



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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GC Gaining Political Power



Iran's Revolutionary Guards making a bid for increased power

EuroasiaNet, May 20 - Iran's Revolutionary Guards, the military force that has served as the main pillar of support for the Islamic

republic, is seeking to play an independent role in the country's domestic political life...

Iran's conservative clerics created the Revolutionary Guard Corps to defend the 1979 Islamic revolt from both foreign and domestic enemies. Conservative clerics became increasingly reliant on the country's security forces as they went about re-establishing their firm grip on power...

Signs of the growing political clout of the Revolutionary Guards are abundant. For instance, on May 18, a former guards commander, Ezatullah Zarghami, was named to the key post of national television and radio chief.

In addition, in apparent exchange for its help during the parliamentary elections, the Revolutionary Guards were permitted to field its own slate of candidates. Thus, when the new parliament convenes later in May, about one dozen legislators will be under the effective control of the Revolutionary Guards...

By far the greatest demonstration of the Revolutionary Guards' political influence occurred in early May, when the military abruptly closed down Tehran's new Imam Khomeini International Airport. In justifying its action, Revolutionary Guard representatives said the fact that a Turkish consortium, TAV, was in charge of operating the airport terminal posed a threat to Iran's "security and dignity," the official IRNA news agency reported...

Meddling in Iraq

THE KANSAS CITY STAR **Focus war on terror in Tehran** *The Kansas City Star, May 20, By Saeid Sajadi, executive director of U.S. for Democracy and Human Rights in Iran* - Today, terrorism

is primarily fostered and nurtured by Islamic fundamentalism, which has emerged as a political alternative in the Middle East, especially after the collapse of the Soviet Union...

Islamic fundamentalism is an ideology and culture; therefore in the final analysis, the solution is an antithesis from within Muslim society... In the war against terrorism, the strategy should logically be to ally with and support those Muslim movements that present a democratic antithesis to Islamic fundamentalism.

Such a movement should have certain pivotal characteristics: It should be rooted in Islam and Muslim society; it should accentuate Islamic teachings consistent with democracy and universal human rights; and it should have devoted and organized members on the ground, taking the message to the masses. Further, given that the core of Islamic fundamentalism ideology is manifested through suppression of women, the antithesis must embrace women...

Today, terrorism has taken the battle to Iraq; nonetheless, the source and capital of Islamic fundamentalism remains at Tehran.

A free and democratic Iraq is feasible only when a democratic Iran is established. However, the ruling regime has prolonged its rule, benefiting from past or present appeasement from the West in general, and Europe in particular...

A lasting solution to terrorism rooted in Islamic fundamentalism is through propagation of the movement of freedom-loving Muslims — especially those who focus on its rule at the capital. Meanwhile, until the final battle to be fought by freedom-loving Muslims themselves, the West should avoid appeasing Islamic fundamentalists in any shape or form.

Iran's a growing danger in Iraq

New York Daily News, May 17 - Tehran's mad mullahs have thrown their support behind select Islamic extremists for many years. But a top-secret report prepared by senior Mideast intelligence sources says Iran has recently stepped up its efforts to train and arm a widening range of terrorists, many of whom pose direct threats to Western targets, including in Iraq.

Iran's protégés, new and old, are both Sunni and Shiite Muslims, and they hail from all across the Middle East: Morocco, Algeria, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and Lebanon. Many are already ensconced in Iranian training camps.

Most of these Iranian-fostered groups are violently anti-American. Some, like Lebanon's Usbat al-Ansar and Iraq's Ansar al-Islam, have direct ties to Al Qaeda...

A Hamas-financed Qassem workshop, I'm told, has been set up in Iran under the supervision of a Hamas cell leader named Abu Husam, who is a qualified engineer.

Needless to say, Iran is eager not to leave any traces of its involvement in attacks against the U.S.

But Iranian intelligence has quietly helped its terrorist protégés cross over into the United Arab Emirates and return with materials for the rocket project through the Iranian military port of Bandar Abbas.

