



https://lobelog.com/bolton-vs-zarif-on-mek/?fbclid=IwAR3uik_quMPCfN9P6cEkQy1R4hhpzEeHgdTo5cWG7EEWnzuFwCQUx8QOAhk

Bolton Vs. Zarif On MEK.

...:Hillary Clinton did not take money from the MEK while it was listed as a terrorist entity. And taking the group off the U.S. terrorist list, though controversial at the time due to the MEK's own well-funded pressure campaign, was not wrong, as it enabled the UNHCR to relocate the members to the safety of a third country. Her plan to correct the mistakes of the Bush administration was a vital step toward making the Middle East and the rest of the world, including the United States, a safer place. Meanwhile, John Bolton continued to take money to promote the MEK's warmongering agenda against American interests. (Bolton Zarif MEK Iran)

by Massoud Khodabandeh, Lobe Log, May 03 2019

When Iran's Foreign Minister Javad Zarif took to the airwaves during his visit to the UN in New York, particularly for an interview with [Fox News](#), a frisson of surprised anticipation swept the American political polity. How was it possible that Iran, the pariah nation, not only had the audacity to enter the lion's den, but from there to lecture the lion on its dirty behavior!

Of course, this is a spat that Iran cannot easily win. What mattered most was that Zarif did not go for the throat of the lion but instead those who are pulling its chain. In short, he accused a "[B team](#)" of actively working to wage war on his country. And he singled out National Security Advisor John Bolton for supporting the Mojahedin-e Khalq (MEK), a group that believes in fomenting violent regime change in Iran.

A goaded Bolton went on [Fox News to reply](#). But instead of answering Zarif's accusations, Bolton merely blamed former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton for taking the MEK off the U.S. terrorism list in 2012. This was fantastic hubris. Bolton himself supported the MEK all the time it was on the list, attending rallies and taking speakers' fees worth tens of thousands of dollars.

Bolton's accusations against Clinton do not hold water. He, along with then Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, started the war with Iraq partly on the pretext that [Saddam Hussein supported terrorist groups](#), including the MEK, as an instrument of his foreign policy. Bolton was also on board with Rumsfeld when the United States [unilaterally granted Protected Persons status](#) to the MEK even while it was recognized a terrorist entity—in direct violation of international law.

With the election of President Obama in 2009, newly appointed Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was left to clear up [the mess Bolton and the cabal of neoconservatives created in Iraq](#). One of those problems was continued U.S. [support for the MEK](#) (which the United States designated a terrorist entity in 1997). With the help of a



Hillary Clinton and John Bolton

continues on page 3

https://www.presstv.com/Detail/2019/04/30/594775/Iran-United-States-war-Bolton-Zarif-tweet-MKO-Trump-sanctions-BTeam

World catching on Bolton's warmongering

... Bolton had been promoting the notorious and deadly anti-Iran terrorist Mujahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO, MEK, Rajavi cult) as "viable opposition" and an alternative to the establishment in the Islamic Republic. Zarif also attached another image captured from a profile published by *The New Yorker* on Monday that detailed Bolton's idiosyncrasies, including by citing a former senior advisor to the US administration's remarks that "John wants to bomb everyone."

Press TV, May 01 2019

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif highlights again how the US National Security Advisor John Bolton has been feverishly trying to push Washington towards war with Iran.

Tweeting on Tuesday, Zarif wrote, "Today, the world's catching on to Amb. John Bolton's chronic warmongering."

The top diplomat cited many evidenced revelations across the US media and elsewhere to exemplify his remarks.

The tweet incorporated a snapshot of a [2018 article in *The New York Times*](#) that showed how Bolton had been promoting the notorious and deadly anti-Iran terrorist Mujahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) as "viable opposition" and an alternative to the establishment in the Islamic Republic.

Zarif also attached another image captured from a profile published by [The New Yorker](#) on Monday that detailed Bolton's idiosyncrasies, including by citing a former senior advisor to the US administration's remarks that "John wants to bomb everyone."

