



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

Group discloses Iran's secret nuke effort

The Washington Times

Oct. 27, Paris

The Iranian opposition group that exposed the nation's covert nuclear weapons program two years ago said yesterday that supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has ordered the effort to continue in secret. The opposition group, the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), also disclosed the existence of what it said is a new uranium enrichment facility in central Iran that is nearing completion. Speaking to reporters in Paris yesterday, Mohammad Mohaddessin, chairman of the NCRI's Foreign Affairs Committee, said the Iranian regime is "playing a double game" with Europe.



Uranium conversion facility in Isfahan

"Khamenei has ordered his regime to not only continue the enrichment of uranium, but to buy time and accelerate the project in order to make the bomb as quickly as possible," Mr. Mohaddessin said. "Khamenei has ordered his diplomats and his negotiators to prolong the negotiations as much as possible, possibly by between eight and 12 months, which is

exactly the time needed to complete the bomb," he said. The Bush administration and European powers have branded the NCRI a terrorist group. The group, however, gained credibility in August 2002 by exposing another secret uranium enrichment facility being built underground in Natanz, 150 miles south of Tehran, and a heavy water production facility at Arak, about 120 miles southwest of Tehran. That exposure triggered the current nuclear standoff with Iran, by forcing the Islamist regime to open these sites to the U.N. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)... Mr. Mohaddessin said that while the regime was negotiating with Europe, it was also putting the finishing touches on a major site that would be needed to produce large quantities of enriched uranium. The site, located in Isfahan in central Iran, would convert uranium oxide, called "yellowcake," into uranium hexafluoride gas, a stage prior to enrichment.

Iran unveils plant, indicating it will proceed with nuclear program



Knight Ridder, Oct. 27, Arak

Iranian officials unveiled their disputed heavy water plant 40 miles south of here Wednesday in a sign that Iran has no plans to suspend its nuclear program, despite calls from the United States to do so.

There were no signs of surrender at the plant, heralded at its entrance by a sign reading "Distillation Workshop." Anti-aircraft batteries guarded the facility.

Tehran's red line: No nuclear curbs

CNN, Oct. 27, London - Negotiators for Britain, Germany and France came out of talks with Iran Wednesday over Iran's nuclear program using highly diplomatic language to say some

progress had been made. However, Iran's state-run news agency said the talks on a European proposal to halt Tehran's uranium enrichment program had ended without "a tangible result."...

G8 to discuss Tehran's referral to UN

Mehr News Agency, Oct. 29 – U.S. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher reported that the group of eight industrial countries will hold a meeting on Friday to take a joint measure on countering Tehran's plans. Richard Boucher noted that the US, along with the G8 countries will discuss how to compel Tehran to follow the demands of the International Atomic Energy Agency's. The State department spokesman added that the US will discuss with the Europeans what actions must be taken if Tehran's case is referred to the Security Council in November.

He added that the US is closely monitoring the Iranian measures until it meets its obligations and if it does not, most countries will support the US in taking Tehran's nuclear program to the Security Council.

Iran, Russia to sign deal on spent nuclear fuel early December

Tehran Times, Oct. 30, Moscow - Tehran and Moscow are set to sign a deal on the return of the spent nuclear fuel to Russia in early December during a visit to Tehran by the Russian Atomic Energy Agency Alexander Romyantsev, a source told the Mehr News Agency on Thursday.

The pledge was made during a meeting between Iranian Atomic Energy Agency (IAEO) and foreign ministry officials with Romyantsev in Moscow on Thursday.

Parliament approves uranium enrichment for Tehran



Oct. 31, Tehran - Iran's parliament passed a bill backing the resumption of uranium enrichment, as the government left the door open for further negotiations with Europe over the controversial practice..... The motion was passed to calls of "Death to America." He described the vote as a "**message addressed to foreign countries that parliament will not give in to intimidation**".

