

NEWS ON IRAN

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I come from a land enchained by the Pharisees. Those who reverse God's verdict of compassion and peace, to lead their own rule. The mullahs ruling Iran have shackled my homeland, the cradle of love, wisdom and co-existence of differing nationalities. But the people of Iran are striving for peace and justice and for liberty and compassion. We are confident that God is with us and Christ is with us, because we long for peace, freedom and justice.

- Maryam Rajavi at Oslo Domkirke (Church of Oslo)

Sunday, Oct. 29 - Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, the Iranian Resistance's President-elect, attended the mass at the central church of Oslo and met Rev. Leif Ottersen, Bishop of Oslo and one of the most prominent Christian leaders of Norway. Mrs. Marit Nybakk, Member of Parliament, accompanied her. In his prayers, Bishop Leif Ottersen, prayed for the establishment of freedom and democracy in Iran.

Mrs. Rajavi presented a copy of the list of names 16,000 martyrs of the Iranian Resistance and an Iranian silk carpet depicting "Christ's Last Supper" to the Bishop and Oslo's central church.

Monday, Oct. 30 - Mrs. Maryam Rajavi met and held talks with Mr. Torbjorn Jagland, leader of the Labor Party of Norway. Expressing his appreciation over meeting "such an outstanding figure," Mr. Jagland told Mrs. Rajavi: We completely support your political platform, especially your commitment to the equality of women, for it falls in line with all of our values and aspirations. Mr. Jagland added: I completely agree with your view that we should increase the political pressure on the mullahs' regime and our policy in this regard is clear and decisive.

Monday, Oct. 30 - A delegation of women leaders of Norway's four major parties met Mrs. Rajavi. Mrs. Ragnhild Q. Haarstad, Member of Parliament from the Center Party and chairwoman of the parliamentary Committee on Environment; Mrs. Kristin Halversen, leader of the Socialist women, Member of Parliament and member of the parliamentary Committee on Finance; Mrs. Torunn Lappsa, Vice-President of Christian Democratic women, and Mrs. Erna Solberg, leader of the Conservative women, Member of Parliament and member of parliamentary Committee on Finance, comprised the delegation.

Monday, Oct. 30 - Meeting with the leaders of youth organizations of the Norwegian parties. Mr. Trond Giske, leader of the labor youth; Andreas Eidsaa, leader of the Christian Democratic youths, Inge Bartnes, leader of the Center Party, André Stoylen, leader of Conservative youths, Andreas Tjernshaagen, leader of the Socialist

youths, and the leader of the progressive youths, presented a joint declaration to Mrs. Rajavi.

Call For Severing Economic Ties with Iran

AUF (Leaders of Youths' Organizations of Norway's Parties)
Statement for the Press, Oct. 30, 1995

Norway must strengthen her positions on Iran. All economic ties with the Iranian regime must be severed and the Government must influence the Nordic countries and the European Union to do the same.

This was called for by the Youths' Political Organizations in Norway in a joint declaration. It was presented to Maryam Rajavi, leader of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, in a meeting of the leaders of the Youths' Political Organizations with her. Rajavi explained to the youth leaders about the suppression of political dissidents, continuous violations of human rights and the Iranian mullah regime's terrorist activities outside Iran.

The political organization of the youths will influence its party groups to step up the pressure against Iran. Norway's recall of her ambassador from Tehran was an important step, but economic ways are also necessary. An economic boycott will expedite democracy. Norway must therefore sever economic ties with Iran.

Tuesday, Oct. 31 - Mrs. Kaci Fivé, Conservative, Member of Parliament and member of the parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee, met with the Iranian Resistance's President-elect. She said in the meeting: Our party is very sensitive about human rights. We tried in the Parliament to take practical measures against the Iranian regime's repression and terrorism. We also wanted to establish contact with the Iranian Resistance and create the setting in which the information published by the Resistance movement about the situation in Iran could be widely distributed.

Tuesday evening, Oct. 31 - Upon the invitation of the Norwegian Committee in Defense of Human Rights and Humane Values in Iran, Mrs. Rajavi addressed a meeting of nearly 100 of the most prominent political and cultural

dignitaries of Norway, including Mr. William Nygaard and Ms. Arja Saijooonmaa. The meeting was held at Oslo's City Hall. Mrs. Rajavi cited the authentic Islamic tradition to expose the mullahs' demagoguery in attributing their crimes to Islam.

