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Prologue

The Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MEK/MKO) was formed in 1944 with the aim of armed struggle against the elements of American imperialism, especially the Pahlavi imperial regime. The purpose for which the organization was established from the beginning, was to explain, teach and communicate this method of struggle not as a cross-cutting tactic but as a main strategy of the leadership of the organization to the sub-groups. For this reason, in explaining the ideology of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, from the interpretation of Nahj al-Balaghah and the Holy Qur'an to the Marxist and communist schools of thought, and any understanding that helps advance armed goals, is taught and explained. What today is referred to as eclecticism, which is implementing a selective approach toward part of each school of thought and its combination as a new ideology, is now taught, explained, and is practiced in the MEK on the same basis.

There are many examples of the Physical Elimination (aka Physical Purification and/or Inner-organizational Purification) of members and terrorist behavior in the history of this organization, all of which confirm the armed struggle to eliminate their dissidents as the main strategy of the MEK. The targets of these actions can be both members of the organization, which in their rhetoric is called Physical Purification or Physical Elimination. That also includes non-organizational targets, which in the MEK's rhetoric is referred to as Revolutionary Executions.

For example, following disputes between MEK's Leadership Council, and following the separation of two members of the council, Majid Sharif Vaqefi, and Morteza Samadiyeh Labaf, the organization decided to "physically remove them". How harrowing these actions were cannot fit in this article.



This chain of terrorist behaviors continues both before and after the 1979 Iranian Revolution. Examples of attacks on Iranian diplomatic centers in European countries or attacks on non-Iranian production centers and even now terrorist acts in Iran under the name of insurgent centers continue.

This article tries to examine and present the case of the assassination of six American advisers, who are mentioned as one of the honorable points in the record of this terrorist organization in their written sources, from different dimensions.

1- The assassination of General Harold Price - May 31, 1972

At 7:20 a.m., General Price, while sitting in his office vehicle on his way to work, was attacked by a precision-guided bomb on Dowlat (Kolahdooz) Street in Tehran, and this American general was injured and lost both of his legs in that terrorist operation. In this terrorist incident, not only was the general injured and had fatal wounds, but also a number of passers-by were killed and injured. According to the newspapers that described the incident, a 37-year-old woman named Safia Heydari lost her life while crossing the sidewalk at the same time as the incident. Found on trees around the street could be seen part of their blood-covered entrails. Along with Safia, her 15-year-old daughter, Halimeh, was also severely wounded and died a few days later in hospital due to the severity of her injuries. She is currently resting in peace with her mother in Tehran's public cemetery (known as Behesht Zahra), Block 23 - Row 73 - No. 23



Attachment: Reflection of operations in the newspapers Kayhan





In addition, two other people, the 18-year-old Mustafa Siavashi, whose calf was wounded, along with the 17-year-old girl, Fatemeh Doaei, who worked at the general's neighbor's house, were injured and taken to the hospital. In an interview with reporters, Fatemeh recounts the incident as follows:

"I went out of the house today to buy milk, no sooner I had taken a few steps away from the Qeytariyeh screw, than the ground was trembling and a corner of the street turned pitch black, and at the same time I felt a burning sensation in my leg and other parts of my body. "I looked, and saw blood was flowing all over".

It was mentioned on the he newspapers of that time that some wires, batteries and pulleys were found by the police at the place of the explosion. Ultimately, the verdict of the police investigators was reflected in the fact that the perpetrators of the accident, in order to blow up General Price's car, placed the explosives next to an electric pole and kept a distance of one hundred steps away from the explosives, holding the detonator. "The explosives were two strands of thin wire that, as soon as the advisor's car arrived in front of them, the saboteur or saboteurs activated the key to the detonator, and then fled".



