



# IRAN TODAY & TOMORROW

## WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

The Committee in Support of Referendum in Iran (CSRI), a 501(c)(4), 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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## Christmas Message



**Maryam Rajavi greets followers of Jesus Christ on occasion of Christmas and advent of New Year**

**Monday, December 25, 2006**

NCRI - In a message on the occasion of Christmas, the President-elect of the Iranian Resistance, Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, congratulated all Christians in Iran and across the world on the birth of Jesus Christ whose prime words were of unity, benevolence and benediction and who stayed away from injustice and cruelty. Mrs. Rajavi expressed the hope that the New Year would herald peace, friendship and progress for people throughout the world and bring an end to the religious dictatorship ruling Iran and to its mischief-making and evil conduct.

Referring to the regime's bleak record in 2006, Mrs. Rajavi said, the ruling mullahs have stepped up hangings, arrests and the reign of terror in Iranian cities as well as their meddling and terrorism in Iraq and Lebanon and their drive to acquire nuclear weapons in order to preserve their decadent regime.

Mrs. Rajavi pointed to the increase in the crackdown on Christians inside Iran in 2006, the suppression of religious freedoms and the successive arrests of Christians on bogus charges. She said that the mullahs' regime had appointed a henchman, personally in charge of murdering leaders of Iran's Christian community, to the post of Director General of the Interior Ministry. For many years Mahmoud Saeedi (Shahidi) worked as head of the Intelligence Ministry's office in Isfahan under the supervision of then-deputy Minister of Intelligence and Security Saeed Emami. The regime's Interior Minister Mostafa Pour-Mohammadi recently promoted him to the post of the Ministry's Director General.

The President-elect of the Iranian Resistance said that under the cloak of Islam, the mullahs were engaged in evil misdeeds, such as inciting hatred and enmity against the Church and Christians under different pretexts, sowing discord and violence among Shiites and Sunnis and even exercising vengeance against moderate Shiites. She added that the mullahs had plunged Iraq and Lebanon in bloodshed despite the fact that Islam, Christianity, and other monotheist religions, detested this barbaric regime, which has been hiding behind the veneer of religion, Mrs. Rajavi added.

The Iranian Resistance's President-elect thanked all Christians around the world who had supported the Iranian people's Resistance, in particular the People's Mojahedin in Ashraf City, Iraq, on numerous

occasions over the past year. Mrs. Rajavi added that despite the very difficult circumstances as well as the many perils threatening Iraqi Christians and their religious leaders, they had repeatedly defied the mullahs' regime and persevered in their support for the People's Mojahedin in Ashraf.  
Secretariat of the National Council of Resistance of Iran

## Iran's nuclear threat

### UN slaps nuclear-related sanctions on Iran: council president



**December 23, 2006--** The Security Council on Saturday slapped the first-ever UN sanctions on Iran, targeting its nuclear and ballistic missile programs, in response to its refusal to halt sensitive nuclear fuel work. In a resolution adopted unanimously, the 15-member council directed all states "to prevent the supply, sale or transfer ... of all items, materials, equipment, goods and technology which could contribute to Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile programs

### Security Council approves Iran sanctions



**December 23, 2006 --** Russia and China, which both have strong commercial ties to Tehran, have pressed for a step-by-step approach to sanctions. By contrast, the United States has pushed for very tough sanctions, with Britain and France taking a slightly softer view.

### Iran will continue nuclear activities despite UN resolution

**Al-Alam TV, December 23, 2006--** The spokesman of Iran's Interior Ministry said that Iran would continue its nuclear activities.