Six-month freeze at max - Mousavian



Nov. 1, Tehran - Asked how long Iran would be prepared to freeze enrichment for, Hossein Mousavian, foreign policy committee secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, told Reuters: "We can agree to a period of two to three months, maximum six months, to finalize the package." But he said that if the EU maintained its position that Iran must scrap its nuclear fuel cycle capabilities, "then, if not now, in some months we will reach a confrontation."..."The cessation of uranium enrichment is already rejected. It is our red line and if it is the Europeans' condition then it is better to leave the talks now." "(But) if the Europeans' concern is to be assured that Iran's (uranium) enrichment will never in the future be diverted from peaceful purposes... there's a very good chance of reaching a compromise."



EU compromises with Iran on uranium enrichment



Nov. 2, Vienna - The European Union is no longer explicitly calling for an indefinite suspension of Iran's uranium enrichment, diplomats said, outlining a compromise proposal ahead of a crucial meeting with the Iranians on their nuclear programme. The diplomats said ambassadors from Britain, France and Germany were Tuesday to hand over in Tehran the EU's written offer, ahead of a scheduled meeting



with Iran in Paris on Friday on Europe's request for Iran to halt uranium enrichment, which can be used to make nuclear weapons. **"This paper fudges the uranium enrichment question by saying suspension needs to hold until the conclusion of negotiations over the long-term status of Iran's program,"** said a Western diplomat who requested anonymity.

It is "a very polished linguistic version, so to speak, to bypass that problem (indefinite suspension of enrichment)," another diplomat close to the talks said. In Brussels, French Foreign Minister Michel Barnier urged Iran to produce a "lasting" halt to its uranium enrichment activities, carefully avoiding the word "indefinite" as signs emerged of a compromise deal between Iran and the EU.

A bluff to mislead international community



Nov. 3, Moscow - Iran has the capacity to produce nuclear weapons but does not intend doing so, a senior Iranian official said here Wednesday. **"We do not intend making nuclear weapons,"** said Ali Akbar Soltan, deputy director-general of Iran's Foreign Ministry political department. **"If we had had such an intention, we would have done so a long time ago because Iran has the capacity to do so,** especially talented scientists," Soltani told an international conference here...

Tehran will not back down from its nuclear program – Iranian opposition leader

Al-Safer semi-weekly, Nov. 3 - Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, leader of the National Council of Resistance of Iran in an interview on Oct. 27 with Italy's *Corriere della Sera* daily said: The Iranian regime can not withdraw from its programs in return for the incentives offered by the EU. Mrs. Rajavi noted that there are no moderates in Iran, adding, "A domestic poll revealed that 94% of Iranians want a regime change." Asked whether the Iranian government is ready for hostility over its nuclear program, the Iranian Resistance's president-elect replied: "The regime wants to acquire the bomb because it sees it as a guarantee for maintaining its schemes for the region."

Options on confronting a rogue state

Voice of America TV, Nov. 4, translated from Farsi – Michael Ledeen, a researcher at the American Enterprise Institute, is not optimistic about the European's deal. In his view, there are two options for countering Iran. The first option is military strike at Iran's nuclear facilities and the second is to considerably increase support for the democratic opposition in Iran.

Iran's economical incentives

European Union exports to Iran grow by 25%

Middle East News Agency (MENA), Oct. 28 - The European Union is on course to export a record of over Euro 10 billion (\$12.7 billion) worth of goods to Iran in 2004, after showing a 25 percent rise in the first half of the year to hit Euro 5.4 billion.

Tehran seeks support from China, Russia and Brazil



Fars News Agency, Nov. 2 - Ali Akbar Salehi, Iran's former representative to the IAEA, said, "The two-year challenge on nuclear energy has been the biggest political challenge (for Iran) after the revolution." He added, "In the Friday's meeting, if the Europeans do not accept our right to acquire fuel cycle technology, there is a 50% chance that Iran's case be referred to the UN Security Council." He said, **"The 100-billion-dollar deal between Iran and China was in line with that country's support for Iran's**

stance in the board of governors." "We are also negotiating and lobbying with Brazil and Russia," he added.

