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.

January 21, 2005 *No. 139*

Meddling In Iraq

Iraqi defense minister divulges names of agents

Al-Arabiya TV, *Jan. 17 Iraq,*– In exclusive remarks made to Al-Arabiya, Hazem Shaalan accused Iran and foreign parties of giving funding some Iraqi groups in the upcoming elections in Iraq. Shaalan (showing a thick book): "The lists of candidates must rely on domestic support. This book contains the names and salaries of Islamic militants who receive funds from outside Iraq and particularly from Iran. This book contains names and account numbers and the amount of salaries they receive…" Shaalan warned against the voices who call for departure of Multi-National Forces from Iraq and described it as opening the way for Iran and Syria to interfere in Iraq. Shaalan stressed on the important role of the MNF-I in safeguarding the security in Iraq. Shaalan, "Those who advocate setting a deadline for departure of Multi-National Forces actually mean that the MNF-I should leave so that Iran arrives in."

Allawi's campaign manager demands removal of pro-Iran alliance

Baghdad daily, *Jan. 17, Iraq* – Adnan Al-Jenabi, election campaign manager for the Al-Iraqiya list said the (pro-Iran) United Iraqi Alliance continues to abuse the names of religious symbols, harm the elections and mislead the voters in complete disregard for the rules for election campaign. He told journalists that the Al-Iraqiya list demands that the United Iraqi Alliance's slate be crossed out from the lists of election candidates because it pretends not to know the rules and has violated them dozens of times.

Insurgency in Iraq connected to Iran

Iran Focus, *Jan. 16, Tehran* – Sources within the Iranian opposition have confirmed to Iran Focus that they were able to obtain a classified document from within Iran's intelligence and security apparatus showing Iran's connections to insurgents carrying out attacks in Iraq.
The document is a report written by an Iraqi group mounting armed attacks on Iraqi civilians and U.S. and Coalition troops in Iraq. It was addressed to Revolutionary Guards Brigadier General Obeydavi, a senior commander of the Qods (Jerusalem) Force.
The Qods Force is the extra-territorial arm of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps and oversees the Iranian regime's external military activities in Iraq.

Iran behind Islamic Jihad insurgency attacks

Middle East Newsline, *Jan. 16, Jerusalem* -- The Iranian-sponsored Islamic Jihad has been termed a leading contractor of insurgency attacks in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Israeli security sources said Jihad has used Iranian funding to recruit operatives from other insurgency groups for major attacks against Israel..."Islamic Jihad has long sought cooperation of other groups because it does not have enough operatives," a security source said. "Now, with plenty of Iranian money, Jihad can recruit whomever it wants." The Iranian funding has been relayed to Islamic Jihad headquarters in Syria, the sources said. From there, Jihad sent the funds through couriers arriving in the West Bank.

Bombing expert tied to Tehran's Intelligence Ministry

Al-Etjah Al-Akhar daily, *Jan. 15, Iraq -- Iraqi* security forces announced that they have arrested one of the senior officers of the former Republican Guards. These forces said that Hamed Ismail Dervish, 51, who identified himself as Abu Ahmad was in charge of planting explosive packages. Government sources believe that he works with the Iranian Intelligence Ministry and the Hezbollah.

Iranian money channeled to Iraq

United Press International, *Jan. 15, Baghdad* **-** A senior Iraqi official Saturday accused Iran of channeling money into Iraq to "achieve sectarian objectives" and destabilize the country.
Waset Governor Mohammad Ridha said 18,987.30 in Iranian tomans were seized and found to have been sent to a resident in the province "to try to entice sectarian extremism and ruin the elections process."While he did not specify Iran by name, referring only to its currency allegedly seized, Ridha insisted there were "hidden hands trying to destabilize the province by focusing on sectarian allegiance over allegiance to the homeland."His accusation came amid repeated charges by Iraqi Defense Minister Hazem al-Shaalan that Iran was interfering in his country's internal affairs.

