

IN THE MULLAHS' PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION SHAM

95 PERCENT BOYCOTT THE VOTE

Maryam Rajavi Hails Iranians for boycott

Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, President-elect of the Iranian Resistance, described the total boycott of mullahs' sham election a major defeat and rejection of the entire clerical rule by the Iranian people. She congratulated the Iranian people for their widespread boycott of the elections.

Mrs. Rajavi reiterated that the total boycott came at the time when the leaders of the regime with all its factions had called for a major turnout. The move was a rejection of the clerical regime with all its factions.

Mrs. Rajavi emphasized that the election show which was put on by the regime aimed at purging the rival factions was a sign of a regime in its demise. She added that Khamenei and Ahmadinejad, with their widespread vote rigging which they called it "electoral engineering," were trying to cleanse the future Majlis from their internal adversaries. This was to clear the way to obtain nuclear weapons, devour Iraq and export terrorism and fundamentalism to the region without any internal obstacle.

President-elect of the Iranian Resistance said that the Majlis sham election which was "engineered" in advance was to prepare for a stand off with the international community. Hence, any delay to adopt a firm policy vis-à-vis the regime would bring a major catastrophe. Such a policy should comprise of comprehensive sanctions imposed on the mullahs' regime as well as recognition of the Iranian people's right to resist. The first step in adopting such a policy would be to remove the PMOI, the back bone of the Iranian opposition, from the terrorist list. The undertaking was a key component of the appeasement policy toward religious fascism ruling Iran.

U.S. State Department: Election results are "Cooked"

European Union: The election was "neither fair nor free"

Maryam Rajavi:

- *Decisive boycott of the sham election, a crushing defeat for the entire regime*
- *Purge of rivals is a prelude to confrontation with the world community*

Khamenei: Only those paving the way for Ahmadinejad government to charge ahead should be elected

Ahmadinejad: Voters showed resolve to pursue nuclear program

Mullahs' eighth Majlis (parliament) election was held on Friday, March 14. The people's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI) called for its boycott and over the past few weeks millions of leaflets were distributed by the Resistance's network across the country. Based on reports by the social headquarters of the PMOI inside Iran, 95 percent of the eligible voters stayed away from polling stations. Only a small margin participated in the elections for their economic needs and the rest were those affiliated to the regime one way or other including suppressive forces.

The PMOI's network and social headquarters inside Iran monitored 25,000 polling stations out of the total of 45,075 across Iran throughout the election day. In the nationwide campaign a number of supporters of the Iranian Resistance were arrested.

'Electoral Engineering' or purging rivals

In the process of filtering rival candidates, Khamenei-Ahmadinejad's ruling faction purged some 4,000 out of 7,597 registered candidates. This was a new level, unprecedented in elections under the clerical regime. To cover up the



Empty polling stations in Tehran

Student protests in Iran

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presidents. In the meantime, the ruling faction introduced a scheme widely known as “electoral engineering” to further undermine the rival faction. To this end, rival candidates were allocated to constituencies where they had very little chance to succeed or they were removed from constituencies where their chances were high.

Among disqualified candidates were Mostafa Tajzadeh (former deputy Interior Minister on political-security affairs), Behzad Nabavi (former Minister of Industry and Mines), Morteza Haji (former Minister of Education under Khatami's government), Issa Kalantari (former Agriculture Minister in Khatami's government) and Ahmad Khorram (Khatami's Minister of Road and Transportation). More than 30 disqualified candidates were deputies in mullahs' Seventh Majlis. Most of these candidates were allowed to race.

In the course of “electoral engineering,” Mehdi Karroubi, former Majlis speaker, representing a faction known as “Etemad Melli” said that 62 percent of candidates from his faction had been disqualified. His faction had introduced candidates to all 290 constituencies but according to the spokesman of the group it had only been allowed to run in 160 constituencies. (Tabnak state-run website, February 26, 2008)

Khamenei clears path for Ahmadinejad

Khamenei acknowledged the planned outcome of the election results on the eve of the election and said: “Voters should elect those candidates to the Majlis (parliament) who would pave the way for the loyal and energetic government to charge ahead.” In response to criticisms by the regime's internal factions against purging candidates, he said: “Those opposing to the people's participation in the elections are trying to cast doubts in the voters' minds. I tell you with great confidence that previous elections were fair and so will be the upcoming election on Friday.”

