

Ros-Lehtinen Cabal behind MKO-Washington Love Fest

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Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, author of the *Syria Accountability Act* and the *Lebanon Sovereignty Restoration Act*, is now at the epicenter of a clandestine operation in Washington to raise money and political support for the Mojahedin Khalq Organization [MKO/MEK].

A longtime member of the Cuban exile CIA cell group in Miami, Ros-Lehtinen teamed up with a University of Michigan anti-Islamic intelligence analyst Raymond Tanter. Tanter's latest project is to bring the MKO onboard Washington's war on Islam as an "equal partner in the war on terror"--an indispensable tool against the Islamic Republic. Raymond Tanter, who has met with MKO leadership many times in the past, introduced Richard Perle at the 24 Jan. 04 fundraiser for the MKO.

According to Middle East analysts, the MKO can either change itself and become a puppet of the U.S. or be crushed. The Tanter/Ros-Lehtinen project is to highlight the opportunities the MKO presents to the State Department and underscore urgency of the MKO's current position. With a deportation order in effect against the group in Iraq and Iranian security waiting with open arms, the MKO is in the proverbial "rock and a hard place." The Tanter/Ros-Lehtinen project, then, was then both a fundraiser and a cover story for these future partners to "get to know each other" under auspicious circumstances.

The well-informed Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-Fla.) told *The Hill*, 8 April 2003, "This group loves the United States. They're assisting us in the war on terrorism; they're pro-U.S....there is wide support in Congress for the MEK...it will be one of the leading groups in establishing secular government in Iran."



Ileana Ros-Lehtinen is the chief publicist for the MKO in Washington. "This group [MKO/MEK] loves the United States... they're pro-U.S....there is wide support in Congress for the MEK."

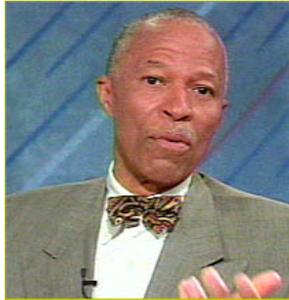
In November 2002, Ros-Lehtinen released a letter of support for the MEK that had the backing of 150 colleagues.

Insight Magazine reported 24 Jan. 03 that *The New York Times* has published a full-page advertisement for an Iraqi-based terrorist group that boasts of the support the group has received from 150 members of Congress. The pro-MEK ad appeared on page A8 of the Times on Jan. 15, 2003. Fine print at the bottom identified the sponsor as the "Colorado Iranian-American Community, 19857 E. Lindale Place, Aurora, CO 80013." The Colorado secretary of state's office, which maintains corporate registries, had no files on such an entity.

The ad included photographs of six of the 150 members of Congress who allegedly had signed a recent statement of support for the MEK. Top billing went to Florida Republican Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, who circulated the pro-MEK letter among her congressional colleagues. Also appearing were Reps. Tom Tancredo (R-Colo.), Bob Filner (D-Calif.), Edolphus Towns (D-N.Y.), Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Texas) and Lincoln Diaz-Balart (R-Fla.). Most acknowledge having signed the pro-MEK letter, although a spokeswoman for Diaz-Balart tells *Insight* that she was "not aware" that his picture had been used in the ad.

Raymond Tanter told *MSNBC* that the CIA was unable to penetrate Iranian intelligence services and was therefore lobbying hard to get the State Department to drop its “terrorist” designation of the MKO/MKE.

Tanter told *MSNBC* 26 Aug. 03, “One of the reasons I’m interested in MEK is that they provide the eyes and ears for human intelligence on the ground in Iran. The U.S. has a very poor record of having people on the ground in Iran or Iraq. Therefore, there has been far too much reliance on technology - signals intelligence and satellite imagery. What you need are people on the ground, whose interests coincide with yours. MEK insurgent activities in Tehran constitute the biggest security concern for the Iranian leadership.”



Tanter, Ros-Lehtinen and CIA brass want to capitalize on the MKO’s current crisis possibly farming out the organization to U.S. allies like Israel. According to Tanter and CIA officials, the MEK also has been behind some of the best and most startling intelligence on Iran’s quest for nuclear weapons. “Our best means are technical, frankly,” an administration official says. “The rest comes from Iranians, and the MEK is part of that,” Tanter said.

Tanter, who knows many of the Bush administration’s most influential policymakers well, says “their aims are our aims. The problem is the American agenda is that, with respect to Iran, it is not set because of a split between State and Defense. Regime change is not our policy toward Iran, but it should be.” Tanter is currently a guest lecturer at Georgetown University.



Richard Perle defended the MKO fundraiser, “the hall was full of families and children and it did not have an aura of an event with terrorist sponsorship.” *The Washington Post*

Clearly, then, we see how the proponents of “regime change” in Iran greased the wheels of the political process in a gala charity event designed to ease the conscience of wary congressional lick-spittles.

The anti-imperialist left should therefore conclude a number of things. One of them is the sad truth that an old M-L standby actually works with the U.S. imperialist bourgeoisie and the CIA and has done so for quite some time, but, moreover, the MKO is slated become a part and parcel to the imperialist mechanism .

As it pertains to the Muslim world, the responsibility to resist and derail Washington’s war moves on Iran rests with the Shia Muslim minority to rise to the political occasion. March 20, 2004 has already been set aside as a day for the defense of Muslim rights, may it also be a day of outrage against the Ros-Lehtinen bend sinister.

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