"According to the Hamas-Al Qaeda plan," says an intelligence source, "the first rockets are to become operative in Iraq in early June, just before rule is transferred to the Iraqi interim government."

"Martyrdom" operations most effective weapon against US, British Occupation – mullahs' body

Kayhan daily, May 22 – The Committee commemorating martyrs of Islam's Global Movement announced that it is prepared to register names of volunteers for martyrdom (suicide) operations against American and British Occupiers. Ms. Forouz Raja'ifar, the Committee's secretary, announced this and said, "We consider martyrdom operations the only effective and useful way to counter domination of the World's Arrogance."

She added, "This operation has passed its test in the Iran-Iraq War, in Palestine and in Lebanon. Today it is known as the most effective weapon of barefoot Muslims. We are confident that dismissal of the American and British Occupiers from Iraq is not possible without martyrdom operations. The Committee has already begun registering names of volunteers for martyrdom operations against the American and British Occupiers and is lobbying the relevant officials and examining different ways for dispatch of volunteers.

Rajai'far said at the end, "The Committee commemorating martyrs of Islam's Global Movement has started an extensive effort to theorize martyrdom operations and its culture among the youth. The gathering commemorating the martyrs on June 2 is the first step of the Committee commemorating martyrs of Islam's Global Movement in this direction."

Bush says no to Iran-controlled Shi'a state

Az-Zaman daily, May 20, Baghdad, translated from Arabic – (First interview by an Iraqi newspaper with U.S. President Bush) President George Bush: As for Iran, they think they can build nuclear weapons and I believe this a big mistake. The world must help so that Iran could not make advanced weapons. I don't think there will be a Shi'ite religious government in Iraq which Iran will dominate. I believe the Iraqi people want to have their own identity. Shiites, Sunnis and Kurds will work together for the interests of all in Iraq. I am convinced

that the Iraqi people do not want to be controlled by any one. They want the United States to be a friendly state and do not want the Iranians to dominate them."

US experts working to discover Iranian regime's role in Iraq

Al-Iraq Al-Yaum weekly, May 20 – American officials said the Iranian regime continues to meddle in Iraq. According to U.S. military officials in Baghdad, the arrest of 15 Iranians late last month has made the Coalition forces concerned about what goes on in Iraq. They accused Iran of making efforts to create turmoil in Iraq to establish the foundations of an Islamic regime like the one in Iran.

Muqtada Sadr's militants receive training in Iranian camps

Il Reformista daily (Italy), May 20 – Hojatol Islam Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani is the godfather of Muqtada Sadr. The Iranian Revolutionary Guards has set up three bases since four months ago on the outskirts of the (Iranian) cities of Qasr-e Shirin and Ilam for training the Mahdi Army. Young Iraqi Shiite supporters of Muqtada Sadr receive military training in these three bases under the command of Morteza Reza'ii, a commander of the Qods Corps....

The former president of the Islamic Republic of Iran plays a central role in destabilizing Iraq and enjoys the cooperation of some Guards Corps commanders in this field.



Mullahs desperately trying to export revolution

The Washington Times, May 19, Kuwait, by Claude Salhani, international editor of United Press International - The mullahs, ayatollahs and associated revolutionary guards tried to interest a number of countries to follow in their footsteps, but ultimately failed. There is not one country that has adopted the Iranian system. Yes, Iran had limited success installing a detachment of Guardians of the Revolution in Lebanon, thanks to a governmental void created by Lebanon's civil war. The Iranians thus were able to temporarily Islamize parts of Beirut's southern suburbs and the historic Bekaa Valley town of Baalback, as well as a string of hamlets in south Lebanon. But even in those locations, chadors and Islamic headscarves mix freely with skin-tight Western denims, Nike T-shirts and New York Yankee ballcaps. In short, Iran's revolution was "unsellable" outside its borders. Nicholas D. Kristof, just returned from a trip to Iran writes in the New York Times, "The Iranian regime is destined for the ash heap of history." With elections still rigged, the country has a long way to go before it can be confused with anything resembling a democracy.... There is little doubt Iran strongly desires to establish itself as a regional power in the Persian/Arabian Gulf region as well as in the Middle East. Trust Iran? Unlikely, say many Kuwaitis who live next door and like to keep a watchful eye on their powerful neighbor. Mohammed A. Al-Jassem, editor-in-chief of the Kuwaiti daily newspaper Al-Watan and Newsweek in Arabic believes the Iranians are difficult to trust and says Iranians have been "increasingly active" in Iraq, where their intelligence services are positioning themselves for the post-U.S. occupation period.