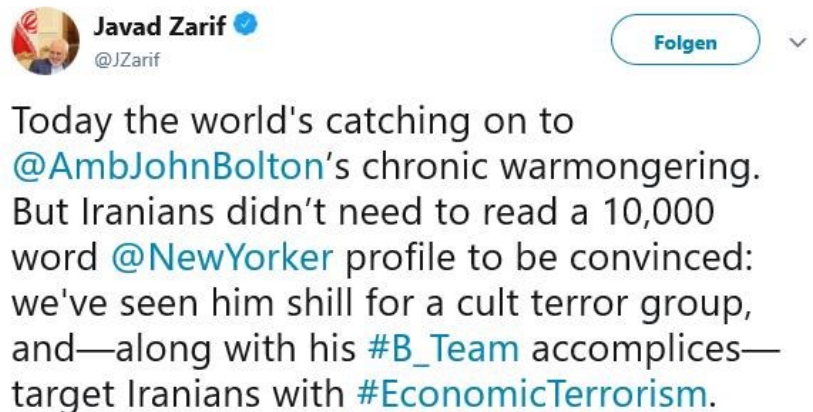
"But Iranians didn't need to read a 10,000-word *New Yorker* profile to be convinced," Zarif chided.

"We've seen him (Bolton) shill for a cult terror group," he tweeted. The Iranian foreign minister was referring to evidence showing how Bolton had received a \$40,000 "speaking fee" to address the MKO's annual gathering in Paris.

"...and—along with his B-Team accomplices—target Iranians with Economic Terrorism," he added.

Zarif was echoing remarks he had made to Fox News on Sunday, in which he identified the B-Team as Bolton, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, and Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

The US has been pursuing a policy of "maximum pressure"



against Iran under US President Donald Trump, which has Bolton as its top security aide. The policy has seen Washington reinstating draconian economic sanctions targeting the Islamic Republic.

Washington has been enlisting the assistance of its regional allies in implementing the policy. Recently, it said that it would target every country potentially buying Iran's oil as of May 2 with "secondary sanctions."

Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates immediately reported that they would be making up for potential shortages of the Iranian crude.

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new tough negotiator in the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq, Clinton set about finding [a peaceful resolution to the standoff](#) between the sovereign Iraqi government and the unwanted and parasitic MEK.

Clinton searched for [third countries](#) to absorb the MEK. But the MEK, enjoying the backing of anti-Iran regime change pundits in Saudi Arabia, Israel, and the United States (including Bolton), dug in its heels and refused to be disbanded. In the end, only the dependent NATO ally [Albania agreed to take the group's members](#).

Clinton authorized \$10 million for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to transfer the MEK to Albania. She paid another \$10 million for the establishment of a de-radicalization institute in Tirana to first deal with the MEK as preparation for handling [returning Islamic State families](#). Another \$10 million languishes in the account of the U.S. embassy in Tirana, money to rehabilitate the MEK members into normal society that Bolton and his cabal blocked.

All this was written into an [agreement](#) between the governments of [Iraq, the United States, and Albania along with the UNHCR and the MEK](#). At that time this author was working as a consultant to the Iraqi government on security issues, including the safe containment and deportation of the MEK. [I was relieved](#) when the Obama administration found a safe and above all a peaceful solution to the threat posed by the MEK to the security of Iraq. I was pleased to find in this agreement specific steps toward humanizing individual MEK members and restoring them to normal life and their families.

As someone familiar with the MEK, John Bolton must then and is certainly now fully cognizant of the beneficial elements of this agreement. Yet, almost as soon as President Trump was elected, the [de-radicalization project](#) was put on hold, allowing the MEK over the next year to regroup and reactivate its anti-Iran activities. With the support of Bolton, former Senator John McCain, Rudi Giuliani, and a whole cast of minor cheerleading warmongers, the MEK has constructed a [purpose-built closed training camp](#) in Albania in which the members are kept as [modern slaves](#) to serve the MEK's propaganda and terrorist agenda.