Meddling in Iraq

Iraqi public demand more revelations on Iranian interferences, surrogates

Al-Forat daily, Oct. 25 – If there is any objection to (the Iraqi Intelligence Chief) Mr. Shahwani and the Defense Minister, it is that they suffice to general remarks and do not give more details... Instead of mentioning Iran's role in the conduct of Badr members, the information on the Supreme Council of Islamic Revolution of Iraq should have been revealed first and then the accused should have been taken to court along with reasons for their sentencing.

While mentioning **Badr** members, one must point out the information published last August. That information said 150 members left the Badr Corps and cut off ties with it and began working for the (Iranian) Guards Corps intelligence. Then they joined the Mahdi Army and occupied key positions.

Tehran tactfully reveals hand in Iraq crisis

Jomhuri Islami daily, Oct. 31 – [Intelligence Minister Ali] Younessi said, "We told Europe and the US to leave Iraq after Saddam's downfall, otherwise Iraq would become a haven for the world's terrorists. That is what has happened today. "

Border forces capture 94 infiltrators crossing from Iran

AP Associated Press *Oct. 31, Basra* - A military commander says Iraq's border forces have arrested 94 infiltrators who illegally crossed into the country from Iran.

The Iraqi Brigadier General in charge of the southern borders says the infiltrators, all Afghans and Iranians, were arrested yesterday crossing into southern Basra and Amarah. The general says most of them had no travel documents and the rest didn't have proper ones. U.S. officials have raised constant concerns about the country's porous border, saying foreign fighters from surrounding nations are flooding into Iraq to join the insurgency.

Iran behind 18 assassinations and rebels in Fallujah- Ghazi al-Yawar

AFP *Nov. 1, Kuwait City* - Iraqi President Ghazi al-Yawar accused Iran of orchestrating attacks in his country and declared his opposition to a threatened assault on the rebel hotbed of Fallujah, in an interview published Monday. "Iran is playing a negative role in Iraq. It is behind the assassination of more than 18 Iraqi intelligence officers. It is also playing a negative role in southern Iraq," Yawar told Kuwait's Al-Qabas newspaper.

Iraq to complain to Security Council over Iran's meddling - Shaalan



Al-Sabah Al-Jadid daily, Nov. 3 – Iraqi defense minister Hazim Shaalan again accused Iran. He said security agencies have enough evidence to condemn Iran and to prove Iran's huge role in Iraq's insecurity. He stressed that these documents and evidence will be presented to an impartial international group or the Security Council so that Iran would not be able to get away with it and would have to account for what occurs in Iraq.

Sponsoring global terrorism

Bin Laden's Iran Alliance

The Washington Times *Oct. 27, by Richard Minter* - Seemingly desperate, bin Laden recorded an extraordinary audiotape and sent it via courier to Ali Khamenei, the grand ayatollah of Iran's Supreme Council. On that tape, according to a former Iranian intelligence officer I interviewed in Europe, bin Laden asked for Iran's help. In exchange for safe harbor and funding, he pledged to put al Qaeda at the service of Iran to combat American forces in Afghanistan and in Iraq, where al Qaeda leaders believed American intervention was inevitable. Bin Laden reportedly pledged, "If I die, my followers will be told to follow you [Khamenei]." ...On July 26, 2002, bin Laden himself crossed into Iran from the Afghanistan border near Zabol, traveling north to the Iranian city of Mashad. Over the next year, bin Laden holed up in a series of safe houses controlled by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard between Qazvin and Karaj, two cities along a highway west of Teheran. He moved frequently to avoid detection or betrayal. He was not alone. Two intelligence sources told me bin Laden was "guarded by the Revolutionary Guard." Bin Laden also traveled with al Qaeda's number two man Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri, who was wounded and required medical treatment, my sources said. For a time, bin Laden moved freely with and crossed into Afghanistan at will, usually through an Iranian border checkpoint near Zabol.

