



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

What Is To Be Done?

Intellcutalconservative.com, August 4- by *Hedayat Mostowfi* In a historic speech in summer 1980 in Tehran, Iranian Resistance Leader Massoud Rajavi warned the nation against the growing danger of Islamic fundamentalism fueled and guided by Ayatollah Khomeini and his network of thugs. He asked the question, "What is to be done" to deal with this ogre, about to plunge the entire nation into the darkness of terror and fear. The antagonism between the democratic movement and Khomeini's fundamentalist vision peaked in June 1981 when the Revolutionary Guards opened fire on a peaceful demonstration in Tehran and killed many people. The choice was clear: Either surrender or resistance. Rajavi and his People's Mujahedeen chose the latter and paid a heavy price. Now, twenty-three years later, the mullahs in Iran are desperately pursuing the atomic bomb. All negotiations to stop them from their clandestine program have failed. Iran's foreign minister bluntly rejected requests from Germany, France and England to end the nuclear program and insisted that Iran will continue to build centrifuges for enriching uranium. On another front, the mullahs are trying to erect another Islamic republic, this time in Iraq. In an interview with the *Washington Post*, Iraq's defense minister said Iran was Iraq's main enemy and Secretary of State Colin Powell expressed the United States' deep concern about Iran's interference in Iraq. The mullahs' confidence in spreading terror around the world is a result of years of appeasement policy pursued by European countries and the US. Instead of holding Iran accountable for its involvement in the deadly bombing attacks in Khobar and Buenos Aires, the Clinton administration blacklisted the Mujahedeen in 1997 as a goodwill gesture to Iranian President Mohammad Khatami. The *Los Angeles Times* reported on October 9, 1997, "One senior Clinton administration official said inclusion of the People's Mujahedeen was intended as a goodwill gesture to Tehran and its newly elected moderate president, Mohammad Khatami." "There was never a basis for this accusation. After seven years of appeasement policy with Tehran, The *New York Times* reported on July 27, 2004, "A 16-month review by the United States has found no basis to charge members of an Iranian opposition group in Iraq with violations of American law, according to senior American officials." However, Iran not only did not cease supporting terrorism, but used the opportunity to develop nuclear weapons. We are now back again to Rajavi's question about Iran: What is to be done? The clock is ticking. Iran can have its first atomic bomb in a few months and then can negotiate on its own terms.....

Tehran mullahs won't give up uranium program

The New York Times, August 1, Tehran - Iran vowed Saturday not to give up its uranium enrichment program and confirmed that it had restarted building centrifuges for that purpose.

Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi said Iran had not resumed enriching uranium but had restarted work on centrifuges in response to the failure of Britain, Germany and France to resolve questions over Iran's potential nuclear program infractions in June....

Mr. Kharrazi said Iran restarted the centrifuge construction after the three European countries failed to help resolve questions about Iran's compliance with International Atomic Energy Agency commitments despite promising in February to work toward closure by June if Iran stopped making centrifuges.

Rafsanjani warns Europe, US against stemming Iran's nuclear program

Islamic Republic News Agency, Aug. 1 - Rafsanjani told German Ambassador to Tehran Baron Paul Von Maltzahn that big powers should know that Iran would not under any circumstances be ready to compromise on its right to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes...

He said that if Europe and the US attempt to stem Iran's technical and industrial progress, they would realize their mistakes in the coming years....

Powell warns of sanctions over Iranian nuclear program

Voice of America, July 30, Kuwait - Secretary of State Colin Powell says it is increasingly likely that the issue of Iran's nuclear program will have to be referred to the U.N. Security Council for possible sanctions. Speaking to reporters in Kuwait, the latest stop on his trip to the Middle East, Mr. Powell said Iran's latest nuclear moves are troubling...Mr. Powell made clear that U.S. patience on the issue is running out, saying "it is more and more likely" that the matter will have to be referred to the Security Council. "Now Iran has made it clear that they do not intend to abide by all of those commitments," he said. "My three foreign minister colleagues are concerned about this and they are working on the problem, and I stay in close touch with them. But I have made it clear to them that we believe they must insist on their commitments being met, that they receive from the Iranians. And they have to factor it into any other actions the European Union might be thinking of taking, either in the economic sphere, the political sphere or elsewhere. It is a very troubling development."