For all her faults, Hillary Clinton did not take money from the MEK while it was [listed as a terrorist entity](#). And taking



the group off the U.S. terrorist list, though controversial at the time due to the MEK's own well-funded pressure campaign, was not wrong, as it enabled the UNHCR to relocate the members to the safety of a third country. Her plan to correct the mistakes of the Bush administration was a vital step toward making the Middle East and the rest of the world, including the United States, a safer place. Meanwhile, [John Bolton continued to take money](#) to promote the MEK's warmongering agenda [against American interests](#).

Before 2016, Iran did not have a diplomatic presence in Albania. Its embassy there dealt primarily with economic and cultural relations. But in 2018, the Albanian government of Edi Rama expelled [two newly arrived Iranian diplomats](#) at the behest of the Trump administration. John Bolton boasted about the achievement. Due to overt US support for the MEK, Iran drew its [front line](#) not in the Middle East but on the edge of the EU.

Now, with the Iranian foreign minister boldly speaking to the media inside the United States, Bolton has been reduced to deflecting rather than rebutting his accusations. Bolton's master plan for a war against Iran has not only backfired but prompted Tehran to redraw its front line once again, this time in Washington, DC itself.

Massoud Khodabandeh is the director of Middle East Strategy Consultants and has worked long-term with the authorities in Iraq to bring about a peaceful solution to the impasse at Camp Liberty and help rescue other victims of the Mojahedin-e Khalq cult. Among other publications, he co-authored the book "The Life of Camp Ashraf: Victims of Many Masters" with his wife Anne Singleton. They also published an academic paper on the MEK's use of the Internet. □

<https://sputniknews.com/news/201905091074845214-iran-usa/>

France holds MEK Mujahedin-e Khalq terrorists

... Let's be frank here, France holds one of the worst terrorist groups in modern times. They are called MKO or MEK (Mujahedin-e Khalq Organization). They are based in Paris; they are an anti-Iran terrorist group who have been known to kill American citizens in the 1960s and 1970s in Iran. France has hosted them and to me, it is appalling that Iran is not raising this question during their negotiations. France holds MEK Mujahedin-e Khalq terrorists

Alexander Azadgan, Sputnik International, May 11 2019

On Wednesday, Iran announced its decision to partially discontinue its 2015 nuclear commitments a year after the US unilaterally left the accord. Tehran also threatened to enrich its uranium stockpile closer to weapons-grade levels in 60 days if world powers fail to negotiate new terms for the JCPOA.

Sputnik has discussed the latest developments of the JCPOA with Alexander Azadgan, professor of international political economy, a senior geopolitical analyst and Editor-at-Large with UWI (United World International).

Sputnik: Iranian state TV announced on Wednesday that the Islamic Republic would be suspending several commitments within the nuclear deal, adding that Iran is not exiting the agreement. What does this mean for the deal?

Alexander Azadgan: The deal for all means and purposes was really finished and over and done with when Mr. Trump reneged and got the United States out of it. What was left was a hodgepodge of European nations, [faithful] states to Washington. And of course, you have China and Russia on the other hand. Let's go back and just briefly look at the sacrifices that Iran made in this deal, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. In July of 2015, Iran had almost 20,000 centrifuges. Under this JCPOA it was limited to 5,060. And this 5,060 are old and outdated centrifuges. Iran's uranium stockpile was reduced by 98 percent, 300 kilograms only, from 10 tonnes or 10,000 kilograms. And according to the JCPOA, this figure cannot be exceeded; the 300 kilograms cannot be exceeded until 2031. It must also keep the stockpile's level of enrichment at only 3.67 percent, low enrichment uranium which has a 3 to 4 percent concentration of Uranium-235. And that cannot be used to fuel the nuclear power plants; the weapons-grade uranium is 90 percent enriched. So basically they are telling the Iranians that you cannot even power your

nuclear
power
plant



in Bushehr, which was built by the Russians for Iran.

During this entire time, the International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano has time after time verified and confirmed to the global community, the international community that Iran abided by all its commitments, in 13 consecutive reports, as a matter of fact. And the IAEA is the only legitimate body for nuclear regulations and inspections, not the US, not Germany, not France, and certainly not the UK.

