

Dear Editor

The PMOI consider themselves as nationalist Moslems followers of the political line of Dr. Mohammad Mosaddeq, the Iranian Prime Minister in early fifties who always drew the ire of the Communist Tudeh Party affiliated to the Soviet Union. Defining the PMOI as "Islamic Marxists" which within itself contains many Philosophic contradictions was initiated by the Shah's dictatorship as an attempt to discredit them in a predominantly Islamic society during seventies when all PMOI publications were prohibited.

The PMOI has always challenged the materialistic philosophy of Marxism in their publications and are committed to the national bazaar (market) and private ownership in their economical programs, yet they have always opposed religious fundamentalist interpretation of the mullahs ruling Tehran that supports international terrorism.

But more baseless than allegations of Islamic Marxism is description of cult for the PMOI, exacerbated by the Iranian regime and its lobbies in the West which rightfully despises this phenomenon. Cults are described as strange groups which are closed to the outside world and the members have no permission to connect to outside of their groups, while despite the extraordinary restrictive conditions imposed on Ashraf in the last 6 years, the PMOI has been open and welcoming to any foreign visitors either reporters, politicians or fact finding missions, they even have provided residence facility for any foreign visitors. During last three months delegations of parliamentarians and human rights organizations from European Parliament, France, Norway, Italy, and Washington, D.C. think tanks, have visited Ashraf, along with three times visits by ICRC. Of course, if the Iranian regime was able to prevent even this much of Ashraf residents' connection with outside world it would have done so in order to make the cult allegation look true and to block the propagation of realities regarding the Ashraf residents.

By the same token, the PMOI has recently presented the international human right organizations the list of 78 families of Ashraf residents who were arrested and tortured in return to Iran after visiting their loved ones in Ashraf. But where there are minimum democratic conditions, the PMOI and the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI) attacked in the article as cults have organized very large gatherings. Last July, 70,000 exiled Iranians and close to 1000 western and Arab political, cultural, and social

personalities participated in a gathering in Paris in support of the PMOI and the Iranian Resistance's President-elect Mrs. Maryam Rajavi.

Certainly, the allegation of cult to an Iranian organization in which women have predominant political leadership and has been supported five times by the bipartisan US Congress majorities since nineties indicates that as the Iran Policy Committee in Washington puts it: " The accusation that the PMOI is cult-like serves the purpose of the regime in Tehran and is false"

The 70,000 people gathering in support of the PMOI last July, beside all the Iranian regime's terrorist attempts for its survival against the PMOI along with all its efforts to expel Ashraf residents from Iraq to take them away from Iran's border and their supporters inside Iran indicates how false and misleading the allegation of Iranian regime's lobbies that " inside Iran they're seen as traitors " is.

I overlook many other allegations and remarks such as the one by persons like Arash Sametipour who were broken up under tortures of the Iranian regime when they were prisoners and Nejat Society, an Iranian regime's front organization known for its involvement in suppression in Iran. The British Parliamentary Committee for Iran Freedom and other independent Western sources regard the Nejat Society as a cover organization for the Iranian Ministry of Intelligence and security.

Nevertheless, an impartial journalism would have been to share with Ashraf residents the biased allegations against them and to cover their side too, McClatchy's reporter was able to speak privately with anyone she wished to, unless there needed an interpreter. On the other hand, on the same day of McClatchy visit the most important event celebrated by the residents was the European Court of Justice third ruling in favor of the PMOI to be removed from the European terrorist list. During past two years six important Courts in Europe have judged the terrorist designation of PMOI as "Unjust" and "perverse". Life of people in Ashraf and their noble humanitarian goals must be regarded more valuable than trivial economical and political interests by those who still investing on an appeasement policy towards Mullahs in Tehran.

However, at very dangerous time for 3500 residents of Ashraf who do not even have a single weapon for self-defense in a war torn country, and at the same time dedicated their lives in a resistance for democracy, freedom and human rights in Iran, is unjust and unsavory to demonize them as Marxist Islamic cult, empty of themselves and brain washed, murderer of Iraqi

people, wanted for assassinations and bombings, cruel leaders, and ... this could only pave the way for Iranian regime's agents and terrorist Qods force in Iraq to justify their massacre.