



IRAN TODAY & TOMORROW

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

The Committee in Support of Referendum in Iran (CSRI), a 501(c)(3), 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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Nuclear proliferation

Ukraine illegally sold cruise missiles to Iran

Staff Reporter, Apr. 2 – Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko confirmed recently that Ukraine secretly and illegally sold nuclear-capable cruise missiles to Iran and China under the former government of President Leonid Kuchma. Yushchenko said that a shipment of 20 X-55 missiles was exported under a false contract that listed Russia as the destination. Russia has denied any involvement in the case.

Tehran rushes weapons program

The Washington Times **The Washington Times, Apr. 1, London** -- The Iranian government is fast-tracking an atomic-weapons program and has allocated \$2.5 billion to either buy three nuclear warheads or produce them at home, an organization of Iranian exiles claimed yesterday. The National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), an umbrella body of exiled opposition groups, said Tehran is speeding up efforts to build a plutonium bomb by 2007. Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, is determined that Iran will have a nuclear arsenal and that Tehran "would acquire the warheads by their own means or buy them abroad," NCRI official Mohammad Mohaddessin said....Mr. Mohaddessin said Ayatollah Khamenei ordered \$2.5 billion in funding for the warheads in mid-2004. He also said the Iranian government is stepping up work on a heavy-water reactor in Arak, about 150 miles south of Tehran that could come up with enough plutonium to manufacture one nuclear bomb a year. "The regime told the International Atomic Energy Agency that the reactor would be operational in 2014; in reality, they want to start it in 2006 or 2007," Mr. Mohaddessin said. Iran is prepared to produce 22 pounds of plutonium "between now and 2006-07," he added.

Europe rejects Iran's proposal for limited uranium enrichment

IRNA (Islamic Republic News Agency) Apr. 1 - Europe has rejected an Iranian proposal to keep a limited uranium enrichment program and demanded once again a permanent cessation of Tehran's uranium enrichment activities, the daily Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung said Friday.

According to the report, the Europeans argued that Iran's plan for a pilot centrifuge project for uranium enrichment could be diverted by Iranian scientists to gather findings for military use. Iran had reportedly offered during its recent talks with the Europeans a small enrichment program which could have been closely monitored by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Iran's armed forces vow to defeat U.S. attacks



AFP, Mar. 31 - Iran's Revolutionary Guards vowed to defend the country's nuclear program, warning the United States of great defeat if it decided to attack the Islamic republic.

The armed forces also vowed the "complete readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces, under the leadership of the supreme leader Ayatollah Khamenei, for a full defense of the sacred system of the Islamic Republic and its valuable achievements".

A statement from the defense ministry also expressed its support of the "foundations of the sacred system of the Islamic Republic."

Rethink on Iran's nuclear ambitions

Herald Sun, Mar. 31 - France, Britain and Germany are considering letting Iran keep nuclear technology that could be used to make bombs, diplomats said yesterday.

Such a step would lead to a clash with Washington, which has backed European Union talks with Iran on condition Tehran renounce all activities that could produce nuclear fuel....

The EU has previously said nothing short of dismantling the project will convince it Iran doesn't want nuclear weapons. But diplomats said it was now considering letting Iran keep a limited enrichment program.

US rejects Iranian proposal for limited uranium enrichment



AFP, Mar. 30 - The United States on Wednesday challenged Iran to prove it was serious in talks on its suspected nuclear weapons program and rejected Tehran's offer to conduct only limited uranium enrichment activities.

Deputy State Department spokesman Adam Ereli said that if the Iranians decide not to cooperate, "the good news is that we, the Europeans and the international community are more on the same page than we've ever been."...

U.S. says Iran nuclear tour a media stunt



Associated Press, Mar. 30 - Iran is showboating for the media rather than doing what is necessary to end a nuclear standoff with the United States and Europe, a State Department spokesman said

Wednesday. It was a "staged media event" that fell far short of genuine openness about a nuclear program, which the United States suspects is dedicated to making weapons, Adam Ereli said. Ereli said the Iranians should be answering questions from the International Atomic Energy Agency about what the work going on at Natanz and elsewhere in the country. "If Iran were really serious about allaying the concerns of the international community, they would stop denying IAEA full and unrestricted access to suspicious sites like the Parchin high-explosive facility," he said at a department briefing.

"They would tell the truth about their Lavasan facility before they bulldozed it to the ground. They would talk openly or answer openly questions about past plutonium separation experiments," he said.