Rafsanjani tells Iraqis to kick U.S. out

Fars news agency, *Jan. 14 --* [In the second sermon of Tehran's Friday prayers,] Hashemi Rafsanjani addressed the Iraqi people, saying, "Our Muslim brothers in Iraq must not become tired. We have lost a large number of youths and clergies, and you must also make such sacrifices. That is because God is not committed to those who sit in the house and take no action. God is committed to those who come to the battlefield."Noting that Iraqis are on the brink of victory, he said, "Iraqis should not fear the American and British military men."... Rafsanjani stressed, "The United States can no longer fool people with claims of establishing democracy and freedom, and carry out a military expedition under this title."The head of the State Expediency Council said the era when the US could deceive people under the name of political openness has ended. He added, "Nations must use this atmosphere to deal the US a kick in the rear and throw them out of the region. If the world of Islam, religious scholars, Islamic scientists, writers and speakers use this opportunity, it is a unique occasion. It is among the valuable historical opportunities when the Islamic world can free itself of the hands of neocolonialists, take over its vast resources and put the plunderers on trial."

Woman trained by Iran to assassinate Shaalan

AFP, *Jan. 15, Beirut -* Iraqi Defense Minister Hazem al-Shaalan said an Iraqi woman trained as an assassin in Syria by former henchmen of Saddam Hussein had recently pulled a gun on him in his office before breaking down in tears **.**She was about 40," and her husband is in prison for his involvement in a car bombing in Baghdad, Shaalan told Saturday's issue of the Al-Hayat daily**...**. Shaalan said his would-be assassin, whom he declined to name "for security reasons", was an Arab from the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk and belonged to a network of women trained in Syria under Iranian supervision **.**She was among 50 Iraqi women, wives or relatives of detainees or of men killed in clashes with the Iraqi national guard or troops belonging to the multinational force," he said, referring to US-led troops in the country**.**They were trained "to mount terrorist operations and assassinations in Iraq," he said **.**Shaalan accused "Iranian clerics of supervising the women's training, after which the women were placed in ministries and other Iraqi state institutions**..."**.The minister defended his frequent claims that Syria and Iran are playing a major role in the bloody insurgency in his country **.**I have documents in my possession and a lot of proof," he said**.**

Iraqi MP blasts Iran meddling in Iraq

Iran Focus, *Jan. 15 Baghdad,***–** Hossein Sadr, a candidate from the election list of the current interim-Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, aired his comments on the Al-Iraqiya network Thursday,

saying that Iran should not be allowed to meddle in Iraq's internal affairs .Referring to recent footage of an Iraqi terrorist leader who admitted to acting on Tehran's orders, Sadr said, "The tape that was broadcast showed confessions that are worrisome; these confessions proved that in fact the Iranian regime and Syria are meddling here ".It is our right as a people to have our own freedoms, and to have peace and stability and to condemn such interferences. We condemn support given to terrorists and terrorist operations regardless of whether they are from the Iranian regime or any other country," Sadr added .In comments directed at Iran, the Iraqi MP said, "I tell them from this platform that Iraqi Shiites are Arabs and Iraqi Shiites have their nationalistic values and Iraqi Shiites under no circumstances will fall under the influence of the Iranian regime."We will not allow Iranian or non-Iranian interference in the internal affairs of Iraq or the Iraqi elections. Our neighbors should not curry political favor with Iraqi Shiites just because they share the same religion", he said .Sadr finished by saying, "We have a lot of proof for what we say but do not intend to reveal them all at present and are leaving them for later on. The proof show that certain neighbors are interfering in our elections and this is of concern to us."

International front against fundamentalism

Iraqi jurists endorse PMOI's legal status in Iraq as legitimate Resistance movement

Excerpts of the press release of AIJ- *Jan. 17 Iraq,* **-** The Association of Independent Jurists for Defense of Human Rights in Iraq held a conference on Monday, January 17, 2005, at Baghdad's Babylon Hotel with 1,000 lawyers and political and social dignitaries participating. The meeting featured a statement by 3,230 lawyers from northern, southern and central provinces of Iraq endorsing the legal status of the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran as a legitimate Resistance movement in Iraq. The statement cites legal opinions by some of the most prominent lawyers on the international level which were specifically signed and endorsed by 500 European, American and Canadian jurists at the International Seminar of Jurists on November 10, 2004, in Paris. 15 prominent judges, 22 professors of law, hundreds of court judges, prosecutors and legal consultants are among the 3230 Iraqi lawyers and jurists who signed the November 10, 2004, declaration of the International Conference of Jurists in Paris. Representatives of Independent Democrats, Islamic Party, Motherland Party, National Assembly of Iraq, Democratic Coalition of Iraq, Assembly of Iraqi Sheikhs, Assembly of Nobles, Assyrian Democratic Movement, Constitutional Monarchist Party, as well as sheikhs and political personalities from Karbala, Najaf, Mousol, Baghdad and the provinces of Anbar, Salahaddin and Diyala declared their support for the jurists' declaration. Prominent legal experts and scholars from different countries sent messages of solidarity to the Iraqi jurists and stressed that the terror label against the PMOI is not legally justified and this organization must be recognized as a legitimate Resistance movement in Iraq. Mash'an Jabouri, secretary general of the National Assembly Party and member of the Iraqi Parliament's security committee, said, "Once again, I declare my full support for the legal, political and moral rights of the People's Mojahedin in Iraq. The PMOI is a political organization which has been subject to many efforts to distort its image, but it is an organization which struggles for democracy and freedom of Iranian people. Based on the principle of Arab hospitality, the Iranian people's right to achieve freedom and democracy and Islamic values, we have the duty to give our full support and backing to the People's Mojahedin of Iran in their political struggle for democracy and freedom in Iran.

