



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

Iran'breaking nuclear deal with secret site'

Daily Telegraph Nov. 18, 2004--By Robin Gedye-Iran is secretly producing enriched uranium for nuclear weapons at a military site in Teheran in direct breach of [an agreement signed earlier this week](#), according to Iran's most prominent opposition group.

The site is said to be in the Lavizan district in north-east Teheran, three miles from a former suspected secret nuclear development facility that the regime razed earlier this year after its existence was revealed by the opposition group. "The new site in Mozhdeh Street is controlled by Revolutionary Guards and staffed by Iran's four top nuclear scientists, who are working on producing enriched uranium," said a spokesman for the National Council of Resistance of Iran. "One can only wonder why Teheran did not report its existence to the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna."

The claim by the NCRI comes two days after Iran agreed to [suspend nuclear enrichment and allow inspectors from the agency to return](#) in order to defuse suspicions that it is seeking to develop atomic weapons. In return, they will receive a range of political and economic concessions from the European Union. The inspectors are scheduled to present a report on Iran to the IAEA board by the end of next week.

The NCRI is the political wing of the People's Mujahideen. It is banned in the United States as a terrorist organisation but has a record of providing reliable information on Iran's nuclear activities due to its wide range of dissident sources.

Two years ago it disclosed the existence of a secret site at Natanz, 150 miles south of Teheran, which finally confirmed international suspicions that the government was pursuing a clandestine nuclear programme. An IAEA spokesman in Vienna said the United Nations nuclear watchdog would follow up the latest disclosure "just as we follow up every serious lead". The NCRI says the Mozhdeh Street site covers 60 acres and houses chemical and biological warfare research facilities as well as the nuclear development project.



An NCRI official provides data about a secret nuclear facility

Powell Says Iran Is Pursuing Bomb

washingtonpost.com Nov. 18, 2004 - The United States has intelligence that Iran is working to adapt missiles to deliver a nuclear weapon, further evidence that the Islamic republic is determined to acquire a nuclear bomb, Secretary of State Colin L. Powell said Wednesday.



Separately, an Iranian opposition exile group charged in Paris that Iran is enriching uranium at a secret military facility unknown to U.N. weapons inspectors. Iran has denied seeking to build nuclear weapons. "I have seen some information that would suggest that they have been actively working on delivery systems. . . . You don't have a weapon until you put it in something that can deliver a weapon," Powell told reporters traveling with him to Chile for an Asia-Pacific economic summit. "I'm not talking about uranium or fissile material or the warhead; I'm talking about what one does with a warhead." Powell's comments came just three days after an agreement between Iran and three European countries -- Britain, France and Germany -- designed to limit Tehran's ability to divert its peaceful nuclear energy program for military use. The primary focus of the deal, accepted by Iran on Sunday and due to go into effect Nov. 22, is a stipulation that Iran indefinitely suspend its uranium enrichment program. The issue of adapting a missile is separate from the question of enriching uranium for use in a weapon. "I'm talking about information that says they not only have these missiles, but I am aware of information that suggests that they were working hard as to how to put the two together," Powell said, referring to the process of matching warheads to missiles. He spoke to reporters during a refueling stop in Manaus, Brazil. "There is no doubt in my mind -- and it's fairly straightforward from what we've been saying for years -- that they have been interested in a nuclear weapon that has utility, meaning that it is something they would be able to deliver, not just something that sits there," Powell said.

U.S.-Iran Nuke Talks Almost Ruled Out



Associated Press Thu, Nov 18, 2004, WASHINGTON - The Bush administration is not considering talks with Iran on developing nuclear weapons even though Secretary of State Colin Powell will attend a conference next week with diplomats from Iran and other countries. Already suspicious that Iran is developing such weapons, the administration now has intelligence provided by a resistance group that Iran is trying to adapt missiles to deliver the weapons, Powell said Wednesday.

"I have seen some information that would agree that they have been actively working on delivery systems," Powell said en route to an Asia-Pacific economic summit meeting in Chile. Powell plans to attend a conference on Iraq on Monday and Tuesday at Egypt's Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheik. Representatives from Iran are expected, too. A State Department spokesman, Adam Ereli was asked about the possibility that Powell would raise his concerns directly with Iranian diplomats. "This is a purely speculative question," Ereli said Thursday. "I am not aware that that possibility is being considered." ...

Iran warns nuclear suspension subject to progress in talks with EU

Nov. 17, 2004-TEHRAN (AFP) - Iran warned that its agreement to suspend sensitive




nuclear activities in order to ease fears it is seeking the bomb was subject to rapid progress in a new round of negotiations to begin next month.