Why would Iran, a predominantly Shi'ite Muslim land, work with a predominantly Sunni Muslim terror organization like bin Laden's? The short answer is personal connections, shared goals, and a common enemy... Administration officials expect bin Laden will most likely be captured in Pakistan. Yet policymakers would be wise to turn their attention to Iran's documented links to global terrorist networks, including bin Laden's. With vast oil revenues, a long history of supporting terrorists, and a fathomless desire to achieve its ideological aims at the expense of American lives, it certainly deserves its place on President Bush's "Axis of Evil."

Suicide bombers, "valuable people ready to open the way" - Rafsanjani

Fars News Agency, Oct. 29, Friday prayer sermon by Hashemi Rafsanjani, head of the State Expediency Council - Describing Europeans to "be on the side of the Islamic Republic, for now", Rafsanjani calls suicide bombers "valuable people ready to open the way"...

Rafsanjani, in reaffirming the nature of the theocratic system in Iran, said: "It is the Supreme Leader who sets the official policy." The Islamic Republic "is ready to pursue, to whatever length necessary, the negotiations" regarding the nuclear crisis in what the cleric called "a logical, rational, and internationally lawful framework." Rafsanjani: "I hope that they [the Europeans] would behave rationally and would not become an instrument in the hands of Americans."

Iranians' struggle for freedom

Norwegian parliamentary majority support PMOI

Iran's National TV, Oct. 28 - The majority of members of the Parliament of Norway expressed their support for the Mojahedin and Iranian Resistance and called for the removal of the Mojahedin's name from the terror list. In a conference on Wednesday, October 27, in Norway's Stortinget, the majority of MPs from various parties declared their support for the Mojahedin and the Iranian Resistance. The conference was held upon the invitation of Mr. Lars Rise, member of the foreign relations committee from the ruling Christian Party, Morten Høglund, member of the foreign relations committee from the Progressive Party, Bjørn Jacobson, member of the foreign relations committee from the Left Socialist Party, Ms. Gunn Karin Gjøl, vice chair of the Judicial committee from the Labor Party and Ms. Trine Skei Grande, head of the Liberal Party's parliamentary group. Legal experts and a group of Iranian residents of Norway participated in the meeting along with the MPs.

Deteriorating conditions of human rights

European parliament condemns human rights abuses in Iran



Oct. 28, Strasbourg - The European Parliament expressed alarm Thursday at the deterioration in the area of human rights in Iran, in particular those relating to press freedom and the death penalty. "The situation in Iran with regard to the exercise of key civil rights and political freedom has deteriorated since the parliamentary elections of February this year despite commitments on the part of the government of Iran to promoting these universal values," according to a motion passed by the parliament. ...

The parliamentarians said they were "appalled at the public hanging" two months ago of a 16-year-old boy (sic). They noted that 25 minors had been sentenced to death in the past year.

They said they were deeply worried by the sentence of death by stoning passed on a 13-year old girl, Zhila Izadi, pregnant by her 15-year-old brother, himself sentenced to 150 lashes.

Tehran reacts to EP censure: Mind your own business!!

News Network TV, Oct. 31 - Foreign ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Assefi warned Europeans not to decide for Iran. Commenting on the resolution by the European Parliament claiming human rights violations in Iran, he said, "It is uncalled for the European Parliament to prejudge and tell Iran what to and what not to do. The European Parliament would do better to pay attention to the issue of religious minorities and Muslims in Europe and not risk its prestige with baseless resolutions."