Iran Policy: Third Option

Policy-group outlines U.S. options on Iran in Capitol Hill session

Iran Focus Washington, Apr. 07 – A leading Iran-policy group in Washington discussed U.S. policy options towards the clerical state, in a conference on Capitol Hill yesterday, at the invitation of the Iran Human Rights and Democracy Caucus of the U.S. House of Representative. Iran Policy Committee, comprised of former officials from the White House, State Department, Pentagon, intelligence agencies, the Congress, and experts from think tanks and universities, called on the Bush Administration "to provide a central role for the Iranian opposition to facilitate regime change". Prof. Raymond Tanter, a Middle East security expert and former staff member of the U.S. National Security Council under President Ronald Reagan, advocated "forceful diplomacy" to prevent Iran from building nuclear weapons. Prof. Tanter, whilst outlining IPC's approach, said that there was a race being run between two clocks. "While Iran's nuclear clock is ticking very fast, the clock for a regime change is much too slow. And if Iran were to acquire the bomb before the people are able to change the regime, it might obtain a new lease on life", he added. Thus he argued that it was imperative to deal effectively with the issue of the People's Mojahedin (PMOI) and remove their name from the list of terrorist organisations. The PMOI is a member organisation of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, the main umbrella coalition opposing the Iran's religious leaders. The State Department designated the PMOI as a terrorist organisation in 1997 in what many analysts

believe was part of the Clinton administration's policy of appeasement towards Tehran. The conference on Capitol Hill drew more than 80 members of the Congress and their aides, foreign diplomats, experts from other think tanks, and members of the press, according to the organising committee. Lt. General Edward Rowny (ret.), former Ambassador to Strategic Arms Reduction Talks, Dr. Neil Livingstone, terrorism expert and CEO, Global Options, Inc., Paul Leventhal, founder and President Emeritus, Nuclear Control Institute, Captain Chuck Nash (ret.), President, Emerging Technologies International, Lt. Col. Bill Cowan, USMC (ret.), CEO, wvc3, Inc., and Clare Lopez, strategic policy and intelligence analyst, were among the other IPC panellists who joined the conference. The advocacy group believed that engagement, pursued by the Europeans and consecutive U.S. administrations, had produced little tangible results over the past quarter century. They explained that the solution to the Iran conundrum was to support the Iranian people and their organised resistance movement. IPC called on the Bush administration to remove the name of the PMOI from the list of terrorist organisations, so as to send a clear message to Tehran that Washington was serious about its support for the democratic aspirations of the Iranian people. Congressman Bob Filner, (D-CA), Co-chair of the Caucus, chaired the briefing session and said that it was an attempt by the Caucus to provide a setting whereby members of the Congress could learn about Iran and consider options to deal with threats Tehran posed to the region and the world. Congressman Tom Tancredo, (R-CO), a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee in Congress and Co-chair of the Caucus, said, "The MEK [PMOI] was designated not because it was involved in terrorist activities, but because the Clinton administration sought to curry favour with the Iranian regime". The idea of engaging a terrorist-sponsoring regime such as Iran only emboldens it to continue its "rogue-like behavior", Dr. Livingstone argued. Mr. Leventhal, addressing Tehran's nuclear threat and the breaches of its obligations to the International Atomic Energy Agency, rejected the regime's justification for embarking on a nuclear path. He emphasised that the regime had hidden its nuclear weapons program from the eyes of the international community and that it was the NCRI which revealed it to the world. Captain Nash speaking about the pros and cons of military action against Iran, argued that while all options must remain on the table, a limited or large-scale military campaign was not only impractical, but also likely to be ineffective in ending the Iranian nuclear and terrorist threats, and therefore the least desirable of options. Lt. Col. Cowan suggested that there was an urgent need to address the Iran issue, adding that a wait-and-see attitude could have "dire consequences, given the nature and the urgency of the threat posed by Tehran". Ms. Lopez condemned the human rights violations by the Iranian regime and cited several recent anti-government rallies and demonstrations as proof of growing opposition to the regime inside the country.

Abuse of human rights

Step up pressure on Iran torturers

Toronto Star, Apr. 1 - Zahra Kazemi did not die in "an accident" at Tehran's notorious Evin prison, whatever Iran's discredited courts may claim. She was savagely beaten, tortured and raped, according to a physician who treated her as she lay dying from a brain injury.

Kazemi, an Iranian-born Canadian photojournalist, was arrested June 23, 2003, outside Evin prison while taking pictures at a pro-democracy rally. Three days later she was carried unconscious on a stretcher into Baghiatollah military hospital, reports Maj. Shahram Azam, a physician in the Iranian security forces who treated her. She never recovered.