Attachment: Reflection of operations in the newspapers Ettelaat



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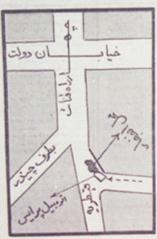
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دسرسندیکای مساهبان کارخانجان پشمبانی ایران سرخدا جعقری ۱۳۷۲ء

توسطان فراوز سروس بقائل و گاؤس بقائل بانهای نامه درگذشت شادروان سراندگ حسن بازی در کدار امران سامن که ماشد، مدخرار بوضد بازی دوستان دورز نسامت که ماشد، روان آمرخوم بقاه عد براماشکار را از شدارت یکا مسئل دارید سیاه عد براماشکار را از شدارت یکا مسئل دارید سیاهه قابل محمد مالین و بلو

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Vahid Afrakhteh, nicknamed Rahman, and an active member of the MEK, who was behind the explosion along with Mohammad Yazdanian, stated that this bomb was the first of its kind and was made and prepared by Asghar Montazeri Haghighi. Later, Lotfollah Meysamy, a detached member of the MEK, wrote in his diary on page 130:

"I heard from Bahram Aram in 1973 that the woman (a passer-by whose heart and intestines were scattered on the branches of trees around her, due to an explosion) was a cleaner and passing by at that moment."

With the arrival of Richard Nixon in Tehran on June 30, 1972, the MEK prepared several more operations to be able to adopt a political maneuver. According to a decision made by the central core of the organization, Bahram Aram and Reza Rezaei, a number of explosions were predicted to take place during the US president's visit. Bahram Aram was responsible for carrying out and designing this program.





Even after the Islamic Revolution of 1979, the MEK focuses on this incident and its details in various issues of the Mojahedin magazine, and mentions it as one of the proud points of its campaign record.

Mojahedin Magazine, First Year, No. 49, Saturday, May 26, 1980 (Appendix No. ...)





1-Assassination of Colonel Lewis Hawkins – June 2, 1973

Following the widespread arrests that took place from March 1971 to May 1973, and following the successful escape of Taghi Shahram from Sari Prison, the leadership of the organization - and mainly Reza Rezai - decided to break the disappointing and traumatic atmosphere by carrying out a military operation to make public opinion aware of the continuation of its active existence. To this end, after partial reconnaissance, an American colonel living on Wazira Street was assassinated. Until the operation and after that (i.e., until the publication of the next day's newspapers), the name of this colonel and his position were not known to any of the members and officials of the organization.

Assassination happened on Saturday, 6:30 a.m., June 2, 1973. Colonel Lewis L. Hawkins was shot dead fifty feet below his home by three bullets fired by terrorists. He was the Deputy Chief of Advisory Mission in Iran. During the operation, Hawkins' handbag, which was full of Col. Hawkins' documents and information, fell into the hands of the MEK's agents.





بازداشت هواداران کستانتین در یوتان ۲۵از شد

The day after the assassination, the press published detailed and illustrated reports of the operation. Kayhan posted this piece of news on Sunday, June 3:

"Adviser Colonel Lewis L. Hawkins... At six-thirty in the morning on Saturday, June 2, who, as usual, left his house on Simorgh Alley to go to work in a car, thirty-five feet below his house, two men came down the alley and blocked his way, after which one of them opened fire on the colonel with a revolver in his hand, from three bullets fired at Colonel Hawkins, two hit him in the brain and one in the chest, and the American adviser fell to the ground covered in blood. The two saboteurs, after an assassination, fled on a motorcycle along Ramona Alley... Colonel Hawkins' wife, arrived at the scene a while after the incident. She closed her bloodshot eyes, threw a blanket she had brought from home on her body, and returned home stunned."