Khamenei-Ahmadinejad's faction has been trying to put aside Majlis deputies affiliated to the faction but did not approve of Ahmadinejad. This faction is making use of all the means available to the state to take full control of power. The Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and Basij Paramilitary Force have been mobilized to conduct the “electoral engineering.”

On February 5, 2008, Mohammad-Ali Jafari, Commander of the IRGC and Basij, openly spoke about the support for ruling faction by forces under his command and said: “Today we see the formation of a much more advanced movement known as Principlists

The Washington Times

March 14, 2008

Maryam Rajavi: Iran regime will rig voting

Excerpts from an interview with Mrs. Maryam Rajavi in Paris:

QUESTION: How do you see Iran's parliamentary elections unfolding?

ANSWER: [Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali] Khamenei very much needs to tighten his grip on power, and he very much needs a parliament subordinate to President [Mahmoud] Ahmadinejad. That's why this will be an engineered election, with a plan prepared in advance by Khamenei on who can run, who will be elected, and who will be speaker.

Q: How is the regime doing that?

A: Through the Ministry of the Interior, the Revolutionary Guard Corps and provincial officials, it has already been determined who can run and who can win. The regime is even using the ID cards of deceased people as one way to claim a falsely high turnout.

Q: Are there divisions within the conservative ruling regime?

A: The regime is constantly facing internal defections and dissension at all levels. For example, [former top nuclear negotiator] Ali Larijani, who has clashed with the president, was not allowed to run for a seat in Tehran and had to campaign for a seat in Qom. The outcome of the election will be a win for Khamenei and Ahmadinejad, but it will be a more fragile, extremist regime.

Q: What should the United States and the West do?

A: The international community has to recognize that this election has no legitimacy whatsoever. The only real long-term hope is democratic change in Iran led by the people and by the resistance to end the mullahs' regime.

[Khamenei-Ahmadinejad's faction]. Its creation after 27 years is a revolution within revolution.” Speaking about the Majlis elections, he said: “The IRGC considers defending the revolution's principles, aspirations and values as well as its great achievements which form the basis of the Principalists' thoughts, as its crucial task” (IRNA, March 6, 2008).

Reactions to election results

Commenting on the elections result, the U.S. State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said, “In essence the results are cooked.” He added that the Iranian people “are given the choice of choosing between one supporter of the regime or another supporter of the regime.”

The European Union expressed concern overnight Saturday at the conduct of general elections in Iran. In a statement, the EU's Slovenian presidency expressed “deep concern that election procedures in the Islamic Republic of Iran have fallen below the international standards.” It concluded “the election was neither fair nor free.”

The mullahs' president Ahmadinejad said, “The Iranians, showed their determination to defend their identity, goals and ideals and all their rights especially perusing nuclear energy.”

Mullahs' exaggerate turnout to hide crushing defeat

Reports by the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI) from 25,000 polling stations and foreign journalists as well as eyewitness accounts show a crushing defeat for the mullahs' regime in the elections on Friday. The secretary of the mullahs' headquarters for elections, in an astronomical lie, announced a 65 percent voter turnout for Friday's election.

The regime's propaganda machine failed to cover up the fact that 95 percent of the Iranians boycotted the elections.

“In Tehran, 1,400,000 voters cast their ballot by 7 p.m.,” reported Fars on Friday evening. As it is evident, the regime confirmed that by polls closing yesterday in the capital, much fewer than 2,000,000 voted. On the contrary there are about 7,000,000 voters by official account in Tehran. Thus, the mullahs admit to the fact that not more than 25 percent of all voters participated in the elections in the capital.

Separately, the elections' headquarters in the northwestern province of East Azerbaijan ridiculously announced, “The polling station Vazarqan had a 124 percent voter turnout in the Majlis (parliament) elections,” reported the state-run news agency ISNA on Saturday.

Wednesday, 5 March 2008

Iran Regime Change Is “Essential”

David Storobin, Esq. the Senior Editor - 3/6/2008

Lord David Charles Waddington was a junior minister under Margaret Thatcher, Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Department of Employment (1981–83), Minister of State at the Home Office (1983–87) and Chief Whip from 1987 until his elevation to Cabinet level, becoming Home Secretary in 1989. In 1990 he was created a life peer as Baron Waddington, of Read in the County of Lancashire. He served as Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House of Lords until 1992. He later served as Governor of Bermuda. Lord Waddington is currently Chairman of the European Reform Forum. David Storobin, the Senior Editor of the Global Politician, interviewed him on the recent legalization by the UK courts of the Iranian opposition group MeK.