Tehran steps up anti-US propaganda

Muslim elite must mobilize against US – Islamic Republic daily

Jomhuri Islami daily, May 23 – Khomeini always recommended that we target the US with our pens and words. He said the US is the "Great Satan" and the "century's mother of corruption." All the misery the Muslim nations suffer from are caused by the US...

In all the Islamic countries, people are ready to counter Islam's enemies, and if there were a specific commander, the people, especially the courageous youth are prepared to sacrifice beyond any limit to force the enemies to retreat. Therefore it is time for the elite of the Islamic world to immediately fulfill their duties in this critical juncture in the history of Islam. They should mobilize all the Muslims and take advantage of the peoples' great power and

other resources of the Islamic world to burn the roots of the Arrogance. This is possible and if it is not done today, there will not be another opportunity. Today's negligence will set the grounds for the Arrogance to dominate the whole Islamic world. God forbid!

(Jomhuri Islami or the Islamic Republic daily is a state-run daily reflecting the views of the mullahs' supreme leader, Ali Khamenei, and his faction.)

Ahwaz prayer leader: A tooth-breaking response to US

Jomhuri Islami daily, May 22, Ahwaz - Ayatollah Mousavi Jazayeri, the Supreme Leader's representative in Khuzistan Province and the Friday prayer leader of Ahwaz said: "This great disaster done by disbelievers in Iraq is a great calamity for the Shiites. We cannot stay quiet in the face of these crimes and disaster. We have to give a tooth-breaking answer to this impudence and we cannot easily overlook this important problem..."

In another part of his speech, the Ahwaz Friday prayer leader called on the Islamic groups in Iraq to continue their fight against the US."

Nuclear deception

Iran's Khatami Warns UN on Future Atomic Cooperation

Reuters May 27, -Iran warned the U.N.'s nuclear watchdog on Thursday it might resume uranium enrichment and halt snap inspections of its nuclear sites if the body did not recognize Tehran's cooperation at a board meeting next month. "The (International Atomic Energy Agency's) decision will have an influence on our cooperation with the agency," President Mohammad Khatami told reporters. "We suspended (uranium) enrichment voluntarily, we implemented the Additional Protocol (on snap inspections) voluntarily, so we can stop that at any time," he said.

U.S. Accuses Iran of Intimidation on Nuclear Issue

Reuters May 27, - The United States on Thursday accused Iran of intimidation with its threats to stop cooperating with the international community if the U.N. atomic watchdog agency persists in pressuring Tehran on its nuclear program. But U.S. and European officials told Reuters the threats seem to be backfiring and Iran, unwilling to risk diplomatic isolation, was unlikely to follow through. Iran is waging an aggressive multi-pronged offensive -- including threats to resume uranium enrichment and halt snap inspections of its nuclear sites -- to persuade next month's International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) board meeting to end an inquiry into its nuclear activities. The offensive includes Iranian threats to deny some imports from Australia, which has joined the United States in demanding complete answers about the Islamic republic's nuclear intentions, said one U.S. official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. At a news briefing, State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said: "We don't think it's appropriate to try to intimidate the atomic energy agency or its board into overlooking many failures of Iran to meet its nonproliferation commitments."