بالكرين الخيار

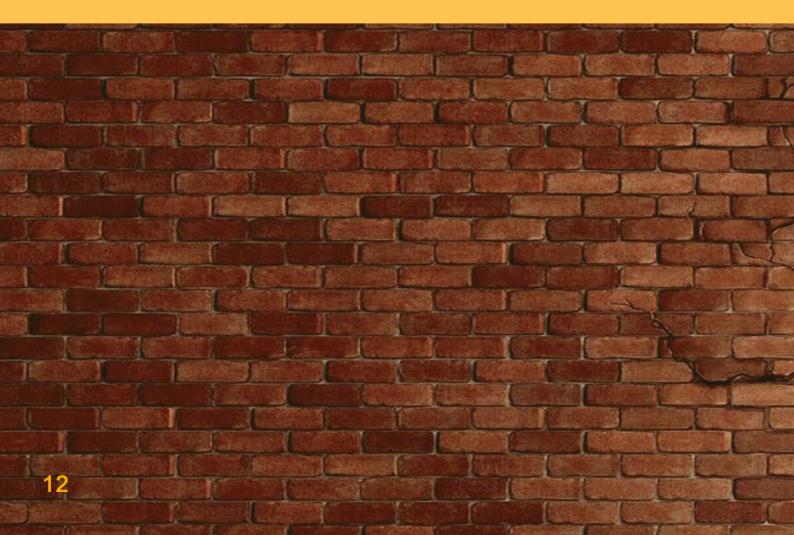
ENGLISH TEACHERS WANTED

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The political-military statement of the MEK. No. 16 about this incident reads as follows:

This execution was only a small response to the [Iranian] people's blood that was shed by bloodthirsty agents of the shah_ this malicious evil_ and at the behest of their American masters in Tehran, Ahvaz and Sanandaj in just two years." It was a response to the presence of tens of thousands of American and British advisers in Iran... as we prepare for the battle against imperialism and at above all else American imperialism. "We will not remain silent in the face of the government's increasing crimes."





Coverage of the assassination of Col. Lewis L. Hawkins in Kayhan and Ettelaat newspapers





Confessions of the assassination of Louis Hawkins in Mojahedin after the 1979 Revolution





Colonel Shaffer and Colonel Turner - May 21, 1975

Two US military advisers were assassinated in Iran after nine political prisoners were killed by SAVAK agents, following a process of accelerating military operations and compensating for the MEK's retreat from Fada'ian_e Khalq guerrillas.

At 6:40 a.m. on Wednesday, May 21, 1975, near Qeytariyeh district in Tehran, a car carrying two US Air Force military advisers, Colonel Shaffer and Colonel Turner, was attacked. In this armed operation, which was designed and carried out by the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, both advisers were arrested. Along with these two American advisers, there were handbags containing very important and valuable documents that were stolen by the perpetrators of this assassination and handed over to the organization. In the confessions of Vahid Afrakhteh, an active member of the organization and one of the perpetrators of the assassination of General Harold Price, it was revealed that these documents were handed over to the government of this country with the aim of gaining the support of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization.

The tactics used in this assassination were similar to those utilized in the assassination of Brigadier General Zandipour, and according to the American analysts, it was specific to the Mojahedin-e Khalq and one of the most effective methods. As the bumper of a pickup truck crashed into the car from behind, another car immediately blocked the road from the front. The first blow shocked the occupants, and the driver of the target car, and the other car blocked the road without having a chance to think and react. In this operation, three assassins were descended their vehicles; The Iranian driver of the American advisers was instructed to get down on the ground; and then they shot the two advisers.



The agents of the abovementiones operations were:

- -Vahid Afrakhteh, in charge of operations and targeting at the driver of the advisers
- -Seyed Mohsen Seyed Khamoushi, the driver of the van and the perpetrator of the assassination from the right side of the car
- -Mohammad Taher Rahimi, the perpetrator of the assassination from the left side of the car
 - -Mohsen Batahi, in charge of [making] traffic jams
 - -Manijeh Ashrafzadeh Kermani, Operation Marker and Stage Officer

The most important and unprecedented point in this operation was the organization's access to the handbags of the two advisers, which contained extremely valuable documents. After his arrest, Vahid Afrakhteh later admitted during interrogation that the documents had been sent abroad to be handed over to the Soviet government for support. The following is the bulletin of the SAVAK Joint Committee in this regard, which was notified to the Shah, along with a letter from Nasiri, the head of the SAVAK:

Following the previous reports regarding the confessions of Vahid Afrakhteh (commander of the political_military team of the so_called Mo_jahedin_e Khalq group, who participated in all the assassination programs of the group) the accused confessed to continuing the regular interrogations. The American colonel took their handbags and put another bag containing explosives in the car instead, so that after the of cers arrived at the scene and opened it, the bag would explode and other casualties would be in icted on the of cers



