have begun forming battalions of suicide bombers against Coalition forces in Iraq." ...A top advisor to President Khatami, Mohtashamipour, was speaking in the ceremony marking the "Fourth anniversary of Liberation of Southern Lebanon," where he demanded the opening of all Iraqi borders to the Enteharyoun (suicide bombers). These shocking statements from various corners of Iran's political landscape render hollow assertions made by Tehran's friends in some EU capitals that the mullahs' are interested in a stable and secure Iraq. Blinded by billions of dollars worth of trade, these self-interested Europeans have been misreading the mullahs in the past quarter century... This policy must be corrected before "battalions of suicide bombers" from Iran strike.

### **Khatami's advisor: Over Iraqi borders for suicide bombers**

**Aljazeera TV, May 26** - Ali Akbar Mohtashami, advisor to the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, criticized all religious *howzeh* (seminaries) for what he called their silence on what goes on in Iraq. In a speech at a celebration in Tehran for the liberation of south Lebanon, Mohtashami described operations against the occupation of Iraq "Islamic Resistance."

In unprecedented remarks, the presidential advisor demanded that Iran's borders with Iraq be opened for aspirants of martyrdom (suicide bombers). Mohtashami said, "Right now Islamic Resistance is in force in Iraq, similar to the resistance of Hamas, (Islamic) Jihad and Hezbollah. We demand that the borders with Iraq be opened for defense of the sanctities."



## **No way out**

**National Review Online, May 26, Michael Ledeen** - Wake-up call: Iran is

at war with us. Hassan Abbasi, a well-known Iranian political scientist, longtime top official of the Revolutionary Guards, and currently "theoretician" in the office of Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and the head of the National Security and Strategic Research Center (said:) "The infidels — Western countries and America — are the sworn enemies of God and Muslims and any action taken to terrorize them or frighten them is considered holy and a source of pride." Abbasi went on, "Lebanese Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad and Hamas have all been trained by these hands," that is, Iranian hands.... "We have identified some 29 weak points for attacks in the U.S. and in the West, we intend to explode some 6,000 American atomic warheads, we have shared our intelligence with other guerilla groups and we shall utilize them as well. We have set up a department to cover England and we have had discussions regarding them[;] we have contacted the Mexicans and the Argentineans and will work with anyone who has an axe to grind with America." ....Perhaps Secretary of State Powell, who remains aloof from the life-and-death struggle for freedom in Iran, and his loyal deputy, Richard Armitage (who proclaims the Islamic Republic "a democracy") might study the remarks from Abbasi, and ask themselves if it is in our interest to have this hateful regime continue to attack us, even as they speed toward acquisition of atomic bombs.... There is no escape from this war, whatever the appeasers in Foggy Bottom may think. We can win or lose, but we can't get out of it.

## **Appalling human rights situation in Iran**

### **Restrictions on Internet and Youth Increase near Anniversary of Khomeini's Death**

**Radiofarda, June 2** -As preparations begin for ceremonies, speeches and marches to commemorate the anniversary of the passing of Islamic Republic founder Ayatollah Khomeini, the Islamic Republic Law Enforcement Forces have arrested scores of young people in a crackdown on un-Islamic attire, unlicensed pop music CDs and cassettes, illegal drugs, as well as popular websites, according to Tehran prosecutor Saeed Mortazavi, who announced Monday that a widespread campaign has started by the newly formed "prevention of special crimes headquarters." According to new Internet regulations drafted by the judiciary, anyone involved in producing and publishing "pornographic content" through the Internet will be fined and/or jailed. In the past month, 40 percent of "un-Islamic and pornographic" Internet content has been eliminated, Mortazavi said. A member of the plainclothes security forces who spoke at a rally in front of the British Embassy said last Friday's earthquake in the Caspian provinces, Qazvin and Tehran was a result of the spread of decadence and prostitution, according to the official Islamic Republic newspaper. (Mahmonir Rahimi)

### **Iran's political crisis damages human rights cause: Amnesty**

**AFP, May 26** - A political standoff between religious conservatives and reformists damaged the cause of human rights last year in Iran, Amnesty International said in a report released Wednesday.