Khatami accepts UN nuclear watchdog will not close Iran file next month

AFP May 27, -President Mohammad Khatami (news - web sites) acknowledged that Iran would not achieve its goal of having its nuclear file closed at the June 14 meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency board of governors. He also said IAEA inspectors had had access to all nuclear installations found at military sites, but that no military secrets were being compromised. Iran's file "will not be closed in June," the president said, adding that he did not regard that fact as serious.

Iran is accused of barring U.N. inspectors from military sites

Reuters May 26 - Several Western diplomats on the board of the U.N. nuclear watchdog accused Iran of barring U.N. inspectors from military sites, but Tehran said the agency was getting full access inside the Islamic republic. Diplomats who follow the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said IAEA inspectors had been prevented from

inspecting around a dozen workshops at three locations. "They have yet to allow access to the military sites," one Western diplomat said. "This will probably be the topic of one of the inspection visits" by IAEA officials. "They (Iranian officials) have been obstructing visits to military sites," said another diplomat, adding U.N. inspectors were being escorted by members of Iran's Revolutionary Guards. The United States says Iran has two nuclear programs -- a public one it has declared to the U.N. and a secret one aimed at developing atomic weapons. Tehran rejects this charge, saying its plans are limited to the peaceful generation of electricity.....

Iran plans to eliminate Pakistan's nuclear father

Die Welt daily, May 22, Germany – Iran plans to eliminate Abdol Qader Khan, Pakistan's nuclear father fearing revelation of its nuclear activities..

Iranian officials have become worried since Abdol Qader Khan, Pakistan's nuclear father, spoke about Pakistan's nuclear activities and its ties with Iran. Iranian officials have come up with the question how Abdol Qader Khan was able to provide information on Iran's nuclear activities..

Iranian officials have taken measures to prevent unveiling of their secrets against Abdol Qader Khan in an effort to hide their secret and keep him quiet..

Iranian officials have asked Pakistan's nuclear father to keep silent, but this did not happen and the issue has caused Iran to further worry about its nuclear activities.

Iran's unfortunate conditions

A third of Iran's import is from illegal markets

Radio France Internationale, May 20 – Two Iranian Majlis deputies revealed that one-third of the country's imports is from illegal markets, underground markets and unlicensed ports. They added that some appointed institutions along with other military establishments are active in this field.

Destiny of over 7,000 employees of Sugar Factory unclear after 2 years

Radio France Internationale, May 20 – The executive manager of Shush Danyal Workers' House announced that Dezful's Sugar Factory is in critical condition. The (employment) status of 1,450 permanent and temporary workers as well as 6,000 farmers remains unclear since two years ago when the factory closed down. Some have engaged in unauthentic jobs and a number of others suffer from mental illnesses. Despite measures by the Workers' House, none of the provincial authorities have done anything yet.



Swelling number of street children in Iran

Radio Farda, May 21 – In addition to domestic sources, many foreign journalists who have visited Iran in recent years have reported about the increase in the number of orphaned children in Tehran who spend their lives day and night in the streets..

Iran's Welfare Organization has announced that 25,000 street children were rounded up in Tehran streets last year. Arash Qavidel, a Tehran journalist, says no effective measures have been taken yet to provide accommodations for street children.

Feature

An ultimatum

National Review Online, May 20, by Lt. General Thomas McInerney & Maj. General Paul Vallely - In many aspects, Iran seems a more formidable enemy than Iraq. It has a larger population, a more challenging terrain, and a military not degraded by years of sanctions. That said, Iran is very likely to fall more easily than Iraq did, because Iran's domestic opposition is developing into a serious threat to the regime...

The country's wealth, however, does not make it down to the majority of Iranians. Instead, approximately 40 percent of Iranians live in poverty, because the clerics who control Iranian political and economic life siphon off much of the national income for their own uses...

Over time, many Iranians have come to oppose the theocratic nature of the Iranian state and resent the concentration of political and economic power in the hands of the mullahs, their families, and their cronies...