Sputnik: So, let me get back to the European countries for a while. In your opinion, what agreements would satisfy Iran and prevent a further escalation of the situation?

Alexander Azadgan: After Rouhani got into power, he went to Italy and he went to France. He signed tens of billions dollars of lucrative contracts with the French; they have reneged from all of them. The (deal with) Renault, a strong car company, they reneged out of that. Total, the huge French oil company, reneged out of developing the Iranians' South Pars natural gas field. They have reneged from everything. So JCPOA has been nothing but just a name, there is no substance to it. And the Europeans are just buying time. They couldn't even implement their so-called Special [Purpose] Vehicle to bypass Washington's draconian financial sanctions. They haven't done a thing, and this was one of the easiest forecasts that my colleagues and I did. The Europeans always, their ships always, cast to the same direction as Washington. Nothing is going to disrupt the transatlantic alliance unless Germany shows more interest in

[taking steps] closer to Russia. And we are already seeing that development happen.

Sputnik: You have already mentioned that about France. France has said that there is nothing worse than Iran's exit from the deal and that the EU wants to keep the deal alive. What steps can we expect from Europe?

Alexander Azadgan: Nothing. We can expect nothing from Europe. And if anything, Europe is going to escalate their rhetoric as **France has done during the past couple of days with Iran. Let's be frank here, France holds one of the worst terrorist groups in modern times. They are called MKO or MEK (Mujahedin-e Khalq Organization). They are based in Paris; they are an anti-Iran terrorist group who have been known to kill American citizens in the 1960s and 1970s in Iran. France has hosted them and to me, it is appalling that Iran is not raising this question during their negotiations.**

One of the things that are very suspicious to the Iranian people at least in the wording of the JCPOA – some phrases – they call it the 'spirit' of the JCPOA. I think many of us believe that when they refer to the 'spirit' of the JCPOA, they are referring to Iran basically ending its revolution as it is: Iran no longer defending the Palestinian people; Iran no longer playing a real leadership role as it has been playing in defeating the terrorist in Iraq and in Syria. For all means and purposes, just sit back and join the trend of globalisation and become another client state for Washington in the region.

Washington is engaging in economic terrorism and it has taken a toll on the Iranians. And you know, that is how they are trying to foment regime change in Iran. There may not be a war, we are not forecasting a war, but they are going to economically crumble Iran and they are going to expect that. When that happens, the Iranian people will rise and have a regime change, very much similar to what is happening in Venezuela right now.

This is why the Venezuelan case is absolutely crucial. They just pick somebody to become the next president; Washington picks somebody to be the next president. They've actually declared him the president. If this precedent is set, the entire world, the entire non-aligned movement world is going to be in danger, because they are going to do the same thing in Iran. They are going to pick some lackey over there, some liberal lackey, they are going to announce: "He is the president". And they are going to try to foment in Iran, as they did in 2009.

Sputnik: Is it possible to influence the USA to restart the negotiations?

Alexander Azadgan: It depends on who gets into power. The Democrats have openly said if they are back in power in 2020, they would want to rejoin the JCPOA. But I don't think that the Iranian people and the Iranian militia would ever trust Washington again. How could you have international treaties, how could you be part of a multilateral treaty and then another administration comes in and within a few days does away with 20 years of negotiations between Iran and P5+1, right? And Mr. Obama was on record that "if Iran reneges, we know exactly where the crucial sites are so we can bomb them." Mr. Kerry and Mr. Obama are on record, we can watch these videos on YouTube.

So there was never good faith. And restart what? How can Iran ever trust anybody? Iran is looking around, Iran saw how Trump was wooing the Korean leader. And we saw what happened with that. I mean it is absolutely ridiculous. There is no credibility left in Washington. International law, a big chunk of international law, and international relations per se rely on credibility, on trustability. Washington doesn't have any of that left. And it is not just the JCPOA they are coming out of. They came out of the Paris Climate Accord and all sorts of other treaties that this man is trying to bring us out of.

Sputnik: What reaction can we expect from the US if the deal between the European countries and Iran is successful?