Despite signs of growing awareness of human rights issues in the Islamic republic, Amnesty reported that "flagrant violations of Iranian and international law continued in the administration of justice. Scores of political prisoners, including prisoners of conscience, continued to serve sentences imposed in previous years following unfair trials. Scores more were arrested in 2003, often arbitrarily and many following student demonstrations," the annual report said. "Judicial authorities curtailed freedoms of expression, opinion and association, including of ethnic minorities;



scores of publications were closed, Internet sites were filtered and journalists were imprisoned. At least 108 executions were carried out, including of long-term political prisoners and frequently in public. At least four prisoners were sentenced to death by stoning while at least 197 people were sentenced to be flogged and 11 were sentenced to amputation of fingers and limbs. The true number may have been considerably higher."...

### **Hand of man in Andimeshk cut off**

**Aftab daily, May 26** – The hand of a man in Andimeshk was cut off in public. The sentence for cutting of the right hand of the 25-year-old Ruhollah N. was carried out in the presence of the judiciary representative of the State Security Forces on Andimeshk Boulevard.

### **Half of Iranians populace involved with drugs**

**Fars news agency, May 26** – The president of the Scientific Society of Social Harms in Iran said, "Over 50% of the Iranian people are involved either directly or indirectly with drugs. Neglecting the economic and cultural needs of society is leading to a very dangerous crisis."



### **Two more female students arrested**

**ILNA, May 26** – Hanieh Nemati, student of management at Tehran University and Shiva Nazari Ahari, student of urban development in Sadra University, were arrested at their homes this morning by Tehran's judiciary.

### **Human trafficking from Iran to Gulf Shiekhdoms**

**Shargh daily, May 26** – A group of Iranian boys and girls will be sold in an auction today in Fojeyreh, United Arab Emirates. At a round table discussion on human trafficking held yesterday (at the office of) the Young Iranian Society news agency, it was announced that the preparations for this auction were made two weeks before by hunters of Iranian women and girls in the course of an international exhibition...

The human hunters were able to choose 54 Iranian girls out of the 286 that were put on show in an Arab country's booth. They were then sent to a Persian Gulf country on May 17 to get ready for the Fojeyreh auction on May 26...

Mostafa Ben Yahya, a pilot of Iranian descent who works for the United Arab Emirates airline, announced in the meeting yesterday, "An average of between 10 to 15 girls are sent to the United Emirates everyday on nine ordinary flights and 20 irregular flights from Iran to Dubai,... Moreover, corpses of three to five Iranian girls are taken from these countries to Iran every month..."

The pilot of Iranian descent said: "Some of these girls are so young that they have to work as house maid for some time before starting work at the night clubs."



### **Social protests stepped up 4 times since last month**

**Radiofarda, May 25** – Social protests increased about four folds in the month of May compared to last month. Protests took place in over 50 Iranian cities. There are reports every day on the detention and summoning of students and political activists in various cities.

## Iranian people despise mullahs - Want regime change



## Feeling the heat

*National Review Online, May 25* - As the Joyless Generation awakes, the theocracy shudders. And so does Islamism throughout the region. The Joyless Generation may not

abandon their religion in their lives, but even in the cradle of theocracy, they do believe that it should not be in the realm of the state.... Jannati (secretary of the Council of Guardians) alludes to what every Iranian knows. The Islamic Republic's enemies are not external, but rather internal: The Joyless Generation...

Iran's post-revolutionary generation is aware of basic realities: the irreconcilability of theocracy with reform... Support for Iran's Joyless Generation, rather than any faction within the Islamic Republic's leadership, would bring a high rate of return in terms of both prosperity and security. A democratic Iran in harmony with the world and its own historic and cultural heritage will be a significant step forward on the path towards stability in the Middle East. Security and democracy, intertwined with rights for men and women, are twin necessities... Will Iran become a regional model of democracy, or will Washington's willingness to engage with theocrats cause it to lose the support of a generation?



