



# 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.

March 4, 2005

No. 145

### Nuclear proliferation

#### **IAEA head waits to issue Iran verdict, nuclear program documents sought**

**The Washington Post, Mar. 1** -- The head of the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency called on Iran yesterday to hand over more documents relating to its nuclear program and make up for a lack of confidence created by years of concealment. But Mohamed ElBaradei, director of the International Atomic Energy Agency, also welcomed some recent cooperation by Iran and stressed that there was no proof the Islamic republic is trying to build nuclear weapons, as the Bush administration has said. The mixed assessment at the opening day of this week's IAEA meeting in Vienna comes as the White House considers whether to help a diplomatic track between Europe and Iran.

#### **IAEA urges Iran to cooperate**

**CNN, Feb. 28, Vienna** -- The head of the U.N. atomic watchdog agency urged Iran to cooperate with his probe of Tehran's past nuclear activities on Monday at the start of a 35-nation meeting. Mohamed ElBaradei, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, said that although his investigations of nearly two decades of clandestine nuclear work were "moving forward," the IAEA still had to "make sure that we've seen all aspects of the past program." The agency must be sure "that there is nothing undeclared by Iran," as a matter of re-establishing trust damaged by the past clandestine activities, he told reporters.



#### **McCain: Bar Russia from G8 over Iran deal**

**Reuters, Feb. 28, Washington** - The United States should seek to bar Russia from this year's major-nation summit to protest actions by Moscow including its deal on Sunday to provide Iran nuclear fuel, a leading Republican senator said.

Lawmakers from both major parties joined in calling for Russia to be punished for the nuclear deal and what they said were anti-democratic actions by Russian President Vladimir Putin, although the French, German and British ambassadors to the United States

opposed barring Russia from the summit... McCain accused Putin of carrying out "aberrational" policies and acting "like a spoiled child," not only in the Iran deal but in domestic policies that McCain said limited press freedom and tightened Kremlin control over Russian regions.

"The United States and our European allies should start out by saying, 'Vladimir, you're not welcome at the next G8 conference,'" said McCain, an influential member of the Senate Armed Services Committee... Sen. Lindsey Graham, a South Carolina Republican, applauded McCain for proposing Russia be barred from the summit. "It is time for the Russian government to pay a price for empowering the bad guys and slipping back away from democracy," Graham told CNN's "Late Edition." U.S. Rep. Jane Harman of California, the senior Democrat on the House of

Representatives Intelligence Committee, said on the same program: "This is the time to be tough with Russia. Russia has been transferring technology to Iran for 10 years."

### **Secret meeting in 1987 may have begun program, Iran was offered nuclear parts**

**The Washington Post, Feb. 27** - International investigators have uncovered evidence of a secret meeting 18 years ago between Iranian officials and associates of Pakistani scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan that resulted in a written offer to supply Tehran with the makings of a nuclear weapons program, foreign diplomats and U.S. officials familiar with the new findings said. The meeting, believed to have taken place in a dusty Dubai office in 1987, kick-started Tehran's nuclear efforts and Khan's black market. Iran, which was at war with Iraq then, bought centrifuge designs and a starter kit for uranium enrichment. But Tehran recently told the International Atomic Energy Agency that it turned down the chance to buy the more sensitive equipment required for building the core of a bomb. There is evidence, however, that Iran used the offer as a buyer's guide, acquiring some of the pricier items elsewhere, officials said. "The offer is the strongest indication to date that Iran had a nuclear weapons program, but it doesn't prove it completely," said one Western diplomat who is familiar with the details of the offer and would comment on the investigation only on the condition of anonymity...

Some U.S. officials familiar with limited details of the new intelligence believe it could strengthen the case for U.N. referral. But the new information is unlikely to sway Britain, France and Germany from a negotiating path they began with Iran in November. European diplomats, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said that although the new information reinforces suspicions, it is not enough to take the issue to the Security Council -- a move that would likely end their process with Iran...

## **Exporting terrorism and Meddling in Iraq**

### **Shaalaa: Iraqi security violations by Iran**

**Al-Sharqiya television, Feb. 28, Iraq** – Hazem Al-Shaalaa, Iraqi Defense Minister, reiterated his accusations about Iran and Syria being involved in the security problem his country is suffering from. In remarks published on Sunday, Shaalaa said that anything I have said about violation of security by Iran and Syria has been proven by the confessions of the terrorists we have arrested.

### **Kidnappers found to have ties with Iran**

**INTV, Feb. 28** - Iraqi security forces have arrested two groups of kidnappers in the Tanouma regions near Basra and Ghorna in the Maissan province.

A group of three kidnappers with ties to the Iranian Revolutionary Guards' Fajr base was arrested near Basra on February 8. The kidnappers were holding a hostage when arrested. Under interrogation, they confessed that they took the hostages to Iran and after a while they would contact their families and request for money. The second group, also affiliated with the Iranian regime, was arrested in the region between Ghorna and Ghal'eh Salah in the Maissan province. The Iranian regime uses the kidnappings to foment insecurity in Iraq.