Thursday, Nov. 2 - Mrs. Rajavi held talks at the Parliament of Norway, with Mrs. Valgerd Haugland, leader of the Christian Party, and Mr. Kjell Magne Bondevik, leader of the Christian parliamentary group, member of the Foreign Relations Committee, and former Foreign Minister of Norway. Mrs. Haugland expressed her support for the goals of the National Council of Resistance of Iran. She stressed that in view of Norway, the regime ruling Iran is the most serious threat to the civilized world.

Expressing her gratitude for the hospitality demonstrated by the people and parliamentarians of Norway, Mrs. Rajavi pointed out: The time has come for all the western countries to impose a complete trade embargo on the mullahs and sever diplomatic ties with this inhuman regime. I hope that just as Norway has already taken the lead in other issues, she would take the initiative in this field, as well.

Thursday, Nov. 2 - Some 1,500 Iranians took part in the largest-ever gathering of Iranians residing in Norway to listen to the address by Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, the Iranian Resistance's President-elect.

The enthusiastic crowd gave Mrs. Rajavi a tumultuous welcome when she walked on the stage, waving tri-colored Iranian flags and chants of "Maryam, our Shining Sun, We will take her to Tehran!" Five Iranian girl children presented the Iranian Resistance's President-elect with flower bouquets, followed by the representative of the National Council of Resistance of Iran in the Nordic countries, the President-elect's head of office in Norway, and the representatives of the associations of Iranian women, professionals and athletes residing in Norway, each welcoming the President with their own bundles of flowers.

The representatives of Iranians residing in Sweden and Denmark were also present. A representative of the Norwegian journalists and a representative of the Norwegian Teachers' Union also read messages and welcomed Mrs. Rajavi.

In a speech interrupted several times by the audience's enthusiastic applause, Mrs. Rajavi said: The growth and rising status of the Iranian Resistance vis-a-vis the most savage dictatorship of our times is before everything else indebted to the support and assistance of the friends and supporters of this Resistance in Iran and around the world. As we get closer to the day of uprooting this regime and establishing democracy in Iran, all those wishing for Iran's freedom, must rush to the aid of this Resistance.

Mrs. Rajavi pointed out that the mullahs are not only the enemy of the people of Iran, but also the enemy of peace and friendship the world over, particularly in the Islamic countries. Then she added: Decisiveness is the only language this regime understands. The adoption of a firm policy against this regime and imposition of trade

embargoes, coupled with support for the Iranian people's Resistance is the only way the establishment of democracy can be expedited.

Friday, Nov. 3 - Arch-Bishop Andreas Aarflot of Norway met with Mrs. Rajavi at her place of residence in Oslo. Arch-Bishop Aarflot admired the Iranian Resistance's clear positions on the complete equality of followers of all religions and abolition of any form of discrimination based on faith. We must support the democratic Islam against the fanatic forces who take advantage of religion and show that the mullahs are not true representatives of religion, he said. Bishop Aarflot expressed his hope that the Church of Norway supports the Iranian Resistance's efforts and objectives.

Monday, Nov. 6 - Escorted by a number of Norwegian personalities, the Iranian Resistance's President-elect left Oslo this morning for Paris.

Arch-Bishop Andreas Aarflot of Norway, Mrs. Ragnhild Haarstad, MP, and Mr. Lars Gunnar Lingaas, Chairman of the Committee in Defense of Human Rights in Iran, were among the Norwegian dignitaries who had come to the airport to bid farewell to Mrs. Rajavi.

Paying Respect to Christ

NRK national TV, Oct. 29, 19:30 - After the leader of the Iranian Resistance movement, Maryam Rajavi, today attended the religious service at Dom Church, the Leader of the Dom Church in Oslo, Mr. Leif Ottersen said: The Church of Norway supports the Iranian Resistance Movement against the clerical rule....

This was a rare meeting between two cultures at Oslo's Domkirke....

Ch. 2 national TV, Oct. 29, 21:00 - With humility and modesty, she came to show that Islam has various faces, including peace....