Various speakers addressed the conference on the eve of the Iraqi elections. They described the Iranian regime's meddling in their country as a hidden war and an undeclared occupation which has jeopardized Iraq's political future. The jurists also declared that they consider the People's Mojahedin of Iran that advocates a tolerant Islam, as their natural ally and partner in neutralizing the mentioned dangerous threats. On this basis, the presence of the PMOI as a powerful opposition force in the Iraqi territory is seen as a balancing element and a strategic need in favor of the national interests of Iraq while undermining it will only benefit the enemies of Iraq. Conscious of this reality, Iran's rulers have also focused on the PMOI as the first target

of their massive slander campaign in recent years in Iraq with the sole intention of alienating the people of Iraq from their ally in their fate-making struggle at the present juncture.
Spokesman of the Association of Independent Jurists, Mr. Sofiyan Othman, showed the participants, the papers bearing signatures of lawyers and jurists engaged in this unprecedented initiative. He noted that the disarmament and terrorist designation of the Iranian people's legitimate and largest democratic opposition force has upset the balance of power in the region and in Iraq in favor of the real sponsors and godfathers of terrorism, i.e. Iran's ruling regime, and emboldened it in further interference in Iraq.
The Iraqi Association of Independent Jurists stresses that the Multi-National Force and the Government of Iraq must recognize the political refugee status for the PMOI individuals and residents of Ashraf in Iraq and prevent the Iranian regime from taking advantage of the terrorist label it has placed on a legitimate force with the political motive of suppressing its opposition and gaining open hand to step up its meddling in Iraq.
Some 60 news media and press prepared reports from the conference of Iraqi jurists in Baghdad.

Sponsor of terrorism

Tehran gave fake passport to Zarqawi – Algerian journalist

Farda Radio, *Jan. 13 -* Algerian journalist Atwan Tazakrat said, "Al-Zarqawi stayed in Iran for three to four months, and Iranian officials did not deny his presence. They provided him with a fake passport with which he traveled to Syria where in mid-2002 he plotted the assassination of an American citizen."Referring to the escape of three of Bin Laden's sons that went to Iran from Afghanistan and their footprints were never found, he said, "It is not clear whose support they are under and where they have gone. One of Al-Qaida's spokesmen, Solaiman Abu Ghais, went to Iran immediately after the September 11 attacks and was never arrested."
In response to a question on whether or not the photo had been published, Tazakrat said, "This photo was never publicly distributed but I was able to see it. The source who confirmed to me that the Jordanian King had seen the photo is credible."

Tehran agent arrested for Al-Qaida ties

WorldNetDaily.com, *Jan. 13 -* An Iranian agent was arrested yesterday in Kuwait for ties to recent al-Qaida-related attacks in several Middle Eastern countries, according to a popular Mideast radio network .Sawa Radio, which broadcasts throughout the Middle East, reported the unnamed Iranian agent was apprehended by Kuwaiti security forces after intelligence implicated his involvement in an al-Qaida terror network with prior information on recent attacks in Saudi Arabia...Security sources told World Net Daily they suspect Iran-financed Hezbollah serves as a conduit between Tehran and contacts within al-Qaida. They say Iran has stepped up coordination with al-Qaida and with insurgents in Iraq to destabilize America's efforts to rebuild Iraq and hold elections at the end of the month .If the report proves accurate, the arrest would connect the Iranian regime to al-Qaida and would likely result in increased international pressure against Tehran, which the U.S. has accused of trying to develop an elicit nuclear weapons arsenal .