### **Team of assassins arrested near Jalawla**

**INTV, Feb. 28** - The Iraqi security forces arrested two groups of three and five of the Iranian regime's elements in the city of Jalawla. Both groups possessed large sums of money. They confessed that they were taking the money to pay the Iranian regime's local mercenaries. One of those arrested confessed under interrogation that he had been involved in a number of terrorist operations and assassinations.

## **Human right violations and protest in Iran**

### **Girls in Iran being sold in Pakistan on daily basis**

**Iran Focus, Tehran, Mar. 02** – At least 54 Iranian girls and young women, between the ages of 16 and 25, are sold on the streets of Karachi in Pakistan on a daily basis, according to report outlining the latest statistics. The report also revealed that there are at present at least 300,000 runaway girls in Iran,



adding that the estimated number of women under the absolute poverty line was more than eight million.

A senior women's affairs analyst today revealed the findings speaking to a state-run news agency. "According to an investigation by analysts, women comprise of only two percent of the country's administration force", Mahboubeh Moghadam said. "Every day 54 Iranian girls between 16 to 25 years of age are bought and sold in Karachi, and the root of this crisis is the government policy which has resulted in poverty and the deprivation of rights for the majority of people in society", she added. Professor Donna M. Hughes, a Women's Studies expert at the University of Rhode Island in the United States, recently shed some light on the issue of human trafficking. "Slave traders take advantage of any opportunity in which women and children are vulnerable", she said. "Popular destinations for victims of the slave trade are the Arab countries in the Persian Gulf. According to the head of the Tehran province judiciary, traffickers target girls between 13 and 17, although there are reports of some girls as young as 8 and 10, to send to Arab countries. One ring was discovered after an 18-year-old girl escaped from a basement where a group of girls were held before being sent to Qatar, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates. The number of Iranian women and girls who are deported from Persian Gulf countries indicates the magnitude of the trade". Hughes added, "Police have uncovered a number of prostitution and slavery rings operating from Tehran that have sold girls to France, Britain and Turkey as well. One network based in Turkey bought smuggled Iranian women and girls, gave them fake passports, and transported them to European and Persian Gulf countries. In one case, a 16-year-old girl was smuggled to Turkey, and then sold to a 58-year-old European national for \$20,000". Moghadam said that the report's findings indicated that organised gangs were smuggling girls and young women to the southern Gulf States by air and hinted that such a task was very difficult to carry out without some sort of government green-light. "The number of runaway girls in the country is at least 300,000. Nearly 86 percent of girls who runaway from home for the first time end up being sexually abused", she added. Highlighting the fact that more than eight million women are living in poverty, Moghadam said, "The number of youths who are suffering from psychological problems in Iran currently stands between eight to ten million people, the majority of whom are girls". Moghadam noted that Iran currently has the highest suicide rate in the world, adding, "Every year seven thousand people commit suicide, the majority of whom are women". Moghadam also criticised the government's treatment of women, adding that basic freedoms such as the right to choose what to wear and the right to take part in arts and sporting activities were non-existent.

## Feature

### Carrots for Tehran?

## The Washington Times

*March 3.* Director-General Mohammed ElBaradei and the International Atomic Energy Agency, under fire from Washington for failing to vigorously challenge Iran's nuclear-weapons program, are taking a tougher line toward Tehran. As President Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice prepare to discuss joining the European Union's efforts to use some incentives to persuade Iran to change its behavior, they must certainly keep in mind the mounting evidence that Tehran has never come clean about its nuclear program and shows no inclination to cooperate with international inspectors. In the wake of new revelations that in 1987, at the height of Iran's war with Iraq, the regime was approached by aides to A.Q. Khan, the rogue Pakistani nuclear scientist at the center of a nuclear smuggling network, a senior diplomat close to the IAEA suggested Monday that there is ample reason to be suspicious of the Iranian government's behavior. "The ball is very much in Iran's court to come clean through absolute transparency measures and cooperation with the agency," Mr. ElBaradei said yesterday. Responding to Iran's complaint that the IAEA had no business visiting one site where nuclear work was suspected but not proven, Mr. ElBaradei noted that Iran is a "special case," because its nuclear program has been clandestine for nearly two decades. Making perhaps his most blunt criticism yet, Mr. ElBaradei stated: "In view of the past undeclared nature of significant aspects of Iran's nuclear program, a confidence deficit has been created, and it is therefore essential that Iran works closely with the agency in a proactive manner." But Iran is doing everything it can to frustrate the IAEA. On Tuesday, IAEA Deputy Director-General Pierre