Under Maryam Rajavi's leadership, the Iranian Resistance keeps getting closer to Norway. Her unusual visit to the Church was the latest in a series of activities she has had on the Norwegian soil.

Mrs. Marit Nybakk, Member of Parliament: I think in light of what the Tehran mullahs believe in this regard, Mrs. Rajavi has made a very courageous act by taking part in a religious ceremony in Norway.

Aftenposten, Oct. 30 - Upon Rajavi's request, the Bishop prayed for all those struggling for a healthy and democratic system in Iran. With a warm smile, the President-in-exile told the Bishop: "As a Muslim, Iranian woman, it was a great pleasure for me to hear you pray for Iran." She presented the list of 16,000 slain in Iran for supporting the Resistance movement....

By visiting the church on Sunday, Rajavi wanted to draw attention to how Christians and other religious minorities are persecuted by the mullahs' regime. Among them, were two Christian bishops, Haik Hovsepian and

Teteos Michaelian, and Pastor Mehdi Dibaj, who were martyred respectively in 1993 and 1994 for not halting their preaching of Christianity.

Iran's President-in-exile Captured Oslo's City Hall

NRK national TV, Oct. 31, 22:30 - "A charismatic personality," is how William Nygaard described the Iranian President-in-exile, Maryam Rajavi. The two met in Oslo tonight.

"Thanks Norway," hundreds of Iranians saluted Norway and their leader Maryam Rajavi, tonight. In the City Hall, she called for help from her audience, a wide spectrum of the Norwegian society, including William Nygaard. Then, the two met for the first time. The President nodded as William Nygaard who has escaped an attempt on his life congratulated her.

Maryam Rajavi: I think that this was one of the terrorist works of the terrorist diplomats of the mullahs' regime.

Nygaard: She is a charismatic personality and I believe she has an excellent view and interpretation of how Islam as a religion can function in a democratic society. There are no contradictions between Islam and democracy and humane values. Of course, this is a view which we understand very well.

On the City Hall's steps, Rajavi met her compatriots. But they could not come close, because Maryam Rajavi is one of the primary targets of terrorism in the world.

NTB, Norwegian news agency, Nov. 1 - The leader of the Iranian opposition, Maryam Rajavi, captured the mayor's seat in the City Hall and spoke on the situation of Iran for some 100 persons invited. Outside the City Hall, exiled Iranians demonstrated in support of the President of the National Council of Resistance of Iran with the chants of "Today Oslo, Tomorrow Tehran," and "Thanks Norway."

Channel 2 TV, Nov. 1

Under heavy security measures, Nygaard met Maryam Rajavi. Yesterday, these two, along with Nygaard's fiancée, Arja Saijooonmaa met together under heavy security. In the auditorium of the City Hall, the opinions expressed were what the mullahs' regime forbids....

Addressing Maryam Rajavi, Nygaard says: I am very glad that you are with us. Good luck and keep up the good work! I support your activities.

Nygaard says Norway must interpret this visit as a very important signal. Presently, he agrees that the presence of the Resistance movement in Iraq is not without problems, but Nygaard says, they must have their bases somewhere, anyway!

Aftenposten, Nov. 3 - When 1,500 Iranians encountered the exiled President Maryam Rajavi yesterday evening in Plaza Hotel, the meeting was exciting.

This smiling woman, symbolizes the the liberation struggle against the rule of mullahs who have controlled the power for the past 16 years in Iran.

Waving her national flag above her head, Sayneh Omid says: Her message is love. She is our hope for Iran's future.

Omid who has driven from Tromso (1,700 kms away) to salute Rajavi and her struggle, says: Even if I had to swim all the way to here, I would have done so. This is the beginning of the end. And I want to be a part of it.

Farzin Saber: She (Maryam Rajavi) is our Joan of Arc, who has fought for freedom all her life. Saber believes that it is a great honor to be here today.

Vartland, Nov. 3 - Maryam Rajavi can be an important weapon in the struggle for the overthrow of Tehran's fundamentalist regime. She represents a democratic and humanitarian stability which in meeting with western politicians creates trust.

She gains her political legitimacy through her popularity in the 4-million-strong population of Iranian exiles.