Meddling in Iraq

Iraq accuses Iran of fuelling violence in its territory to settle scores with US

AP, August 5, KUWAIT CITY - Iraq's defence minister has accused Iran of promoting the violence in his country, saying that Iran should not be using his country to "settle its scores" with America. In an interview published in yesterday's Al Anba, Defence Minister Hazem Shaalan accused certain neighbouring states of a lack of concern for Iraq's predicament as a land struggling to be reborn from the poverty and destruction left by the war that toppled dictator Saddam Hussein."Some of the neighbours did not care about this. They added fuel to the fire," Shaalan said. Asked if he meant Iran, the defence minister said: "Yes, it is Iran. I have said it before ... and I say Iran, Iran, Iran."It was the second time in two months that Mr Shaalan has

blamed Iran for the insecurity in Iraq. Last month he said Iran was Iraq's "first enemy" because it was playing a role in the insurgency. Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi later distanced his government from the remark.

Tehran urged to return planes "now"

Agence France Presse, Aug. 4, Kuwait - Iraqi Defense Minister Hazem al-Shaalan, engaged in a war of words with Iran, demanded in remarks published Wednesday that Tehran immediately return Iraqi planes entrusted to Iran ahead of the 1991 Gulf War. "The 130 planes should be given back to Iraq now," Shaalan said in an interview with the Kuwaiti daily newspaper Al-Anbaa...Shaalan also accused Iran of "attempting to sabotage the demographic structure of Iraq and to denaturalise its national identity."

Unease builds with rise of Iran

Boston Globe, August 4 -Before the US military marched to Baghdad to take out Saddam Hussein's regime, Iraqi and Iranian exiles warned the US government of an unintended consequence the coming war in Iraq could bring: the rise of Iran. They argued that the US-led war in Afghanistan had already eliminated Iran's enemy to the east, the Taliban, whose brand of Islam was hostile to Iran's Shi'ite faith. A second US-led war in Iraq would eliminate Iran's enemy to the west, Hussein, who had launched a bitter, eight-year war against Iran. Now, true to those predictions, Iran -- a country President Bush declared a member of the "axis of evil," along with North Korea and Hussein's Iraq -- is exerting unprecedented influence in the Middle East, defying the international community over its nuclear program and providing funding and personnel for Shi'ite political parties in Iraq. Despite the warnings, some US officials involved in formulating Iraq policy now count the failure to limit Iranian influence as one of the major deficiencies of postwar planning in Iraq. "Iran has the potential of playing a helpful role [in Iraq], but we are uneasy about some of the actions that Iran has been taking," particularly in the southern region, Secretary of State Colin L. Powell told reporters last week in Baghdad. Concern in Washington and Baghdad is mounting as Iraq's fledgling government takes its first steps toward democracy. "Iranian intrusion has been vast and unprecedented since the establishment of the Iraqi state," Iraq's new defense minister, Hazim al-Shalaan told the London-based Arab language newspaper Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, accusing Iran of sending spies to "shake up" the political landscape in Iraq.....Recently, Iran tried to foster good will with Iraq's new government by offering to host eight-nation talks about how to better protect Iraq's borders from infiltration by foreign fighters. But Iranian opposition groups say that offer comes after thousands of mullahs, informants, agents, and Revolutionary Guards have already crossed the 900-mile border into Iraq, sometimes under the guise of Shi'ite pilgrims. "Members of the Iranian opposition warned repeatedly of the dangers of fundamentalists coming from Iran," said Ali Safavi, a former member of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, an opposition group with strong ties to militants. "In the chaos following the toppling of Saddam Hussein, the border was left unguarded, and tens of thousands entered Iraq. . . . I think the US could have sealed the Iranian border and prevented them from setting up shop in Iraq.".....