Goldschmidt delivered a report to the agency's board of governors in Vienna documenting how Iran continues to stonewall and prevent inspectors from traveling to suspected weapons sites. For example, Iran refused to answer IAEA questions about dual-use material and equipment that could be used in uranium enrichment at Lavizan, a suspected weapons site in Tehran, and a military facility at Parchin, where the United States charges that Iran is simulating atomic-weapons tests. At Parchin, IAEA inspectors who went there in January were only permitted to visit a small percentage of the locations where weapons activity is believed to be taking place. According to Mr. Goldschmidt, of the four areas at the facility the IAEA identified as being of potential interest, Iran only permitted inspectors to visit one. On Sunday, Iran denied an IAEA request to conduct a follow-up visit. Even if Iran were to miraculously respond to Washington and European promises of unspecified rewards for shutting down its nuclear-weapons program, another question needs to be answered: What would the allies do if Tehran, after jettisoning nuclear weapons, continued to promote terrorism by supporting Hezbollah and other terrorists? There are myriad real-world obstacles, all of them relating to Iranian behavior, to any rapprochement between this Iranian government and the West.

## Carrots for the Mullahs



*March 1-* The governing board of the International Atomic Energy Agency is in session this week in Vienna, and today it will review the latest batch of evidence concerning Iran's violations of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. These violations include:

- Refusal to allow the IAEA to inspect all areas of the Parchin military site near Tehran, which the U.S. suspects is involved in illicit nuclear research.
- Failure to disclose construction of a tunnel under the nuclear site of Isfahan.
- The unresolved question of how weapons-grade uranium was detected on Iranian centrifuges.

• A document describing technical assistance offers received from nuclear proliferator A.Q. Khan dating back to 1987. Sounds bad. So what does the Administration intend to do? One option being considered by the Administration is to join the EU in offering Tehran a package of incentives -- including commercial aircraft and membership in the World Trade Organization -- in exchange for a formal Iranian commitment to renounce plans to build a bomb. More broadly, the intention is to create a united front with the Europeans now in the hope that they will join the U.S. later if Iran continues to violate its NPT commitments. "The reason we're comfortable considering this tactically is because, strategically, when the President was in Europe, he found them solid on the big issue: that Iran can't have nuclear weapons," a senior State Department official tells the Washington Post. If all this sounds disconcertingly familiar, it's because it is. In 2002, Washington thought that if it would bend to European demands and achieve a U.N. consensus on Iraq, the Europeans would bend to Washington if and when Iraq failed to comply with U.N. demands. Then-Secretary of State Colin Powell even extracted a promise of support from his French counterpart Dominique de Villepin, only to discover the French had no intention of supporting a second resolution against Saddam, whatever the circumstances. The Europeans are being disingenuous again. Sure, they "oppose" Iran's nuclear ambitions. But they have also made the calculation that they can live with a nuclear Iran just as they currently live with a nuclear North Korea. That's why British Foreign Minister Jack Straw says he cannot see "any circumstances in which military action would be justified against Iran." That's also why German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer recently toasted Iranian-German relations at the opening of Tehran's new embassy in Berlin, treating the nuclear question as a mere hiccup on the road to closer partnership. As it is, even if the Europeans were sincere, the deal being considered for Iran is certain to fail. The Iranians have already publicly forsworn any interest in nuclear weapons: Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi insists that Islam itself forbids their development. So just what purpose is served by another attestation of Iran's fidelity to the NPT? Perhaps Tehran's good faith may yet be purchased with (Airbus) planes and WTO membership. But what guarantee is there that the arrangement will last? As we have seen with North Korea, rogue regimes rarely stay bribed, and the most effective way Tehran could up the ante is to continue to develop its nuclear options. At that point, a U.S. military strike would be too risky to contemplate. We also doubt the Iranians would be stopped by a hostile Security Council resolution, even if the Europeans could be brought to support it. "What's the point?" they would

say -- and they'd be right. What's needed now is some genuine realism on Iran. The Europeans are free to believe that a nuclear Iran is a safer bet for them -- a "status quo" power, as they like to say. As for the fact that Western Europe may soon be in range of nuclear-tipped Iranian missiles -- that's their business, as we like to say. But the U.S., with its stake in Iraq and the Persian Gulf, its opposition to terrorist groups that Iran sponsors, and its commitment to spreading democracy in the Mideast, cannot be indifferent to a nuclear Iran. The problem is not that we have yet to hit on the right mix of carrots and sticks to cajole Iran into responsibility. The problem is that Iran's theocratic regime is by its nature inimical to American interests; any move that extends its life also prolongs the hazard it poses to the U.S. That does not mean the U.S. should drop diplomacy and take up arms against Iran tomorrow. It does mean that if any headway is to be made, the Administration needs to be absolutely clear about Iran's intentions and Europe's motives. Signing on to Europe's strategy offers one certain outcome: a nuclear Iran.