## Swedish journalist just returned from Iran gives account of human rights condition



*Expressen daily, May 23, Sweden* - I write this article in the memory of the woman who was arrested a few meters away from me in Isfahan; in memory of the women who must sit in the backs of buses like African Americans in the United States in the 50s and 60s; in the memory of Iranian director Ardashir Afshinrad who died while escaping from a party in fear of falling into the claws of the police. While men on the streets wear the latest fashions, women in Iran hide themselves under camouflage coverings like undercover agents of outlawed movements. A woman asked me why the world is silent against what goes on in Iran. She said: The ruling fundamentalist regime had ruined my religious beliefs... If a person wants freedom, he would suffer in the daily life of the Iranian people. But if he is a fundamentalist, there is no suffering because he would like that life.



## People want regime change, not reform

*BBC Radio, May 22* - This year, the anniversary of (Khatami's election on May 22, 1997) comes at a time when there is no enthusiasm among the leaders of the (reform) movement or the people for commemorating this important event in Iran's recent

history... The fact is that most of the people have concluded today that they must pursue their demands in other ways... For most of the people, the issue is no longer reforming the clerical government, but changing it to what the popular demand is. If the conservatives who will soon take control of the Majlis add further restrictions, they might face the people's wrath.

## The murderous mullahs

*Daily Mail, May 22* - Several people I met told me raucous (and sometimes filthy) anti-mullah jokes. And all told me, in varying forms, that "we Iranian Muslims are forced to live under a PERVERSION of Islam!"

Despite this wave of welcoming affability, I had to remind myself that this is a grotesque - and stupidly cruel - police state, which is allegedly run in the name of Allah by a gang of corrupt and murderous mullahs .

This is a state where, at the Friday prayers broadcast live on state-controlled television (which I attended in a curtained-off and segregated women-only section), the preacher, a leading Ayatollah, with a semi-automatic rifle by his side, denounced the West for its moral corruption. And where pre-positioned cheer-leaders urged the worshippers to chant "Death to Israel!", "Death to America!"

The Ayatollah concerned, incidentally, is one of the most corrupt figures in the "mullahcratic mafia"; it was he who airily justified the mass murder of jailed regime opponents in 1988 (some of whose secret graves I've visited) by joking: "Well, we don't have enough chickens to feed them all!"

This is a state which finances - and has itself indulged in - terrorism overseas. This is a state which is suspected of attempting to acquire nuclear weapons, and which has at times given shelter to al-Qaeda militants, including to the man who had himself video-ed cutting off the head of the young American Nick Berg ...



So why do we know so little about this vast and now, I believe, dangerously volatile country? For the simple reason that the mullahs don't want us to...

This fundamentalist Islamic government is, despite its ferocity, beginning to lose control over its own people, not least because the cleric-run economy is in ruins. One day a bankrupt businessman, working as an unofficial taxi-driver, gave me a lift. On hearing that 'I'm an English convert to Islam' who's going out to the desert city of Qom next day, he exclaimed: "Please, dear sister, if you go to the Holy Shrine tomorrow, pray to the saints that they rid us of the mullahs soon - as quickly as possible! They just use Islam to oppress us, to keep power and get rich - while we all suffer!"...

"Yes, but international pressure on behalf of political prisoners and dissidents is the only thing that keeps us alive. The mullahs can't kill or torture us all - there are too many of us now. The regime doesn't speak for the Iranian people - we do! Our age group is in the majority!" (A student dissident said)...

Afshari (a student dissident): "The reform movement has reached a dead end and now there is so much frustration that it only needs the slightest spark for the whole thing to explode."

## **Students to force national referendum on country's political future**



*The Ottawa Citizen, May 22, Tehran* - "We are living in a country where for no reason they jail, kill and torture people," says Saeed Kalanaki, a student who was jailed at Evin at the same time as Ms. Kazemi...

Mr. Kalanaki and several other students who were jailed at Evin have been released...

They are committed to realizing their goal of a secular and democratic Iran peacefully, through civil disobedience and by bringing international pressure on the theocracy. They believe they can force a national referendum on the country's political future.