In her 16-article charter, she lists the principles which are going to be the foundations of respect for human rights and democratic values. She guarantees free elections after six months of presidency for the transitional period.

Vartland, Nov. 7 - After a two-week visit to Norway, Maryam Rajavi left Norway as she was protected by a complete police escort in the government Mercedes. Among those waiting for her at the VIP entrance were Ragnhild Haarstad, member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, and Arch-Bishop Aarflot. He presented the Iranian Resistance's President-elect with a Bible in Arabic...

In such a moving weather, it could be said that the presence of so many at Fornebu Airport at 9:30 in the morning, is not just a formal duty or a protocol. With her glowing warmth, this 42-year-old woman has obviously succeeded in gaining tremendous support for struggle against the mullahs in Tehran.

Rajavi said: I appreciate the friendship and warmth I received in this country, particularly from the Church of Norway. This alliance between Islam and Christianity is something the Iranian regime vehemently opposes. These supports are very inspiring for my Christian compatriots in Iran. She added: It is very difficult for me to leave Norway.

Support Maryam Rajavi

Arbeider Bladet, editorial, Nov. 1, 1995

By Leif Vetlesen, author and former Secretary General of Amnesty International

The clerical rule in Iran threatens the stability in the world.

On Wednesday, Oct. 25, intensive security measures were undertaken for the first time in Fornebu airport. The

reason? Maryam Rajavi, the President-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran arrived in Norway upon the invitation of the Norwegian Committee for Defense of Human Rights in Iran.

Last time, it was the author, Salman Rushdie, who had come to Oslo to introduce his new book, *The Moor's Last Sigh*. Both of them top the regime's hit list. Salman Rushdie's name is familiar to everyone. But the woman who is leading the Resistance movement against the mullahs' oppression of the Iranian people is unknown to most.

Maryam Rajavi was born in 1953 in Tehran and studied metallurgy. In her student years, she took part in the struggle for a democratic Iran. In Spring 1981, she played a significant role in organizing two major demonstrations against the Khomeini regime. She escaped the arrests and went to Paris in 1982, where she participated in the reconstruction of the National Council of Resistance. In August 1993, the National Council of Resistance elected her President to take power in the transitional period after the overthrow of the mullahs' regime.

Under her leadership, the Iranian Resistance movement has went through a democratization process. In a Charter of Freedoms, it is emphasized: The goal of the Resistance movement is an Iran which enjoys complete freedom of opinion, expression and the press, and the right to vote for everyone. Any form of obligatory religious or ideological teachings, coercion in the performance of religious rituals, or banning of religious ceremonies and rites are forbidden. Women enjoy equal rights with men and all discriminations based on gender, race or faith are abrogated.

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4,000 Executed

Chinese news agency, Tehran, Nov. 1 - A government official announced today in Tehran that Iran has executed more than 4,000 drug traffickers since 1988.

Mohammad Javad Heshmati, assistant to the deputy director of the anti-drug trafficking headquarters said more than 12,500 foreign drug-traffickers are detained in Iranian jails.

Extrajudicial killings

Voice of Mojahed, Nov. 1 - The regime's security agents arbitrarily killed one of the supporters of the Mojahedin in Isfahan. Seyed Mehdi Hashemi, a 25-year-old lathe operator, was attacked and shot dead on September 5, near the Savanehe Hospital on Kaveh St. To justify their murder, the officials said he was a drug-trafficker.

8 Isfahan Students Arrested

As-Sharq al-Awsat, London, Nov. 3 - Iranian opposition sources report of what they describe as "fever of unrest in Iran's educational centers." These sources say unrest prevails Isfahan's Industrial University and the security agents arrested eight students last week for taking part in dissident activities. No information is available on the fate of those arrested.

According to the Iranian history and traditions, this is a courageous platform. The only thing left is to see how this can be realized.

The goal is clear: An Iran which is a modern democracy completely observant of human rights and international laws and conventions.

The National Council of Resistance's problem is its affiliation and cooperation with Saddam Hussein in Iraq, where the military wing of the Resistance movement is based. As for the recognition of the National Council of Resistance, this has created some doubts in the political circles in Europe and the United States. Geographically, one cannot do much, reminding one of Churchill's remarks when in the World War II, Hitler entered the Soviet Union: All of the enemies of Germany are our friends. Here, the Resistance movement is clearly stuck in a compelling situation, in which it does not have any choice.