Democratic reform won't happen naturally in Iran — because the mullahs probably will block it, using their constitutional power and, if that fails to stem the tide of democratization, the quasi-official paramilitary forces at their command... It cannot be denied, however, that the people of Iran are ready and eager for it. The broadly popular Iranian movement in favor of democracy deserves our support for three simple reasons: the Iranian people want to be free, they deserve to be free, and the Web of Terror will greatly diminish when they are free....

The Iranian mullahs' support for terrorism, their repression of their own people who so obviously yearn to be free, and their appalling human rights record are reasons enough to change the regime. Their ambitious nuclear weapons program makes regime change in Iran more than desirable; it makes it necessary — now. And to achieve that, we should deploy every lever we have — diplomatic, economic, and even military — until we get the necessary result.

Iran is One Day Closer to an Atomic Bomb

Intellectual Conservative, May 24 by Hedayat Mostowfi - When you wake up in the morning, remember that the mullahs of Iran are one day closer to an atomic bomb. Days are going by, wasted in negotiations that seem to have no end. Does the world have enough time? No. We don't have the luxury to play hide and seek with the mullahs any more. Tehran is getting closer and closer to the point of no return in its nuclear endeavor....

Are we prepared for the consequences of our appeasement policy toward Tehran? Are we prepared to tell our children and grandchildren that we knew what was coming but we did not do anything about it? Let's face it: There are two choices before us: dealing with the mullahs without an atomic bomb today or dealing with them with an atomic bomb tomorrow....

Just last week, Iranian exiles in Brussels revealed that Iran was pursuing two parallel nuclear programs. The public program is used as a camouflage for the main, top secret nuclear project, which works to produce nuclear weapons....

Another important tactic by Iran is to get out of the spotlight by cracking fires somewhere else in the world. Iran sent thousands of Revolutionary Guards, intelligence agents and millions of dollars to Iraq to destabilize the country, right on time, when Iran is under immense pressure to come clean for its nuclear power programs....

As the mullahs in Iran are the root of the problem, the world community must sever its ties with Tehran and lend support to the democratic opposition to Tehran. A majority of Iranians displayed their distrust of the mullahs by boycotting the parliamentary elections last February and by frequent protests all over Iran....

The world has to keep the pressure on Iran and not let the issue be overshadowed by developments in Iraq. Iran's dossier has to be sent to the UN Security Council to take effective measures. But no action would be effective in and of itself unless it is coupled with support for a democratic regime in Iran.

Human rights violations

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 its annual report. Despite signs of growing awareness of human rights issues in the Islamic republic, Amnesty reported Wednesday 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.

Widespread arrests of student activists in Karaj

Peik-e Iran website, May 22 - Last night agents of the Intelligence Ministry and Judiciary in Karaj attacked the homes of a number of members of the United Students' Front and Iran Democratic Front and those affiliated with them. Government agents have reportedly detained 10 political activists so far, including Amir Saran's family. In the mean time, Maryam Khorrami, member of the Tara Society and the United Students' Front, was also arrested last night at her home in Shahriar.

Five death sentences for a man in Ahwaz

Jomhuri Islami daily, May 22 - A man in Ahwaz was sentenced to five times execution. The head of judiciary in Khuzistan Province said the execution will be carried out in public.

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.



Three imprisoned students on hunger strike

ILNA, May 21 - The students of Yazd University announced in an open letter: Three students by the names of Khaleqi, Gholami and Es'haqi are spending their fourth day in prison. They are incarcerated in Yazd's Central Prison and have been on hunger strike since Thursday night.

The Observer Inhuman punishments in mullahs' Iran

The Observer, May 16 - Until very recently women (and men) were being stoned to death in Iran... In July 2001, according to the Financial Times, a Maryam Ayoubi was executed at Tehran's Evin prison at dawn. Iranian newspapers carried an account of her being ritually washed, wrapped in a white shroud and then carried to the place of execution on a

stretcher where she was buried up to her armpits. There were many such stonings during the Nineties.