

Friends of a Free Iran

**The European Parliament
Rue Wiertz
B-1047
Brussels**

29.11.2006

Dear colleagues,

I have come across, as you might have been, with a well-orchestrated propaganda and disinformation campaign by the Iranian regime primarily aimed at tarnishing the image of the main Iranian resistance movement, the National Council of Resistance of Iran and its affiliated organizations, such as the People's Mojahedin (PMOI).

This campaign inevitably reminds me of what Hitler's propaganda minister, Josef Goebbels, said once, "Tell a lie that is big enough and repeat it often enough, and the whole world will believe it."

Once my efforts on behalf of the resistance movement became public, I began to receive dozens of dubious letters from unknown individuals who claimed to be opposed to the regime, but also criticized the Mojahedin. It did not work. The next stage was somehow more sophisticated. This time it was not the Iranian regime or unknown individuals, but people who claimed to be former members of the organization, whose aim was, to put it bluntly, justifying the crimes committed by the terrorist regime ruling Iran.

I also received some very slick booklets that had the appearance of being published by genuine cultural associations. But, after reading through them, I could easily discern that the Iranian Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS) was hiding behind all the glossy pages. I have gone through all the allegations such as "terrorism," "attacking civilians," "imprisonment of dissidents," "cult-like behavior," and a great deal more. I have seen no merit in these allegations.

This propaganda campaign is not lost to European security services either.

German Security Service, the Office for the Protection of the Constitution (BfV), wrote in its annual 2005 report, "Iran's Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS) has several opposition groups under surveillance in Europe. Particularly the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI) and the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI) are the focus of MOIS's attention. For collecting information and spying activities, Iran's intelligence service (MOIS) uses a network of agents who have defected from these organizations. The agents are invited to travel to Iran for briefings."

In an earlier report in 1999, BfV wrote that the Iranian Resistance "continued to be the focus of the intelligence interest of the Iranian intelligence service... In its fight against the Iranian opposition-in-exile, VEVAK [MOIS] makes use of so-called "cultural associations". These are cover organizations founded as directed by VEVAK and acting in accordance with Iran's interests and wishes. In addition, the Iranian service initiates anti-MEK [PMOI] publications which in part are published by former MEK activists and have the aim of persuading the readers of these publications to turn their backs upon this organization."

The Dutch Security Service, AIVD also wrote, "The Iranian Ministry of Intelligence tries to gather information on the Mojahedin through its members and ex-members as much as possible. Intelligence Ministry officers are instructed to spread negative information against the People's Mojahedin Organization (and its members)."

Against this backdrop, I would like to briefly unmask one of the most notorious of these agents, who are the ringleaders of the MOIS campaign of demonizing the resistance.

Karim Haqi

Karim Haqi has been collaborating with the Iranian Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS) since 1995.

In the spring of 1995, four years after having no contact with the PMOI, he claimed that he had been imprisoned and tortured by the PMOI in Iraq and began to churn out a variety of allegations. In late 1996, Haqi and a number of MOIS operatives went to see the United Nations Human Rights Commission's Special Representative, Prof. Maurice Danby Copithorne, in Geneva and claimed that they had been imprisoned and tortured by the PMOI. They unsuccessfully tried to convince him to devote part of his report to the violations of human rights by the PMOI.

Haqi operates out of an outfit called "Payvand". His extensive contacts with the MOIS even drew attention from the Dutch internal security service. They interrogated him on several occasions and warned him about his contacts with and receiving money from the MOIS. Haqi describes one such encounter in his publication, Peyvand : "On Tuesday, 1 February 2000, around 4:30 pm, a Dutch undercover security agent came to my residence in the Elst Township... After reading a list of names, the agent added: 'All of you have ties with the Iranian regime and have formed a large network...' He added: 'We have sufficient information that you have ties with the [Iranian] regime and it [the regime] pays for your publication... It would suit you better to stop this kind of work and go after your normal business and think about the future of your children' ."

Other well-known operatives of the MOIS in Europe are Massoud Khodabandeh, who, along with his British wife, Anne Singleton, runs a website called Iran-Interlink, Hadi Shams Haeri, Jaafar Baghal-Nejad, Behzad Alishahi, Nowrouz-Ali Rezvani, Massoud Tayebi and Jamshid Tahmasbi.

As for the specific allegations of Mojahedin mistreating their "disaffected" members, I and another colleague in the European Parliament, André Brie from Germany, went to Camp Ashraf, accompanied by a British lawyer, Azadeh Zabeti, in summer of 2005.

We investigated all of the allegations in this regard, which were also raised in a report by Human Rights Watch. We found absolutely no truth in those allegations. We published the results of our thorough investigation in a book entitled, "The Iranian Mojahedin: Mission Report." <http://www.paulocasaca.net/PMOI-EN/index.htm>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paulo Casaca', written in a cursive style.

Paulo Casaca MEP

Co-Chair, Friends of a Free Iran

European Parliament

Brussels