Just recently, 425 members of the British Parliament signed a declaration in complete support of the National Council of Resistance of Iran and its President-elect. 202 members of the U.S. Congress also did the same.

Just as President Rajavi says and does not lose any opportunity to emphasize it, the problem of fundamentalism represented by Iran is a real threat to the world's stability and against general peace. Such a regime with nuclear rockets and chemical and biological weapons is the nightmare of our times. Therefore, it is necessary to do whatever is in our power to support the Iranian Resistance movement, in the hope and conviction that the people of Iran will themselves, settle their accounts with their oppressors.

Unrest and extensive protests which began on Oct. 10 in Isfahan's Industrial University have continued to date, the statement says. It also refers to widespread distribution of flyers throughout the campus and in the dormitories in support of Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, "the Iranian Resistance's President-elect." In reaction to the protests, security forces arrested six students on October 24 and another two last week.

The statement of the National Council of Resistance adds that the students demand dissolution of the so-called "Islamic Associations" and other suppressive organs in the university whose activities are aimed at imposing repression on campus and spying against Resistance supporters.

Unrest in Schools

IRTV, Tehran's state-television, Nov. 4 - This week, during the second sermon of the Friday Prayer in Qom, Friday Prayer leader, Amini, said: "As you are aware, we are presently under attack from Western cultural onslaught and cultural colonialism... I am informed about the situation of the youth and the schools. This threat is a serious threat... We must ponder this much more seriously..."

"There are also seen various movements under various pretexts. But you must know that this conspiracy is much deeper than this... Don't ever think that your beloved ones go to school and come back easily. You do not know what their friends do to them. You do not know what is distributed among them...."

"They need to be watched. The Education Ministry must pay greater attention to this matter... so that it can prevent such corruption...."

1,200 Youngsters Rounded Up

NCR Secretariat in Paris, Nov. 1 - With the beginning of the new academic year, the mullahs' regime stationed the *Bassij* forces and special units of the Guards Corps in the downtown avenues and near some of the most famous high schools in Tehran to confront outbreak of students' protests.

Recently, 1,000 youngsters were arrested in Tehran and another 200 in Neyshabour (northeastern Iran). The regime's agents round up the youth on bogus charges of possessing videotapes and wearing western clothes.

In a meeting yesterday with the officials of the Intelligence Ministry, Rafsanjani confessed that the regime today faces "the most vehement hostility." Issuing new instructions for massive clampdown on popular demonstrations, he described the role of the spies and torturers of the Intelligence Ministry as "important and vital".

Elements of Sustenance

Voice of Mojahed, Oct. 31 - Mullah Ali Meshkini, President of the Assembly of Experts, addressed the anti-riot Ashura battalions: "The presence of these forces is a necessity for safeguarding the regime's existence."

Mullah Jazayeri, the Friday prayer leader of Ahwaz, said in his Friday prayer sermon this week: "Don't ever think that *Bassij* was a wartime issue which is over now. To maintain our existence we must always have a *Bassij* organization."

In an address to a group of *Bassij* agents in Qom, Ali Mohammad Besharati, the Minister of Interior, described the anti-riot Ashura battalion as "the elements of sustenance and maintenance" of the state.

Everything for Men

Tehran radio, Nov. 2 - Deputy Minister of Education today said: "Presently, 47% of the education faculty are women and 48% of the students are girls. Nevertheless, the existing educational, cultural and athletic facilities have been allocated for the greater part to male faculty and boy students."

Urban Families Poorer

Voice of Mojahed, Oct. 24 - The mullah regime's Central Bank published a report today acknowledging that in the past 10 years, Iranian families have grown poorer. The average annual expenses of an urban Iranian family has grown four fold, rising from 1,574,550 rials in 1984 to 6,376,620 rials in 1993.

Subsequently, the Iranian families have been forced to cut down their consumption of basic staples. A family's average consumption of red meat in 1993 has reached down to less than half of what it was in 1984, going from 171 kilograms to 78 kilograms per year. The average consumption of white meat has gone from 136 kilograms per year in 1984 down to 70 kilograms in 1993.