Alexander Azadgan: The second part of this question, "if the deal between the European countries and Iran is successful", it is not, it hasn't been. The UK's political attitude, populism, is bringing it closer to Washington, which is 3,000 miles away instead of Europe, which is 30 miles away. In France, you have someone – you see what is going on in France with the trend of Mr. Emmanuel Macron. He has that Napoleonic tendency and arrogance. We have known for a long time about Israel's tremendous influence within French politics. We look at Germany as a neutral power in this case, but they are going to stick with the European Union foreign policy apparatus. Mrs. Mogherini has been constructive in her rhetoric but nothing has come as a result of that rhetoric: nothing but cheap words, no abiding by contracts. □

<https://iran-interlink.org/wordpress/mek-feed-trump-admins-fantasy/>

MEK feed Trump Admin's fantasy

... MEK feed Trump Admin's fantasy. John Bolton, Rudolph W. Giuliani, are ardent supporters of the MEK and have given speeches at their rallies. "There is a viable opposition to the rule of the ayatollahs, and that opposition is centered in this room today," Bolton said at a 2017 MEK event in Paris. "The behavior and objectives of the regime are not going to change, and therefore the only solution is to change the regime itself."

By Mehdi Khalaji, The Washington Post, May 24 2019

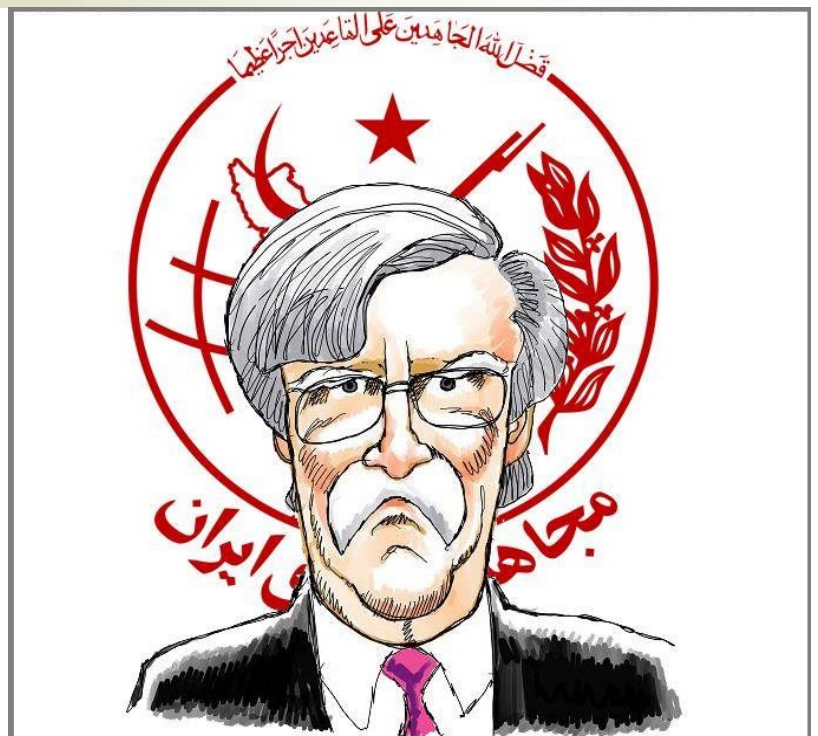
Mehdi Khalaji is the Libitzky Family Fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

The escalating tensions and the prospect of war between the United States and Iran [have been met with substantial skepticism from Congress](#) and U.S. allies, [even by President Trump himself](#). While the United States is certainly justified in wanting to [protect its personnel, allies and interests](#) from alleged Iranian threats, it would be more productive and strategic in the long term — and far more popular at home and abroad — to find ways to empower civil society within Iran to generate real political change.

High-level members of the Trump administration and others opposed to Iran's regime have long seen some outside Iranian opposition groups as saviors for the oppressed Iranian people. Unfortunately, these groups offer little hope for the future: they lack intellectual rigor, suffer from deep political divisions and are missing organizational competence on the ground.