### Statement on the United Nations Security Council Resolution on Iran Secretary Condoleezza Rice Washington, DC December 23, 2006

Today, the Security Council responded unanimously to the threat presented by Iran's pursuit of a nuclear weapons capability. Resolution 1737, which is the product of many months of hard work by the United States and other Members of the Council, places Iran among the small number of countries facing international condemnation through Chapter VII Security Council sanctions. We call on all countries to take immediate action to implement their obligations under this resolution. The Iranian government, through its own actions, has further isolated itself and the Iranian people from the international community. This resolution is a strong signal to the government of Iran that it should accept its international obligations, suspend its sensitive nuclear activities, and accept the negotiations path that the U.S. and its Security Council partners offered six months ago.

### Germany's Merkel welcomes Iran sanctions



**December 23, 2006 BERLIN,** - German Chancellor Angela Merkel welcomed the United Nations resolution on sanctions against Iran adopted on Saturday for its refusal to give up sensitive nuclear work, judging it a "significant step". The resolution adopted unanimously by the UN Security Council is "a significant step and a significant signal, since Iran has not followed through on its obligations and commitments to the international community", a spokesman for Merkel quoted her as saying. The resolution applies the first-ever UN sanctions on Iran, targeting its nuclear and ballistic missile programs in response to the country's refusal to halt sensitive nuclear fuel work. Iran insists its nuclear program is for peaceful ends but other powers suspect it of seeking to develop material for a nuclear weapon. Merkel said the council's unanimous backing for the resolution showed that "the international community continues to be united with regard to Iran in solving the conflict over its nuclear (program)"

### Iranian Opposition in Exile Welcomes UN Sanctions on Tehran



**December 23, 2006**

PARIS, Dec 23, 2006 (AFP) - Iranian political exiles welcomed the UN Security Council's unanimous adoption of sanctions against Tehran on Saturday.

The resolution was "the first necessary step towards preventing the ruling religious fascism in Iran from obtaining a nuclear bomb," said the National Council of Resistance of Iran's (NCRI) president-elect, Maryam Rajavi, in a statement in Paris.

She called for "comprehensive arms, technological, diplomatic and oil sanctions against the regime".

Rajavi claimed that Tehran 's nuclear programme was "completely against the interests of the Iranian people" adding that "the absolute majority of Iranians would support the imposition of comprehensive sanctions."

She insisted that sanctions would be effective, calling the regime politically unstable.

After weeks of diplomatic wrangling, the UN Security Council adopted the resolution to impose restrictions on Iran 's nuclear industry and ballistic missile programme.

## Iran is responsible for Khobar bombing

**Top Iranian officials condemned for terrorist attack on U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia**



**December 22, 2006 --** The Iranian government financed a 1996

terrorist attack that killed 19 Americans in Saudi Arabia... a federal judge ruled Friday. The ruling by U.S. District Judge Royce C. Lamberth allows families of the victims of the Khobar Towers bombing to seek their compensation from assets that have been seized from the conservative Islamic regime in Tehran. Lamberth relied heavily on testimony by former FBI Director Louis Freeh, who investigated the bombings. Two Iranian government security agencies and senior members of the Iranian government itself provided funding, training and logistical help to terrorists who carried out the attack on a dormitory that housed U.S. Air Force pilots and staff in Saudi Arabia, Freeh testified.

## Iran's meddling in Iraq and Lebanon

**Lebanon's top Sunni cleric slams Iran**



**December 21, 2006 --** Lebanon's top Sunni cleric Thursday condemned what he

described as Shiite Iran's "blatant intervention" in Lebanese affairs and urged an end to foreign pressure on his country.

"I tell you honestly that Khamenei's comments claiming that Lebanon will be the defeat point of the United States are a blatant case of intervention in Lebanese affairs," Sheikh Mohammed Rashid Qabbani told reporters.

**Saudis report Shi'ite 'state' inside of Iraq created by regime**



**December 18, 2006 --** Iran has effectively created a Shi'ite "state within a state" in

neighboring Iraq... according to a Saudi security report. Iranian military forces are providing Shi'ite militias with weapons and training, Iranian charities are pouring funds into schools and hospitals, and Tehran is actively supporting pro-Iranian Iraqi politicians, said the report by the Saudi National Security Assessment Project.