The Central Bank's report adds: Under the pressure of high prices, the share of expenses for the foodstuffs has shrunk from 40% in 1984 to 33% in 1993. Instead, the share for housing, water and fuel expenses has grown from 24% to 28% for every urban Iranian family.

More Difficult Economy

Reuters, Oct. 27, Amman - A senior World Bank official said on Friday that a U.S. trade ban, foreign debts and weak oil prices had hurt Iran's economy.

"In the last two years, under the impact of falling oil prices, and because of the bunching of short-term debt maturities, and most recently, because of the sanctions, the economy faced a much more difficult environment," said Caio Koch-Weser, World Bank vice-president for the Middle East and North Africa.

Worrisome Rejection of Two Asylum-seekers

Reuters, Nov. 2, The Hague - A Dutch court on Thursday rejected political asylum applications from two Iranians, setting a precedent for hundreds of similar cases pending in The Netherlands, the Dutch ANP news agency said.

It said the two Iranians, a man and a woman, may now be deported....

The two asylum seekers ... told the court they were too scared to return to Iran, where they feared they would be persecuted.

NCR secretariat in Paris, Nov. 4 - In a telegram yesterday to the Prime Minister of the Netherlands, Mr. Massoud Rajavi, President of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, described the Court of the Hague's decision to reject the requests of two Iranian asylum seekers as worrisome and in obvious violation of recognized humanitarian principles in the world.

Mr. Rajavi pointed out that the latest reports of well-known international human rights organizations, including those of Amnesty International and U.N. Human Rights Commission, as well as the ratification in recent months of new suppressive laws by the mullahs' Majlis clearly reveal the amazing intensification of public suppression and the violation of the most fundamental social and individual rights of the Iranian people by the mullahs' terrorist religious dictatorship.

A Criminal in Vienna

APA, Austrian news agency, Oct. 30 - Exiled Iranians residing in Austria and the People's Mojhaedin who struggle against the Tehran regime protested the visit to Austria of the Iranian parliamentary speaker. Exiled Iranians expressed their protest to Nateq Nouri's visit on Sunday afternoon. One of their spokesmen expressed surprise at the invitation to Austria of a representative of

Tehran's isolated regime. The People's Mojahedin of Iran again issued a statement on Monday expressing their opposition to the visit to Norway of the "parliamentary speaker of the mullahs' dictatorship." According to the People's Mojahedin, Nateq Nouri has always had a leading role in enforcing the policies of terror and suppression."

Greens Protest

APA, Oct. 31, Vienna - The Greens Party spokesman for external affairs said, "It is a disgrace for Austria who has broken several years of international isolation of the Iranian fundamentalists."

The Greens Party spokeswoman continued, "Most probably, Iran's SAVAK, has murdered Qassemloo, leader of the dissident Kurds and two other members of the opposition in Vienna. The Interior Ministry has left the investigation on this case incomplete."

Fomenting Trouble in Bahrain

Al-Hayat, Oct. 31, Manamah - *Al-Hayat* learned from diplomatic sources yesterday, that Javad Torkabadi, the Iranian ambassador to Bahrain had left Manamah and returned to his country. With him, he had a request from the Government of Bahrain which asks Iran to explain about the news its official Tehran radio broadcast and aroused discontent of Bahraini officials.

A top Bahraini official had expressed dissatisfaction of the Government of Bahrain on Oct. 8 at Tehran's official radio (Arabic service) broadcast of comments by a clergy recently released from jail.

As-Sharq al-Awsat, Nov. 3 - Seven prisoners in Bahrain ended their ten-day hunger strike yesterday. They demanded freedom of those arrested during the recent sabotage activities...

The Government of Bahrain has implicated the Government of Iran as being behind the unrest. Iran denies the charge but some of the participants in yesterday's gathering in Bani-Jamreh village, were carrying the posters of the Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini.

Regime Mourns Jihad Leader

Tehran radio, Oct. 29 - On his way back from Lybia last Thursday, Fat'hi Shafaqi was martyred on one of the busy streets of one of cities of Malta....

Shafaqi considered Khomeini as the father and spiritual leader of the Palestinian Revolution. In taking position, he always cited Khomeini and Khamenei...

The Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran today issued a statement strongly condemning the terrorist operation of the Zionist regime which led to the martyrdom of Fat'hi Shafaqi, Secretary General of the Islamic Jihad of Palestine....

Agence France Presse, Oct. 31, Tehran - Khamenei, leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, announced a day of public mourning on the occasion of Fat'hi Shafaqi's death. The Iranian television quoted Khamenei as asking "the world

Muslims to participate in the mourning ceremonies" for the leader of the pro-Iranian Palestinian leader....

Assassination of Yitzhak Rabin

NCR Secretariat in Paris, Nov. 4 - Mr. Massoud Rajavi, President of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, condemned the criminal assassination of Mr. Yitzhak Rabin, the Prime Minister of Israel, who played an important role in the Middle East Peace Process. Mr. Rajavi offered his condolences to the people and government of Israel and to his family and added that this crime was desirable for the religious, terrorist dictatorship ruling Iran which is the primary enemy of peace and the main source of the export of fundamentalism and terrorism.

Agence France Presse, Nov. 5, Tehran - The Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said Sunday that the Israeli Prime Minister was victim of "God's revenge..." Speaker of the Parliament, Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri had already declared this murder to be the consequence of Israel's "terrorist methods...."

FEATURE

Iranian Women Take Over Rebel Army in Exile

By Jonathan Wright

ASHRAF CAMP, Iraq, Nov. 3 (Reuter) - At a parade ground on a desolate piece of scrubland northeast of Baghdad, 2,000 Iranian men and women soldiers march past the grandstand.

Women commanders, in red headscarves and shapeless khaki fatigues, whisper commands into walkie-talkies and the men platoon leaders salute the visiting women dignitaries.

This is the National Liberation Army of Iran, the army of the opposition Mujahedin Khalq movement, which has overturned centuries of gender discrimination and given Iranian women a chance to show their military leadership qualities.

The occasion is also significant -- the second anniversary of the election of Mrs. Maryam Rajavi as the "president-elect" whom this rebel army in exile hopes to install in place of what it sees as the male chauvinist rule in Tehran.

In the two years since, the proportion of women among the army commanders has risen to 70 percent, compared with 30 percent among the rank and file, said Mrs Ozra Alavi-Taleghani, the deputy commander-in-chief.

"The election of Maryam Rajavi has struck at the ideological heart of the Khomeini regime, which is based on sexual discrimination," she told the assembly.

"The slogan our members shout everywhere is that we shall take Maryam Rajavi to Tehran as president in

Operation Overthrow," she told reporters at Ashraf Camp, the army's main base, about 70 km (40 miles) west of the Iranian border.

The women serve as helicopter pilots, tank mechanics, logistics officers and infantry armed with Kalashnikov assault rifles and rocket-propelled grenade launchers.

Mujahedin members explain this extraordinary reversal of roles, which goes much further than in the national army of any Moslem state, as both ideological and pragmatic....

"The God of the mullahs, like the mullahs themselves, is a misogynist torturer. They view women as the embodiment of sexual desire, the source of sin and the manifestation of Satan," says the Mujahedin booklet "Women, Islam and Equality".

"Everything about the Khomeini regime depends to some extent on the oppression of women. Whenever they feel threatened, they choose women as scapegoats," said Mujahedin spokesman Farid Suleimani.

Javad Ghadiri, a veteran operations officer, said he thought women showed greater commitment to the

struggle because of the Iranian government's gender policies.

"The mullah regime denies even the humanity of women. They stone them to death and make them wear the chador," he said....

"Women commanders have shown themselves to be very reliable and competent," said Shahram Kiamanesh of the Mujahedin's public relations department.

"They have shown more courage and more capacity for work, and the men have found this very encouraging. It is something they have earned and now they have done so, it has set us apart from the Khomeini system and its backward ideology," he added.

"It was under Maryam Rajavi that we evolved from an infantry army to an armoured force, so it's a great source of pride to be commanded by women," said Mahboub Sabahati, deputy to tank repair workshop commander Mahboube Ali, a woman.

"It's something we welcome, not merely accept, and there will be an explosion of women's energies when the mullahs are overthrown," he added.