Groups such as the [Mujahideen-e Khalq \(MEK\)](#) and the Iranian monarchy-in-exile feed the wildest dreams of the Trump administration's ["maximum pressure" campaign](#). They are seen as key players in a rosy scenario that envisions the wholesale abdication of the ruling regime, an end to Tehran's quest for regional hegemony and Iran's transformation into a liberal secular democracy, friendly toward the United States and its allies in the region.

U.S. officials are eager to endorse their vision. John Bolton, the national security adviser, and the president's personal attorney, Rudolph W. Giuliani, are ardent supporters of the MEK and have given speeches at their rallies. "There is a viable opposition to the rule of the ayatollahs, and that opposition is centered in this room today," [Bolton said at a 2017 MEK event in Paris](#). "The behavior and objectives of the regime are not going to change, and therefore the only



solution is to change the regime itself."

There is a resurgence in nostalgia for the ["ancien régime" of Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi](#) among not only the Persian diaspora around the world but also within Iran. In one astonishing example, Persian social media has carried messages of *"bargard Shah"* (Shah! Come back!), the rhythm of which is similar to the Islamic Revolution's most famous slogan, *"marg bar Shah"* (death to Shah).

In this environment, Reza Pahlavi, the 58-year-old son of the shah, has emerged as one of the most conspicuous characters in the Iranian opposition-in-exile. Just 18 years old when the Islamic Revolution deposed his family's monarchy and he fled the country, Pahlavi, who calls himself the "crown prince of Iran," is a natural foil to the current regime, a symbol for what Iranians lost in the 1979

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revolution and what they aspire to in an ideal government.

But despite his efforts to be recognized [as “a national figure.”](#) the heir to the throne has yet to demonstrate any of the skills needed to marshal an opposition, much less lead a country. He has not articulated a convincing ideology that would guide a nation after the fall of the Islamic republic. He has failed so far to bring other opposition groups under his umbrella, including secular political elites and intellectuals. His past is devoid of any successful organizational initiatives, and he has not demonstrated an ability to mobilize people on the ground.

But the MEK and Pahlavi serve a purpose in [current U.S. policy](#): They lend the administration’s campaign a sense of Iranian support. The point is to try to convince Iranians that maximum pressure is meant only to affect the regime, and not its people.

Iran’s regime has its fair share of vulnerabilities: a crisis of legitimacy, a lack of base supporters and mounting economic hardship. But it will survive, if only because the opposition both in Iranian civil society and in exile are weaker.

Neither the United States, nor any other foreign government, can or should directly help the opposition become an effective government-in-waiting. Such support would feed into the regime’s propaganda that these groups are “foreign agents” and could very well be the kiss of death for any sort of popular opposition to the Islamic republic.

Instead, the international community must take steps to empower civil society within Iran and protect it from being systematically persecuted and oppressed.

The Islamic republic’s record with civil society and human rights is abysmal. The U.S. and European governments should shed light on the treatment of marginalized groups inside Iran and the endemic corruption within powerful “foundations” and the Revolutionary Guard Corps, which has siphoned what is left of Iran’s wealth into the hands of a chosen few. This is one Iran initiative on which all Americans and their European allies would agree.

A strong and well-organized civil society inside Iran could effectively pave the way toward slow and incremental reform from theocratic despotism to liberal democracy and finally shepherd Iran into the community of nations.

Strategy Consultants told FP. “You look at it and say, ‘Oh, Mojahedin are funding [Vox].’ No, they are not. The ones that are funding that party are funding Mojahedin as well.”

Khodabandeh said he himself was involved in moving money for the MEK and its funders during the reign of Saddam Hussein. “I went to Riyadh and recovered three trucks of gold bars from agents of [the] Saudi intelligence agency [at that time] led by Prince Turki bin Faisal. We transferred them to Baghdad and then to Jordan. We sold the bars in Jordan,” he claimed.

Khodabandeh’s account raises the question of where the MEK’s money is coming from today. Heyrani, the recent MEK defector, also handled parts of the organization’s finances in Iraq and was blunt when asked about the current financial backing of the MEK: “Saudi Arabia. Without a doubt,” he told FP.