The report states that the Iranian levers of influence in Iraq include a broad network of informants, military and logistical support of armed groups, and social welfare campaigns. It adds that Tehran has "sought to influence Iraq's political process by giving support to new various parties, in particular, to the SCIRI," or Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq, the leading Shi'ite party.

**U.S. Senators point to tremendous problems raised by Iranian regime**

**CNN.com** **December 17, 2006 --** Interview with U.S. Senators Senator Jon Kyl: "I believe its naïve to think negotiations with Iran will gain us anything; none of them can be trusted." Senator John Reid, member of Armed Services Committee: "Iran and Syria are taking advantage of the situation in Iraq. This is a regional problem with tremendous regional implications." *(translated from Persian)*

**British PM criticizes Iran for destabilizing Middle East**



**December 16, 2006-Cairo --** Prime Minister Tony Blair said on

Saturday he thought talk of the West opening dialogue with Iran and Syria on how to defuse regional tensions and help stem violence in Iraq had been "overstated". Blair criticized Tehran for backing forces that are seeking to destabilize the government of Lebanon, and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, and are fomenting violence in Iraq. He did not directly criticize Damascus.

## Iran's regional threat has GCC talking on containment

**U.S. State Department, December 15, 2006-Daily Press Briefing --** Sean McCormack, Spokesman: Well, they [Hezbollah] are... a terrorist organization and they are a creation of Iran; that is just a simple fact of history. The Iranians have provided them lots of money, lots of assistance. You have on the other side of the line states like Iran, states like Syria and groups associated with them ...who have no interest in political accommodation. They have no interest in peace. They want to thwart any sort of progress on the expansion of freedoms in the Middle East. ...we've been talking to many of them over the past several months in the GCC -- Gulf Cooperation Council -- + 2 on how to deal with the threat from Iran and the threat that it poses not only to states in the region but beyond the borders of the region.

## Mullahs spilling blood of Iraqi people to gain upper hand in Iraq

**AL-Jazeera Television, December 14, 2006 --** The conference for support of the Iraqi people continued for a second day in Istanbul. It seemed that participants were united in their appraisal of the threat of the Iranian regime's role in Iraq. Anwar al-Birqadar, president of the Turcoman Justice Party: "Iran has been successful with its plan to foment havoc in Iraq and to spill blood to gain the upper hand there."

## New Iran-Iraq policy

### The idea that Iran is willing to help U.S. on the stability in Iraq is absurd

**CNN.com, December 16, 2006 --** Interview with Danielle Pletka from the American Enterprise Institute Mrs. Pletka: "I don't see the rationale of those who expect Bashar Assad and Ahmadinejad to work for the stability in Iraq. The ISG report did not offer any reasoning in this regard. I have been working on these countries for a long time and I have never seen any evidence to this. Our information shows that the Iranian regime helps both sides in Iraq to encourage and instigate violence and instability. They aid both the Sunnis and the Shiites. Therefore, in my opinion, the idea that they want stability in Iraq and are willing to "help U.S." is somewhat absurd."

## Rice rejects engaging Iran on Iraq



**December 15, 2006 --** U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice

has rejected a bipartisan panel's recommendation that the Bush administration engage Syria and Iran in efforts to stabilize Iraq, The Washington Post reported on Friday. Rice said she did not want to trade away Lebanese sovereignty to Syria or allow Iran to obtain a nuclear weapon as a price for peace in Iraq, the Post reported.

## Rumsfeld: There is no point talking to Iranian regime

**U.S. Department of Defense, December 12, 2006 --** Radio Interview with Secretary Rumsfeld on the Laura Ingraham Show Sec. Rumsfeld: The situation since you visited [Iraq] with General Casey has gotten much worse. The Iranian involvement is harmful, it is clear, and it is costing lives, and it's making the task of the Iraqi government vastly more difficult.... The answer to your question is, if you're going to sit down and talk with somebody, you have to have some basis to believe that they have some reason to want to cooperate or be helpful... I can't quite figure out exactly what it would be that would make us think that they want to be cooperative and helpful.

