

In a Letter to

US Secretary of State

100 Iranian Scholars and Experts Call for Delisting of Iran's Main Opposition Movement, Mujahedin-e-Khalq (PMOI-MEK)

- EU removed MEK from its blacklist in 2008 due to lack of any evidence
- British Court of Appeal issued definitive ruling in 2008 and removed MEK from terrorist list
- France's Judiciary, May 11, 2011: There is no evidence of terrorism against MEK
- US Court of Appeals for District of Columbia, July 2010: Decision by the Secretary of State to maintain the MEK on the FTO list violates due process and lacks sufficient evidence

Excerpts:

Dear Secretary Clinton,

"The continued designation of MEK is unfounded, unjust, inhumane, and to the detriment of the Iranian-American community. A broad spectrum of distinguished legal experts have affirmed that there is no legal basis for the MEK's continued FTO listing, nor does it meet the requirements in the relevant statutes.

"We believe the Department's unusual reluctance in complying with the court order is unjustified and a contravention of the Rule of law.

"Madame Secretary, we urge you to personally intervene and put an end to this never-ending saga.

"Similarly, a bipartisan group of more than 130 members of the US Congress, joined by high-ranking officials from four US administrations, are unified in their call for the prompt removal of the MEK from the FTO list.

"Continued blacklisting of the MEK will only lead to more humanitarian disasters, since it will continue to embolden the governments in Iran and Iraq to murder PMOI members, their sympathizers and families, under the banner of cracking down on "terrorists." In July 2009 and April 2011, two bloodbaths carried out by the Iraqi army against Camp Ashraf in Iraq, home to 3,400 PMOI members, including 1,000 women, were justified as "offensives against terrorists."

"This designation has brought stern, irrevocable harm to the democratic opposition in Iran. Dissidents are imprisoned, tortured, and executed under the pretext of "fighting terrorists." As a result, there is a strong and growing perception among the Iranian public that the United States supports the status quo in Iran.

"In the United States, the FTO listing of the MEK has shackled the vast energy, capabilities and resources of the Iranian-American community, preventing us from acting as partners to our compatriots in Iran seeking democratic change. Our members have decades of Western economic, scientific and business experience, and our community in the United States could potentially function as a strong bridge in future relations with a democratic Iran.

"Tehran has mobilized its lobby and PR machine often portraying themselves as the opposition, to launch a smear campaign against the MEK in the United States- to block its removal from the FTO list."

Partial names of signatories:

- Dr. Hamid Allamehzadeh, Ph.D., Professor of Electronic Engineering Eastern New Mexico University Portales
- Dr. Nasrin Azadian, Ph.D., Nutritionist, Acupuncturist
- Dr. Alborz Bahador, PsyD, Doctor of Psychology, Holistic Care and Cure Ctr.
- Dr. Gholam R. Bakhtiari, Pharm.D.
- Dr. Firouz Daneshgari, M.D. Lester Persky Professor & Chairman Case Western Reserve University
- Dr. Farzin Farhan, DDS, Los Angeles, CA
- Dr. Iraj Ghahtamanlou, M.D. Senior Physician
- Dr. Mohammad Ghorbani, Ph.D. Independent Consultant
- Dr. Bobby Hassanzadeh, D.D.S.
- Dr. Gholam Reza Hatami, DC Chiropractic Physician
- Dr. Kazem Kazerounian, Ph.D. Professor and Associate Dean University of Connecticut
- Arash Laloee, Ph.D., M.G.T.S. Senior Analog/Digital Design Engineer Texas Instruments
- Dr. Mahnaz Nasserri, Ph.D. Mechanical and Materials Eng.
- Dr. Mahshid Naini-Aalam, Pharm.D.
- Dr. Hadi Nikoonezad, Pharm.D.
- Dr. Jalil Pakray, Ph.D. Independent Consultant
- Dr. Ali Parsa, Ph.D. History Professor, California State University
- Dr. Mojgan Ramezani, Dentist
- Dr. Zahra Sadeghpour, Pharm.D. Clinical Pharmacist, Consultant
- Dr. Ardeshtir Sanati, D.D.S. San Fernando Family Clinic
- Dr. Seyed Sajadi, M.D. ER Staff Physician, Fitzgibbon Hospital
- Dr. Azadeh Sami, M.D. Pediatrics
- Dr. Slavash Tavakoli, D.D.S.
- Dr. Golshid Tazhibi, MD, Ann Arbor, MI
- Dr. Shahin Toutounchi, Ph.D., Director of Research & Development
- Dr. Farrokh Vatan, Ph.D., NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology
- Dr. Farshid Vaziri-Zand, Ph.D. Chemistry, San Diego State University
- Dr. Ashraf Zadsir, M.D., Clinical Associate Professor, School of Medicine, USC
- Dr. Shahnaz Kiani, RPH, Pharm. D.

Camp Ashraf, 60 miles northeast of Baghdad, is home to 3,400 members of Iran's principal opposition movement, the Mujahedin-e Khalq (PMOI/MEK). Some 1,000 of the residents are women and one-third are former political prisoners in Iran, who survived the Iranian regime's reign of terror and found safe haven across the border. Hundreds of university graduates from the United States and Europe joined them in the campaign to establish a secular, democratic, and non-nuclear republic in Iran. In July 2004, the United States recognized the residents of Ashraf as "protected persons" under the Fourth Geneva Convention and signed an agreement with each resident to protect them until their final disposition. In violation of that commitment, the US handed over protection to Iraq in 2009. On April 8, 2011, Iraqi forces, acting at the behest of Tehran, attacked Ashraf, killing 36 and wounding hundreds more. In a similar assault in July 2009, eleven residents were killed.