1. The MeK was recently legalized by the UK courts. What is your opinion of the decision?

The Proscribed Organisation's Appeal Commission, hearing an appeal against the British Government's proscription of the PMOI/MEK as a terrorist organization carried out an immensely long and detailed examination of the evidence and concluded that the PMOI was not concerned in terrorism and that the decision of the British Government not to delist the organization was 'perverse' and 'flawed'. I believe the decision was entirely correct.

2. The UK government officially remains opposed to the MEK. Why?

The UK Government remains opposed to the MEK because it believes in spite of all the evidence to the contrary that the Iranian regime can in some way be persuaded to alter its ways. It was its determination to follow a policy of appeasement that led to the placing of the terrorist tag on the PMOI in the first place, and it is this ill-advised and shameful policy which explains the UK Government's hostility towards the democratic Iranian opposition which is dedicated to bringing democracy and freedom to the long suffering people of Iran.

3. What effect will the legalization of the MEK have on politics towards Iran by the UK government, EU and the West in general?

The Iranian regime has long seen the PMOI and its democratic ideals as the greatest threat to its existence. The fact that the PMOI will now be free to oppose the Iranian regime can only be a good news. The removal of the terror tag from the PMOI also gives the West an opportunity to shed their mistaken policy of appeasement and help others to bring about democratic change.

4. How much support does the MeK have in the UK and Europe?

The MEK's support in the UK and Europe is considerable and wide. The MEK has gained the support of a majority of members of the British House of Commons and over 200 Members of the House of Lords, and it also has considerable support among Parliaments across Europe. Support among the general public is even greater with the case of the MEK now becoming a major issue for all those looking for a solution to the Iran crisis. In June of last year over 50,000 Iranians gathered in Paris to show their support for the cause of the MEK.

5. How much support does it have inside Iran?

Within Iran an indication of support for the MEK is punishable by death and obviously one cannot conduct an opinion poll of the Iranian population. But we do know that 120,000 MEK supporters and members have been killed by the Iranian regime, and that in itself indicates how very strong has been MEK support. Furthermore, the ability of the MEK to expose Iran's nuclear programme and terrorist activity means there is a widespread network of support for the MEK within the Country prepared to help it by furnishing information about the regime. The Regime would not be devoting so much time and money to trying to suppress the MEK and its supporters if it was not aware of its popularity and influence..

6. What effective non-military action can be taken against Iran to prevent it from supporting terrorism in Iraq and Lebanon, as well as re-starting the nuclear program?

I would suggest that the West listens to the wise advice of the Iranian's Resistance's President-elect Mrs Maryam Rajavi who rules out both foreign military intervention in Iran and appeasement of Tehran's clerical leaders



Lord David Charles Waddington

as viable policy options. Instead she has put forward a practical and sensible third option – and one with which I agree - supporting the Iranian people and their Resistance as they work to bring about democratic change in Iran. Of course this should be coupled with comprehensive UN Security Council sanctions against the regime.

7. Would it be preferable if the Ayatollahs fell from power in Iran?

It is not only preferable but essential that they should. The Iranian people have suffered long enough.

8. Is MeK alone capable of bringing down the Ayatollahs?

It is not a question of the MEK bringing down the Ayatollahs alone. It is the Iranian people who will bring down the Ayatollahs with assistance from the MEK. What is certain is that the MEK which has seen 120,000 of its members and supporters executed has popular grass roots support in the Country and is able to give the support to the people.

9. How should the UK, the US and the EU help the MeK to bring about change in Iran?

There is no need for any nation to help the MEK. Simply remove all restrictions from the group and they will do the rest with the support of the Iranian people.

10. What other opposition groups can help make a positive change in Tehran?

The MEK is the largest member group of a Parliament in exile, the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), which is lead by Mrs Maryam Rajavi, a charismatic leader with all the credentials necessary to lead the people of Iran towards democracy. The NCRI consists of a number of different groups and individuals who can all play a positive role in achieving democracy in Tehran.

The Washington Times

March 7, 2008

Dissidents hail campus protests

TEHRAN — Activists of the People's Mujahedin in Iran claim they were involved in a series of student demonstrations that have led to a crackdown by authorities.

"Of course we are forced to work as individuals and can't act under the banner of the organization because that would be costly and many are frightened to do so," said Ali, a member of the organization involved in the protests.

Nine consecutive demonstrations at Shiraz University continued yesterday, with more than 3,000 students, Shahin Gobadi, a spokesman for the group, said in a telephone interview from Paris.