Deteriorating conditions of human rights

Joint motion for a resolution on torture in Iran

Iran Focus, *Jan. 13 Strasbourg,-* The European Parliament adopted a resolution by majority vote today condemning human rights violations in Iran in the second such move over the past six months.
The toughly-worded resolution denounced practices such as execution of juveniles and stoning carried out by the Iranian regime.
Parts of the resolution read, "the European Parliament ... strongly condemns death sentences against and/or the execution of juvenile offenders, pregnant women and mentally handicapped persons".The EP resolution also expressed deep concern over "the worsening situation with regard to freedom of opinion and expression and freedom of the

media, especially the increased persecution for the peaceful expression of political views, including arbitrary arrests and detention without charge or trial".
The European Parliament censured "the campaign by the Judiciary against journalists, cyber journalists and webloggers leading to the closure of publications, imprisonment and according to reports widespread torture and forced false confessions." The resolution also pointed to the fact that "Iran is still not a party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Parliament recently rejected draft legislation on gender equality," and called on Iranian authorities to "give evidence that they do implement their declared moratorium on stoning" and demanded "the immediate implementation of the ban on torture."The resolution also noted with concern the finding by the United Nations Special Rapporteur Ambeyi Ligabo that "the Iranian Press and Penal Code do not conform to the permissible restrictions listed in the Article 19(3) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights." In an apparent reference to the inclusion of the Iranian opposition group, the People's Mojahedin Organisation of Iran (PMOI) in the European terrorist list, the resolution also called for a review by the EP's Committee on Foreign Affairs and on Public Liberties of "the way in which the Parliament may become involved in the process of regular updating of the Council's Common Position relative to the application of specific measures to combat terrorism, taking into account developments from 2001 onwards." It is estimated that the Iranian regime has executed over 120,000 PMOI members since the 1979 Islamic revolution, 30,000 of whom were massacred in Iran's prisons in 1988. During the parliamentary session, a number of Members of the European Parliament, including Struan Stevenson (UK), André Brie (Germany) and Paulo Casaca (Portugal), addressed the parliament calling the tag against the PMOI unjust and emphasizing the need to remove the PMOI from the EU's terrorist list. In December, the Iranian opposition leader Maryam Rajavi in a meeting at the European Parliament called on the EP to condemn human rights abuses by the regime and support the Iranian opposition.

Iranian teenage offender hanged in Iran capital

Iran Focus, *January 20, Tehran -* A young man who was accused of killing a member of Iran's security forces when he was a minor was hanged in the notorious Evin prison in Tehran.

Iman Farrokhi who was 17 at the time of the offence was on death row in the Tehran Centre for Reform and Education Juvenile Prison.
Farrokhi was said to have fatally stabbed Mohammad Ali Ghasemzadeh, while hiking in October 2000 though he insists that he was forced to act in self defence. At the time Farrokhi fled the scene but within a month he was apprehended whilst selling liquor. Liquor consumption and distribution are illegal under Iranian law.
The teenager was transferred to the Centre for Reform and Education pending execution upon turning 18. However on February 8, 2001 he escaped from the centre.
At the time, security agents published his photo in national dailies and it was discovered that he was serving time in a prison from November 7, 2002, in the town of Jiroft (southern Iran) for stealing and handling arms.
The acting judge immediately recalled his file to Tehran and issued a death sentence, which was subsequently approved by Iran's Supreme Court. He was also given a 10 year prison term for having stolen guns and was sentenced to 80 lashes for having consumed alcohol.
Tehran judge, Goreishizadeh announced in December that Farrokhi was to be executed within the next few days.
Mohammad T., another teenager currently in one of Iran's Centers for Reform and Education, is to also be hanged to death in the coming weeks for allegedly stabbing someone when he was 14.
His sentence was approved by Iran's Supreme Court, which called for him to be hanged by the end of the Iranian calendar month.
Under Iranian law, girls above the age of nine and boys above the age of fifteen are considered as adults and could be executed for capital offences.
Under increasing international pressure, the Iranian regime keeps children on death row in Juvenile Prison until they turn 18.
At least 30 juveniles are currently on death row in Tehran and Rajai-Shahr (40km west of the Iranian capital) for offences they have been alleged to have committed under the age of 18.
Two other men accused of murder, Valiollah Zareian and Davoud Bagheri, were also hanged on Wednesday in Tehran's notorious Evin prison while the families of the victims looked on.