Tehran agreed Sunday to suspend its controversial uranium enrichment programme in a deal with three European Union states -- Britain, France and Germany. In mid-December they begin talks on building long-term guarantees on Iran's peaceful intentions as well as a package of incentives for Tehran. "They will give the results of their work three months later. If the results are positive, it (the enrichment suspension) would continue," Iranian President Mohammad Khatami told reporters after a cabinet meeting. "If the other side does not respect its commitments, we will not have any obligations either," he warned, but nevertheless said Iran had struck a "positive accord that respects the national interests."



Iran Says Can Mass Produce Medium-Range Missiles

REUTERS  *Tues, Nov. 9, 2004 TEHRAN* - Iran said on Tuesday it was now able to make large numbers of its medium-range Shahab-3 ballistic missile, which defense experts say is capable of hitting Israel or U.S. bases in the Gulf. "We have the capability to mass-produce Shahab-3 missiles," Defense Minister Ali Shamkhani told reporters at a defense industry building inauguration. He joked that Iran could now produce the missiles like its auto industry churns out the country's best-selling car, the Paykan. His comments, reported on several local news agencies, were confirmed by the Defense Ministry. Iran first deployed the Shahab-3 to its Revolutionary Guards in 2003. Around six of the missiles, bearing slogans vowing to "Wipe Israel from the face of the earth" have been seen together at military parades since then. Officials have repeatedly said in recent months they could use Shahab-3 to strike back at Israel should it try to attack its nuclear facilities.

Exporting terrorism and Meddling in Iraq

Iran's Supreme Leader Urges Iraq Action

Thursday, Nov. 18, TEHRAN, Iran - Iran's supreme leader on Thursday criticized Arab and Muslim silence over the U.S. attack on Fallujah, and he urged the region's governments to help the Iraqi people. "How can Muslim and Arabic governments accept playing the role of an indifferent observer? We can hear the voice of the needy coming from Iraqi families. Doesn't this voice deserve a protest by governments and the people against the arrogant Western powers?" Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was quoted as saying by state-run Tehran radio.

U.S. troops led a major assault on Fallujah last week, seizing the city from insurgents suspected of using it as a base for carrying out bombings and kidnappings. Khamenei said the silence over the offensive would encourage the Americans to carry out similar operations in other parts of Iraq. "Killing thousands of civilians, executing the injured, arresting the innocent and destroying houses and mosques in Fallujah makes the eyes and hearts restless," he said.

Iranian agents captured in Falluja

IranFocus-Baghdad, Nov. 1 -Ten Iranian agents were arrested during a raid on a local mosque in Falluja following attacks by coalition forces. News of the arrests came at a press conference by the heads of the multinational and Iraqi forces in Falluja. The mosque had been housing at least 300 militants with 110 of them confirmed to be foreign nationals. The latest arrests follow a string of reports blaming Iran's religious regime of backing insurgencies in an attempt to halt the democratic process in Iraq. The head of security in Soleimaniya (northern Iraq), Brigadier General Sarkout Hassan Jalal, said earlier this week, "Paramilitary forces secretly bring fresh forces from Iran into Iraq, and then take them to Falluja and other places." The Al-Sabah daily wrote on Nov. 8, "Iraqi National Guard forces arrested eight Iranians as they were blowing up food storages and other centers in Kut. After preliminary interrogations of those arrested, it became clear that they were blowing up a storage room where election ballots were stored. Voters will receive one of these cards to participate in the upcoming elections by showing their birth certificate."

Human right violations and protest in Iran

UN committee raps Iran on rights abuses



-Nov. 17, 2004- UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - A UN committee sharply criticised human rights in Iran, citing the use of torture and a widespread crackdown on the country's media and political opposition.



The UN General Assembly's social and humanitarian committee adopted the resolution, which carries symbolic value but no legal weight, for the second straight year in a 69-55 vote with 51 abstentions. The resolution was sponsored by Canada, whose relations with Iran have taken a turn for the worse since Iranian-Canadian photographer Zahra Kazemi died while in custody in the Islamic republic last year. The measure, co-sponsored by 33 other nations including Tehran's arch-foes Israel and the United States, stopped short of condemning Iran but said UN member states expressed "serious concern" over a long list of rights abuses. It took aim at Iran's clerical regime for "the worsening situation with

regard to freedom of opinion and expression" and the "targeted disqualification" of reformists in Iran's parliamentary elections. Iran also continues to use "torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment," including amputation, flogging and the execution of those under 18 years of age, the resolution said.



