



EUROPAUDVALGET
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National Council of Resistance of Iran

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شورای ملی مقاومت ایران

2 December 2002

The Honorable Claus Larsen-Jensen
Chairman, European Affairs Committee
Social Democratic Party
Parliament of Denmark
Copenhagen
Denmark

Dear Mr Larsen-Jensen,

I have been informed in the course of my meetings with a number of your colleagues in the Danish Parliament that the European Affairs Committee will be meeting on 5 December to discuss among other things the European Union's list of terrorist Organisations.

Of particular concern to me is one Organisation, the People's Mojahedin Organisation of Iran (PMOI), a member-organisation of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, the democratic coalition of Iranian groups and personalities endeavoring for the establishment of a democratic and secular government in Iran.

As you may be aware, subsequent to extensive lobbying by Iran's theocratic regime, the EU regrettably chose to include the PMOI, which majorities in the United States House of Representatives and in the parliaments of Britain, Italy, Belgium, Luxembourg, have supported as a "legitimate resistance movement," in its list of terrorist Organisations.

Just this past week, another bi-partisan initiative by some 150 members of the U.S. Congress endorsed another initiative to this end. This came after 32 members of the United States Senate had previously called for the removal of the PMOI from the list of foreign terrorist Organisations.

It has been brought to my attention that, the clerical regime, emboldened by the EU's succumbing to its demands, has brazenly called on the European Union to put the terror tag on the NCRI as well. Such a demand is indeed preposterous since the structure, modus operandi and the nature of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, which acts as a parliament, is not at all related to terrorism; EU experts are fully aware of this fact. The mullahs' insolence in making such an illegitimate demand, which they view as being helpful to prolong their odious rule, is the direct result of the EU's policy of conciliation and appeasement toward the theocracy ruling Iran.

This is while the Tehran regime is recognized internationally as the leading state sponsor of terrorism around the globe, carrying out some 450 terrorist attacks in Europe, the Middle East, South America and Africa. These violent attacks have led to the deaths of, or injuries to, hundreds of Iranian dissidents and foreign nationals.

Moreover, the clerics persist in their enmity toward peace in the Middle East and their vigorous quest to acquire weapons of mass destruction and to develop long-range missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads has aroused tremendous concern worldwide. "Us Administration officials and nuclear proliferation specialists say Iran is trying covertly to produce weapons-grade uranium or plutonium," wrote the U.S. daily Newsday in November.

The fact is that the PMOI took recourse in armed resistance as a last resort when the clerical regime eliminated all vestiges of peaceful political activity. In the past 20 years, some 120,000 PMOI members and sympathizers have been either executed or killed under torture by the Iranian regime because of their refusal to forego their belief in human rights and democratic freedoms. To quote from the renowned statesman, philosopher and fighter for freedom from tyranny, Thomas Jefferson: "In defence of our persons and properties under actual violation, we took up arms. When that violence shall be removed, when hostilities shall cease on the part of the aggressors, hostilities shall cease on our part also" (Jefferson's "Declaration on Taking Up Arms" 1775).

The preamble to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has also recognized this right, namely "to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression."

Moreover, PMOI operations have only struck against legitimate military targets as described by the North Atlantic Treaty Organisations and other pertinent officials.

In a press conference at NATO Headquarters in Brussels, the Prime Minister Tony Blair described legitimate targets as "*lines of communication, the lines of supply, the oil refineries and the oil supplies.*"

NATO Secretary General and former British Defence Minister Lord Robertson told the House of Commons on 19 April 1999 that all NATO Ministers agreed that military targets include "*strategic assets such as bridges, barracks and headquarters.*"

NATO Spokesman and Deputy Information and Press Director Dr. Jamie Shea said:

"[A]ny aspect of the power structure is considered as a legitimate target by NATO, the power structure, and of course in dictatorial societies it becomes progressively impossible to distinguish between the party and the state, as we all know, they become conflated with each other, and this is also the party headquarters which contains the propaganda too of the ruling socialist party and that is enough for us to consider that to be a wholly legitimate target."

I respectfully submit that if a target is considered to be a legitimate military target according to official NATO definitions and in the opinion of its commanders, it does not make any difference whether that target is in Belgrade, Kabul, Baghdad or Tehran.

However, the definition of a 'military target' used by the Iranian resistance is far more limited. The PMOI command inside Iran has never targeted bridges, factories and power plants which, unlike military targets, are easy to strike at. Further, on many occasions, the PMOI has decided not to carry out operations because of the proximity of the proposed target to population centres or in order to prevent accidental casualties. Nor has the PMOI ever attacked "*a tank parked next to a house in the village*".

Nothing can be clearer than a statement of policy and practice than the words of NCRI President Mr Massoud Rajavi, reiterated on 21 March 2001:

"I pledge on behalf of the Iranian Resistance that if anyone from our side oversteps the red line concerning absolute prohibition of attacks on civilians and innocent individuals, either deliberately or unintentionally, he or she would be ready to stand trial in any international court and accept any ruling by the court, including the payment of compensation."

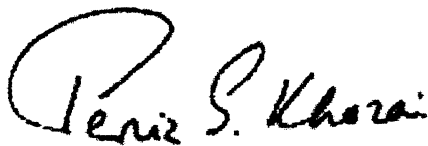
Dear Mr Larsen-Jensen,

Under the circumstances, you do concur, I hope, that putting the terror tag on the PMOI has been totally unwarranted and unjustified. If anything, it has assured the Iranian regime to continue its repressive conduct at home and rogue behaviour abroad with impunity.

At the time when tens of thousands of students declared in no uncertain terms their desire for an end to dictatorship in Iran in the course of their month-long demonstrations and protests in universities all across Iran, Denmark must consistent with its democratic traditions stand on the side of millions of Iranians and their just resistance and not the turbaned tyrants who oppress them.

I, therefore, respectfully request that, in your capacity as the Chairman of European Affairs Committee, you recommend to the Danish government to take the initiative in the removal of the PMOI from the EU's terrorist list during the EU foreign ministers' meeting in Brussels on 10 December.

I assure you, Mr Larsen-Jensen, of the expression of my highest considerations.



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