Every one knows that Iranian regime wants Iraq to save its own rule

Al-Safir semi weekly, Aug. 3, Iraq - The relation between Iran's ruling regime and the political-social situation in Iraq has reached a point where the curtains are falling little by little and the mysteries are



coming to light. With the remarks recently made by officials of the new Iraqi government, is there still any doubt for any fair observer that the main instigator and most serious sponsor of tribal and religious schism and the only beneficiary of insecurity and unrest in Iraq is the Iranian regime and no one else? Iraq's minister of defense said, "The Iranian regime clearly influences government institutions (in Iraq)." Iraq's interior minister said, "Iran has a major role in terrorist operations." Iraq's minister of justice, who was the target of a deadly attempt on his life, frankly accused the head of the highest political decision-making body in Iran, Rafsanjani. He stressed in his remarks that the leaders of the Iranian government are using their neighbor Iraq as well as its people and fate to evade crisis that threatens the survival of their regime. Now the meaning of expressing sympathy for Iraq and its people and loss of religion is becoming clear. Everyone knows now that the leaders of the Iranian government want Iraq to save their own rule. Therefore they attack Iraqis with brandished swords and they will increase their operations. This is where the wisdom of those who have chosen the path of solidarity with the democratic alternative of the Iranian regime, that is the Mojahedin and the Iranian Resistance, comes to light. This is the policy that is the main obstacle to the expansionist aspirations of fundamentalism that threatens Iraq.

Powell comments on Tehran's role in Iraq

Al-Arabia TV, July 29 – Colin Powell, US Secretary of State: "I believe that Iran has been trying to seek influence in Iraq, in the southern part of the country, but elsewhere in the country, and we are concerned about some of the activities the Iranians have undertaken. And we will consult with Prime Minister Allawi, his Minister of Defense, his Minister of Interior, and Foreign Minister, to see what needs to be done with Iran, to persuade Iran that this is the time for them to play a helpful role, not a negative role, a positive role, not a role of interference or intervention. Iran should welcome an Iraq as a neighbor that is not in an aggressive posture toward Iran... Iran should do everything they can to help Iraq to stabilize itself, and to have a stable situation with Iran. Now maybe Iran does not like the possibility of a democratic nation next door, looking at a theocratic nation such as Iran. But we need to work with Iran to get it to play a positive role, and not a negative role."

Deteriorating conditions of human rights

Iran: Human rights commitments not matched by reality

Amnesty International, Press release, August 6 The recent hunger strike in Tehran's Evin prison and the unabated wave of arrests and temporary detention of students, journalists and workers are some of the signs of a worsening human rights situation in Iran. These have renewed international concern over the situation in the Islamic Republic. The international community accepted at face value statements made by judicial officials throughout 2003 that the penalty of stoning had been suspended as a result of a "moratorium". Yet, to widespread dismay, the judiciary initiated an amendment to existing laws detailing how to carry out a stoning and crucifixion in November 2003. International human rights organizations, along with many states, fear that such contradictory behaviour undermines Iran's commitment to international human rights law. Iran's judicial authorities have failed to acknowledge and implement recommendations made by the UN's Working Group

on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD) and the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, two of the United Nations thematic bodies. This failure is causing international human rights organizations and, in particular, the European Union (EU) to call Iran's commitment to upholding international human rights standards and, in particular, the EU-Iran Human Rights Dialogue into question. The death in custody in July 2003 of Zahra Kazemi, an Iranian-Canadian photojournalist, led the Canadian government to propose a resolution at the United Nations General Assembly in October-November 2003. The resolution provided a comprehensive criticism of the situation of human rights in Iran. The grossly flawed investigation and trial into the circumstances of Ms Kazemi's death are expected to further exacerbate diplomatic concern over the human rights situation in Iran. Government and parliamentary-led investigations in July and August 2003 into the circumstances surrounding the death identified those who had been in contact with Zahra Kazemi prior to her death. They concluded that she died as a result of blows to her head and that she had been tortured.

Hashemi fights for mother's rights

National Post, July 31, Montreal - These days, Mr. Hashemi, 26, is more likely to be meeting with federal ministers, giving television interviews or flying to international human rights conferences than relaxing in a cafe... He argued last summer that Canada was fooling itself if it thought an Iranian trial would provide justice, and last week he was proven right... Beyond his personal crusade to seek justice for his mother, Mr. Hashemi also carries the hopes of thousands in the Iranian exile community. They see in Ms. Kazemi's death a chance to expose Iran's decades-long record of human rights abuses and rally international opinion against the country's theocratic regime. "The outcome of this case will have a huge impact. The outcome of the Kazemi affair will be earth-shattering in Iran," predicted Hossein Mahoutiha, an Iranian-born rights activist who has teamed with Mr. Hashemi to push his cause. "It's not one or two people who killed Ms. Kazemi. It's a system, and we need to put that system on trial."