What Dr. Azam saw at the hospital that night shocked him and will outrage Canadians, including the 250,000 of Iranian origin in this country...While Canadians have just learned of Azam's findings, Prime Minister Paul Martin's government has known for months. Why wasn't the information made public? And why did Foreign Affairs Minister Pierre Pettigrew suggest lamely yesterday that "Canadians want answers"? What Canadians want is action. That action should start today with Martin recalling our ambassador to Iran and demanding Tehran immediately reopen the probe into Kazemi's death, with full Canadian and international participation. He should push for a statement by the United Nations endorsing that approach.

Martin should also insist Iran surrender Kazemi's remains to her family for burial here. That would allow the family to seek an autopsy to verify Azam's account. If Tehran balks, Martin should expel Iran's ambassador, bar officials from visiting here, and downgrade ties with the regime. He should then petition the International Criminal Court to hold Ayatollah Ali Khomeini and Iran's rulers to account. Article 8 of the Rome Statute that created the court gives it

jurisdiction over crimes "committed as part of a plan or policy" that violate the Geneva Conventions, including "willful killing" and "torture or inhumane treatment." Kazemi was subjected to both under a policy to crush dissidence. We have a case.

Martin has already rightly labeled Iran an "emerging threat" because of its attempts to develop technology that can be used to make nuclear weapons, and because of its support for terror. He should push other countries to adopt the same view. Finally, Canada must sponsor more embarrassing U.N. resolutions censuring Iran for rights abuses.

Martin must be relentless in this. That's because until justice is delivered for Zahra Kazemi, the whole world must know that Iran is run by a brutal regime that lies and turns a blind eye to torture and murder.

Rally in Canada against state murder in Iran



Iran Focus, Apr. 2, Ottawa – Iranians residing in Canada held a rally in front of the Foreign Ministry headquarters yesterday in response to an expatriate Iranian doctor's testimony which has shed new light on the 2003 state murder of Zahra Kazemi, an Iranian-Canadian photojournalist. Demonstrators who were rallied by the Committee for Defence of Human Rights in Iran called for an end to Canada's diplomatic relations with the Iranian regime and demanded the prosecution of Iran's clerical leadership in the International Criminal Court. They held banners reading, "Leaders of the mullahs' regime must be tried for crimes against humanity", and large portraits of Ms. Kazemi.

Kazemi was tortured, Iranian doctor says



CBC News, Mar. 31, Montreal – Canadian photojournalist Zahra Kazemi showed signs of being savagely beaten when she was brought to a Tehran hospital in 2003, said an emergency room doctor on duty at the time.

Shahram Azam, a former staff physician in Iran's defence ministry, said he examined Kazemi, 54, early on June 27, 2003, according to reports published in the Globe and Mail and Montreal's La Presse.

Azam, who recently received political asylum in Canada, intends to tell his story at a news conference in Ottawa on Thursday.

Kazemi, an Iranian-born Montrealer, had been arrested while photographing a demonstration outside Tehran's Evin prison. She died in Iranian custody in July 2003. Iran's government admitted she'd been beaten, but maintains her death was accidental. An Iranian security agent was charged and acquitted of killing her. According to Azam, who now lives in Canada, Kazemi's entire

body had strange markings all over it. Azam described massive bruising around her head and ears. Her skull had been fractured and her nose was broken. Two fingers were also broken, and were missing fingernails. Kazemi also had severe abdominal bruising and showed evidence of being flogged on the legs. There were also signs of a "very brutal rape," according to the doctor. Azam fled Iran last August, going first to Finland, then Sweden, before contacting Kazemi's son, Stephan Hachemi. With the help of Canadian lawyers, Hachemi helped Azam and his family get to Canada. This month, Azam received landed-immigrant status as a refugee sponsored by the Canadian government. Azam told the Globe he wants to refocus worldwide attention on Kazemi's case. He hopes it will ultimately lead to the "indictment" of Iran's Islamic Republic.

Supporting Human Rights and Democracy: The U.S. Record 2004 - 2005

State Department, Mar. 28, Released by the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor - The Islamic Republic of Iran is a theocratic, constitutional republic dominated by Shi'a religious leaders. Ayatollah Ali Khamenei dominates the legislative, executive and judicial branches, directly controls the armed forces and indirectly controls internal security forces. President Mohammed Khatami, who won a second four-year term in multiparty elections in 2001, heads the executive branch. Presidential elections are scheduled for June 17, 2005. In



parliamentary elections on February 20, 2004, the conservative cleric-dominat-ed Guardian Council excluded virtually all reformist candidates, including 85 incumbent members of parliament. In recent years, the conservative backlash against reformist trends and parties has increased in momentum.

In 2004, the Government's poor human rights record worsened, and it continued to commit numerous, serious abuses. Summary executions, disappearances, extremist vigilantism, widespread use of torture and other degrading treatment remained problems. Despite the Government's reassertion that torture was illegal, there was no evidence that authorities had discontinued the practice. ...