He added that after reviewing and translating the papers and writings inside the bags of the two colonels (these documents were translated by Hassan Hosnan), the members of the group found out that valuable information about the "Armish/Maag" (US army mission in Iran/Military assistance advisory group) advisory facility in Iran, how to buy Phantom fighter jets From the United States, how to pay, and their deadlines, bases where Phantom aircrafts are based, the number of aircrafts delivered to Iran at any one time, information about military bases of advisers in Iran, information about the runway specifications and their usability, Information about telecommunication lines and the location of espionage (intelligence) bases, a number of maps with passwords on them, details of a number of Iranian officials who are in contact with the Americans, reports about the visit of "Schlesinger" to Tehran and other cities. (There is a sketch of the house of a US military adviser in Tehran and a number of family photos and personal documents in the bags in question, which were thrown on the roof of a building AFP by members of the Mojahedin-e Khalq in Tehran, and the staff of the French news agency were notified by telephone to hand them over to the families of the American officers).

Vahid Afrakhteh added that because the so-called Mojahe-din-e Khalq group did not have the power to use the information obtained, members of the group's leadership decided to pass this information to the ambassadors of the USSR in France and England through the group's members abroad, and in return they demanded the Soviet to give them weapons, ammunition, radio transmitters for propaganda purposes, as well as the exchange and cooperation of information with each other, continued contact and non-propaganda against each other and other assistance, and enjoy inancial resources.



In connection with this assassination, the organization announced in its "Political-Military Announcement No. 22":

At 6:40 a.m. on Wednesday, May 21, 1975, at the same time as the criminal Shah returned from a conspiratorial trip to the United States, the revolutionary death sentences of two American aggressors in Iran, Colonel Shaffer and Lt. Turner, were carried out by a unit of the organization's fighters were executed."

Attachment: (Political-military announcement No. 22 taken from Mojahedin Magazine, no. 21 published before the revolution)





Attachment: Mojahedins reflects the assassination of Colonel Shaffer and Colonel Turner in US domestic

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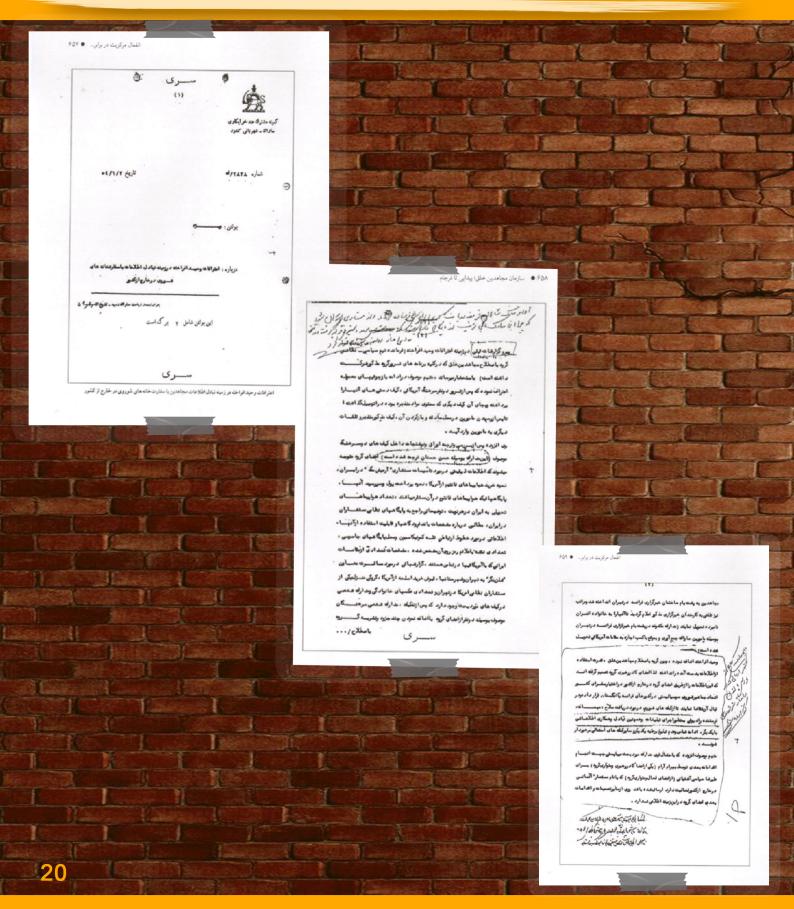
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Attachment: Vahid Afrakhteh's confession in connection with the assassination of two American colonels





Ms. Dorothy Shaffer, Colonel Shaffer's wife, says:

"My husband, Paul was to retire in three weeks at the end of his mission in Iran."