"We are men and women of fighting, dare to fight and we will fight back," students chanted at Shiraz University, according to the spokesman. "To the commander of garrison, this is the final warning: The student movement is ready for the uprising."

In January, more than 2,000 students in Tehran University demonstrated against the government with chants of "Down with despotism."

Security forces raided the rally, injured 60 students and arrested more than 40.

The People's Mujahedin Organization of Iran also has been involved in a nationwide

campaign urging Iranians to boycott the upcoming Majlis (parliamentary) elections scheduled to take place next Friday.

The latest wave of protests began Dec. 7 when hundreds of students participated in a two-hour demonstration outside Tehran University last year, demanding the freeing of activists jailed by the government in an ongoing crackdown.

The students broke one of the gates of the university, but no direct clashes with police were reported.

Officers said they had confiscated concussion grenades, illegal books, pamphlets and alcoholic beverages from the detainees, according to Tehran radio.

Official reports often add that Islamically unacceptable items such as alcoholic drinks or drugs were found on political detainees as a way to discredit them in the eyes of the public, dissidents said.

On the day of the protest, activists in the People's Mujahedin, a literal translation of the Iranian name Mujahedin-e-Khalq or MeK, sent updates on the protest to an organizing member in a remote location, who identified herself as Shirin, 24.

She then relayed the news in English over e-mail in three updates to an international press list.

The next day, two more updates were sent, each containing photographs and video of the march.

"My friends undertook these activities under a very high-risk situation when widespread arrests are being made throughout the country, students protesting Ahmadinejad are being identified, harassed and arrested and [MeK] families are in jail under torture," Shirin said in an e-mail interview.

Fellow MeK activists described Shirin as a former student at a Tehran university who was forced to go underground after a high-profile protest against Mr. Ahmadinejad in December 2006.

The U.S. government declared MeK a terrorist organization in 1985, during a period when the U.S. was trying to establish dialogue with the Islamic Republic. Critics claimed the decision was politically motivated, and some members of Congress have since advocated its removal from the list.

MeK guerrillas, disarmed by U.S. forces, remain in a camp in Iraq under U.S. Army protection. Washington has refused demands from Tehran to extradite them for prosecution.

• *The writer's name has been withheld to protect the people interviewed for this story.*

Protests Flare at 2 Iranian Campuses

Students Demand End to Ban on Activists, Ouster of College Head

The Washington Post, March 5 -- Hundreds of students at two Iranian universities have mounted protests in recent days to decry the expulsion of student activists and call for the resignation of a government-appointed campus president.

Between 100 and 200 students at Allameh Tabatabai University in Tehran protested Tuesday against the recent banning of 40 students who had organized demonstrations against university authorities. In the central Iranian city of Shiraz, students have called for a university president to step down and demanded higher-quality food and housing.

"The students are against the banning of their friends," said Rashid, a 25-year-old graduate student in Tehran who refused to give his family name out of fear he would be arrested. He said he was recently expelled from Allameh Tabatabai and later beaten by security guards when he tried to visit the university.

"There has been a wave of threats by the university security forces and the intelligence ministry against both students and their families by telephone," a demonstrator in Shiraz said in a phone interview. During the interview, slogans could be heard. "We are fighters, men and women," students shouted. "Fight us and we will fight." Clips of their protests have been posted on the YouTube Web site.

5,000 workers stage strike

More than 5,000 workers walked out over their unpaid salaries in Sugar Cane Factory in the southern city of Shoosh on March 7. Fresh strikes began when on March 3 cane-cutting workers started a walkout over a pay dispute with the factory's management.

On March 6, they were joined by 3,200 fellow workers from other parts of the factory. The strikers threatened to carry on with their move unless the management met their demands.

The workers in this factory had gone on strike over unpaid salaries twice before in the last 6 months each time facing stiff reaction by the State Security Forces (SSF) and agents of Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS) called in by the factory's management.

In recent weeks, approaching the Iranian New Year, the workers in a number of the factories and workshops have gone on strike primarily over their unpaid salaries.

Workers walked out in Sarcheshmeh Copper Factory in the southern city of Kerman, Jihad Agricultural workers in the southern city of Bushehr, Gavmishan Dam Factory workers and Beet Factory in the western city of Kamiyaran, Siyah-Roukh Factory workers in the western city of Divandareh, Energy Company in the southern city of Asaloyeh, Aras Ceramic Factory in the northwestern province of Azerbaijan, Pashmineh Baft Factory in the western city of Qazvin.