## Italian court condemns Iran for assassination of Naqdi

### Criminal Court of Italy condemns the clerical regime for assassination in 1993

**News Agencies, December 17, 2006 --** The Criminal Court of Rome declared that the assassination of Mohammad Hossein Naqdi, representative of the National Council of Resistance of Iran in Italy in 1993 had been in the framework to physically eliminate Iranian regime's opposition abroad. Following this verdict, Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, President-elect of the Iranian Resistance, called for the trial of those involved in this assassination by the Italian Judiciary. She stipulated that this verdict is all the more reason to try the leaders of the clerical regime in an international tribunal for crimes against humanity. Mrs. Rajavi said that after verdicts against regime's leaders by Argentina and Switzerland, there is no reason left for the policy of appeasement with this terrorist clerical regime. The court ended its last day of hearings on 24 November 2006 and issued its verdict in a 33 page document.

# Iranians boycotted the election

## Widespread boycott of sham Assembly of Experts elections across Iran

**News Agencies, December 15, 2006** -- Reports received from polling stations in Tehran and various other cities indicate that the Iranian people have overwhelmingly boycotted the sham Assembly of Experts elections. Reports received from various cities, including Khorramabad, Marivan, Boukan, Ardebil, Arak, Khouy, Garmsar, Zahedan, Rasht, Zanjan and Abhar, state that polling stations were empty in the morning. In Khorramabad, young people have ripped up candidates' propaganda statements and leaflets and thrown their photos into garbage bins. Revolutionary Guards and other suppressive forces are widely present in streets and centers where polling is taking place. In many cases, the number of Revolutionary Guards and State Security Forces agents is greater than the number of voters and people in the streets.

## Voters turn out minimal in sham Iranian regime's election



**December 15, 2006** -- Report from Tehran on Assembly of Experts election: "Voter turn out at the polls has been minimal. Since morning I have been visiting different parts of the city – from the most southern to the most northern places – and right now I'm at city center. Voter turn out, however, has been minute. There are voters just in certain places. Those whom we questioned said that it was their religious and national duty to vote... These are those that always come out to vote and they aren't new faces at all. None of the supporters of the reformists have come out to vote..."

**CNN.com December 15, 2006** – The election of the Assembly of Experts gives a rare glimpse into the political picture in Iran. All are waiting to see voters turn out. Many in Iran consider this election illegitimate; they say the candidates are picked by the Guardian Council. Some have said that they shall boycott the election in its entirety. *(translated from Persian)*

# Human rights violations

## Iranian students hide in fear for lives after venting fury at Ahmadinejad

**The Guardian, December 18, 2006** -- Iranian student activists who staged an angry protest against President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad last week have gone into hiding in fear for their lives after his supporters threatened them with revenge. One student fled after being photographed holding a banner reading, "Fascist president, the polytechnic is not for you", during Mr Ahmadinejad's visit to Tehran's Amir Kabir university. At least three others have gone underground after being seen burning his picture. Vigilantes from the militant Ansar-e Hezbollah group have been searching for them.

## 'Star rating' system to crackdown on dissent at universities

**The Telegraph, December 17, 2006** -- University authorities in Iran have adopted a "star rating" system for politically-active students as part of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's crackdown on dissent within the academic elite. The diktat, under which regime critics are given between one and three stars according to the perceived threat they pose. "Students who already had one star had to sign a letter saying they would not join in any political activities before they could enrol," said Ali Nikou Nesbati, 26, a member of Tahkin Vahdat, a student body involved in the protests. "Students who had two stars had their enrolment delayed for months and had to sign a much more binding letter. Those with three stars - about 17 students in all - have been prevented from enrolling at all."