He added:

"After retiring, my husband would be going to take me and my children to Denver and live there for the rest of our life. He loved Denver very much and always said he wanted to live there and be buried there."

Colonel Turner's mother, who lives in Illinois, told the Associated Press:

"My son had decided to retire the next summer. My son, who had been in Vietnam for a long time, has won so many military medals that I cannot count them. I received a letter from my son a month ago in which he wrote that he was in Iran. He was very satisfied and content to live in this country safe and sound."

3- The assassination of three American civilian advisers In the midst of SAVAK's strikes on Marxist armed groups in the spring and summer of 1976, which in turn pushed the Fada'i guerrillas to the brink of extinction and killed or arrested active members of the MEK, the MEK leadership decided to embark on a massive and effective military action.

The assassination of three American advisers was eventually planned and carried out. These advisers were experts in the field of electronic devices who guided the installation and operation of sophisticated eavesdropping systems in the form of a secret plan in "Kabkan" located on the Iranian-Soviet border. According to the available evidence, the initial information about these three people was most likely transferred to the organization by the Soviet government.



Exactly one day after the assassination, which was widely publicized by the Western media, especially the American ones, elements of the Soviet intelligence services were arrested and exposed in several parts of the world, including Germany, Brazil, the United States, Britain and Canada. This also raised the possibility of Soviet involvement in intelligence support for the assassination of three advisers.

SAVAK survey results:

One of SAVAK's first reports on the assassination of three E-Bax advisers was as follows:

"As it was presented earlier, at 7 o'clock on August 28, 1976, six members of the so-called terrorist group of the People's Mojahedin of Iran (Islamic Marxists) were passing by the car of three American citizens living in Tehran named "Robert Krongard, William Cotterll and Donald Smith, who were cooperating with the Iranian Royal Air Force, who on their way to work, were stopped in a Volkswagen car in Vosough Square in the Tehranno district, and all three were killed with machine guns and pistols. They fled from the scene leaving behind their own car. Investigations into the killing of the Americans show that the assassins had sufficient information about their status and occupation, given that parts of the Royal Army, where American military and civilian advisers are serving, has always been of particular interest to Soviet intelligence agents, and the three abovementioned men also served in a particularly sensitive area. The reconnaissance was carried out by Soviet intelligence agents."



Condusion

In a part of her book, "A Terrorist Group in the Heart of the Republic," Natalie Gullet, referring to the terrorist capabilities of this group, mentions their danger to France and other countries. She describes their danger as a potential terrorist group with a rich history of terrorist operations:

How can it be guaranteed that a group that once took up arms against its own people and fought alongside, will not take up arms again if the French government opposes them and does not endanger the security of the French people?"!

It is also interesting to note the prologue published in the MEK's official newspaper (the Mojahed) about the seizure of the US consulate in Isfahan, especially the section related to naming the US "infidel leaders", taking charge of the "execution of American mercenary advisers" before the Iranian revolution, and being proud of these assassinations.

"Since its founding in 1965, the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran, with its clear analysis of the conditions of Iranian society and the world situation, has always (and not only at one point in time) named American imperialism the main enemy and "The infidel leader", and it has shown this, either by the execution of American "mercenary" advisers or in the "unjust" courts of the servant of imperialism (meaning Shah's regime), or in the shooting fields and adopting a practical stance before and after the 1979-February uprising."

The dual nature of the MEK terrorist group towards their allies, as well as the anti-imperialist nature that they have set for themselves from the beginning, proves that this group can always be a serious threat to world security.