Iranian boy, 16, sentenced to death for murder

TEHRAN - Tues., Nov. 16 2004- Iran's hardline judiciary has sentenced a 16-year-old boy to death for murder, the reformist Shargh daily reported Tuesday. According to the report, the boy -- only identified as Vahid from near Tehran -- confessed to stabbing his friend Mehdi to death but insisted he did it in self-defence, saying the victim wanted to sexually abuse him. No further details were given, but verdicts can be appealed and death sentences are subject to supreme court approval. Under Iranian law, any person who has reached the age of maturity -- considered nine-years-old for girls and 15 years for boys -- can be executed for capital offences. But executions for those who committed their crimes while under

the age of 18 are rare. Last month the judiciary said it has drawn up a bill that would scrap the death penalty and lashings for under-18s -- meaning the sentencing of the 16-year-old could be annulled. Several Iranian human rights organisations and Nobel Peace Prize winner Shirin Ebadi have been lobbying Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi, the head of the judiciary, not to sentence minors to death. Murder, armed robbery, rape, apostasy and serious drug trafficking are all punishable by death in Iran.

14 year old boy dies after receiving 85 lashes.

Roshangari net-Nov. 17-2004, Sanandaj- A 14 year old boy who had been arrested for eating during the fasting month of Ramadan, died as a result of severe injury after receiving the 85 lashes on Thursday Nov. 11th. According to a Kurdish site, the officials kept the body in the city morgue for three days. When people learned about the brutality and gathered in the city cemetery for his burial, the officials refused to give the body to the family. The family and friends of the boy have been warned to carry out the burial under supervision of members from the intelligence ministry.

Feature

Protest and Tears

*Washington Times, Embassy Row, By James Morrison-*Zolal Habibi carried a book the size of a telephone directory with page after page of photographs of dissidents killed by the Iranian regime. Her father is in this book of the dead that she showed to reporters yesterday at The Washington Times, as she discussed plans for a massive protest in Washington tomorrow. "My father was killed when I was 7," said the 23-year-old Iranian American. "That was hard for me. I was daddy's little girl," she said. "I cried for days, then I promised myself I would never cry again. ... I didn't cry for years."

It is hard for Iranian exiles not to shed tears for their country, consumed by a theocratic terror since 1979. Miss Habibi said every exile or Iranian American she knows has a relative or a friend killed by the regime or fighting against it. That is why she is distressed by the confusing signals sent by Washington. While President Bush called the Iranian regime part of an "axis of evil," his administration has not lifted the terrorist label the Clinton administration imposed on the resistance, known as the People's Mujahideen of Iran. Meanwhile, U.S. forces in Iraq are protecting more than 3,800 members of the resistance at a base camp 60 miles northwest of Baghdad, after a 16-month investigation found no evidence that any of them were involved in terrorism. The resistance used the camp to launch attacks on the Iranian regime until U.S. forces disarmed them last year during the invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein.

Miss Habibi, who works to promote Iranian civil rights as part of the Women's Freedom Forum, said tomorrow's demonstration will call on the United States to lift the terrorist label and will denounce the European Union for reaching an agreement with the Iranian regime over its suspected nuclear-weapons program. Miss Habibi was raised in Northern Virginia after her father got the family out of Iran before the shah fell in 1979. He returned to join a nascent resistance and was later reported dead. His body was never recovered. Her mother left shortly after the death of her husband to join the resistance and is one of the Iranians now under U.S. protection. Miss Habibi's colleague, Mahin Shaikhi, 25, said her parents are also in the camp

with the resistance. "These people have given up everything for the cause of freedom and to label them terrorists doesn't make sense," Mrs. Shaikhi said, as she dabbed a tissue to wipe away her tears. "I haven't seen my parents in many, many years. But I want their cause to be just." Ali Safavi, president of Near East Policy Research, said he expects "thousands and thousands" of Iranians at the protest, which will begin at noon at Constitution and Pennsylvania avenues Northwest. "This will be the biggest of its kind so far in the United States in the past few years," Mr. Safavi said. He said members of Congress, several European politicians and several Iraqi representatives will speak at the rally. "The movement has a lot of support in Iraq," he said. Mr. Safavi said the deal the European Union reached with the Iranian regimes provides no firm guarantees that Iran will stop producing nuclear material, but it requires European governments to treat the Iranian resistance as terrorists. "The speakers at the rally will denounce appeasement. They will denounce the EU deal," he said. "A nuclear Iran would be a nightmare for the rest of the world."