Iran turns a censorious eye on Web journalists



Christian Science Monitor, Oct. 28, Nicosia -

The recent arrest of several bloggers, online journalists, and Internet technicians in Iran has raised fears that the country's old guard is determined to muzzle dissent in cyberspace... "They [hard-liners] see all these websites, including blogs, as newspapers they haven't been able to crack down on yet," says Derakhshan, a Canada-based Iranian blogger. New laws covering "cyber crimes" were announced last week by the head of the judiciary, Ayatollah Shahrudi. "Anyone who disseminates information aimed at disturbing the public mind through computer systems or telecommunications would be punished in accordance with the crime of disseminating lies," he declared.

Flogging in public



News Network TV, Oct. 29 - Two people were flogged in public in the city of Nayshabour. The two individuals received 120 lashes together for disrupting public order.

One of the individuals was sentenced to three years imprisonment, 70 lashes and a fine, and the other received 50 lashes.

Gender equality is "tyranny against men", Iranian MP claims



Oct 31, Tehran -- An Iranian woman lawmaker is backing the removal of the concept of gender equality from a state development plan in order to prevent the "bullying" of men, the state news agency IRNA reported yesterday. "Bringing up the issue of gender justice is a case of bullying men," the female deputy, Eshrat Shayeghi told the agency. She said she was supporting a decision by the conservative-dominated parliament to delete a

phrase in the 'Fourth Five-Year Development Plan' (2005-2010), which aimed at considering equal training and employment opportunities for women as men. "If men are in the habit of beating, women are guilty of talking back," Shayeghi said. "If the gender justice is brought up, men can object to payment of the household expenses (*nafagheh*) – given under Islamic law to housewives – as a sort of abuse and violence against men."

2 young men to be executed

Etemad daily, Nov. 1 – The Supreme Court upheld the death decree for a 24-year-old man by the name of Moussa. This young man will soon be taken to the gallows.

Iran daily, Nov. 1 – A young worker has been sentenced to execution by a court judge.

Feature

It all started in Tehran

Arab New, Oct. 30 - The embassy seizure showed that Americans were no longer safe outside their homeland and that even diplomatic immunity would not protect them. The 9/11 attacks showed that the Americans were no longer safe even in their own homeland, and that no amount of military clout could protect them against enemies that recognized no bounds.

In a sense the Nov. 4, 1979 attack on the US Embassy in Tehran could be regarded as the opening scene of a long drama that reached its catharsis on Sept. 11, 2001.

The 1979 embassy attack came at a time that the administration of President Jimmy Carter was trying to prop up the new Khomeinist regime in Tehran....

According to his son Ahmad, who had been asked to coordinate with the embassy-raiders, the ayatollah feared "thunder and lightning" from Washington. But what came, instead, was a series of bland statements by Carter and his aides pleading for the release of the hostages on humanitarian ground...

For 22 years the United States, under presidents from both parties, behaved in exactly the way that Khomeini predicted. It took countless successive blows, including the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center in New York, without decisive retaliation. That attitude invited, indeed encouraged, more attacks. The 9/11 tragedy was the denouement of the Nov. 4 attack on the US Embassy in Tehran.

Militant Muslim fundamentalism rooted in Iran, greatest world threat



USA Today, Oct. 25 - On a Sunday morning 25 years ago, U.S. diplomats in Tehran looked out the window to see hundreds of young Iranians, fired by a love of Islam and a hatred of America, spilling over the walls and through the gate of the embassy compound.

The Americans did not know it, but they were staring at the future - a type of militant Muslim fundamentalism that would one day replace communism as the greatest threat to their nation.

That was Nov. 4, 1979, the beginning of the Iran hostage crisis, and a date on a timeline that would stretch to Sept. 11, 2001, and beyond. Fifty-two Americans were held captive for 444 days. Although none was seriously hurt, many were beaten, blindfolded, isolated and lined up for mock firing squads. Never had so many representatives of so powerful a nation been abused so flagrantly...

What was shocking in 1979 has now become routine. New group of extremists - this time in Iraq - almost daily takes hostages, makes threats and demands concessions. And though the circumstances are vastly different than in Iran 25 years ago, the plan is the same: Invoke Islam to crush America.

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