The flow of the money laundered by the MEK finds its way in the pockets of the far right politicians of the United States, too. President Trump’s national security adviser John Bolton is the most prominent figure to receive MEK’s hefty sums. “Bolton is estimated to have received upwards of \$180,000 to speak at multiple events for MeK,” the Guardian reported in July 2018. “His recent financial disclosure shows that he was paid \$40,000 for one speech at an MeK event last year.”

[Zarif also brought up Bolton’s past associations with the MEK](#) in his interview with Bolton’s favorite news media, Fox News. Zarif said Bolton had told the group at a rally “that he would celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Islamic revolution, in Tehran with that terrorist organization.”

Tom Rogan of Washington Examiner correctly suggests, “For Bolton, the priority is not a democratic Iran, but a pro-American Iran. Bolton has been flexible in pursuit of this end.” He confirms that Bolton –as one of the Bs of the B team—has been the most frequent paid speaker of the MEK.

[“While Bolton refused to comment when asked if he was paid for his speeches,](#) the Wall Street Journal’s Farnaz Fassihi and Seymour Hersh have accused Bolton of receiving payments,” Tom Ragan states. “Another source, speaking to the Washington Examiner, supported these claims.”

Moreover, MEK’s connections with Israel have been denounced several times in the assassination of the Iranian nuclear scientists. MEK connections with Bolton, Bin Salman’s agents, Benjamin Netanyahu’s Intelligence Mossad simply indicates its substance as a tool in the hands of the enemies of Iranian nation. By Mazda Parsi

<https://sputniknews.com/news/201905091074845214-iran-usa/>

The MEK A Tool For B-Team

... Mujahedin Khalq Organization (the MKO/ MEK/PMOI/ Cult of Rajavi) should be considered as part of the B-team. Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif accused a 'B-Team' of pushing the US towards "disaster" by clashing with Iran. "President Trump believes putting pressure, bullying, will bring us to the negotiating table so he can make this ideal deal he has in mind. I don't know what that deal is," Zarif told the Asia Society in New York. The MEK A Tool For B-Team

by Nejat Society, May 05 2019

Seeking war and paralyzing sanctions against the Iranian people, the Mujahedin Khalq Organization (the MKO/ MEK/PMOI/ Cult of Rajavi) should be considered as part of the B-team.

Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif accused a 'B-Team' of pushing the US towards "disaster" by clashing with Iran. "President Trump believes putting pressure, bullying, will bring us to the negotiating table so he can make this ideal deal he has in mind. I don't know what that deal is," Zarif told the Asia Society in New York.

The so-called 'B-Team' Zarif named consisted of US National Security Advisor John Bolton, United Arab Emirates Crown Prince Mohamed bin Zayed, Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, and Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

"The B-Team is pushing US policy toward a disaster," Zarif said, decrying what he called Trump's "obsession" with "bullying" Iran. Zarif added that the B-team has a "plot" to push for the disaster.

How is the MEK involved with the B-team?

[The MEK is the link between its financial sources and the right wing western politicians.](#) The most recent revelations on the MEK's money laundering activities was made by Foreign Policy last week. "The upstart far-right party is unapologetically Islamophobic, but without donations from Iranian exiles, it may have never gotten off the ground," reported Sohail Jannessari and Darren Loucaides of FP.

"Documents leaked to the Spanish newspaper El País show that almost 1 million euros donated to Vox between its founding in December 2013 and the European Parliament elections in May 2014 came via supporters of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), an exiled Iranian group,"

According to FP. "The NCRI was set up in the 1980s by Mojahedin-e-Khalq (MEK) and a number of other Iranian dissidents and opposition groups. The MEK's allies later abandoned the NCRI, making the organization functionally an alias for the MEK."

The FP correspondents who view the Vox as a racist, homophobic, Islamophobic and sexist party, interviewed some

sources to investigate the motives of the MEK and its financial resources that make it capable of funding a right wing European group.

[Alejo Vidal-Quadras, a now-retired Spanish politician,](#) who previously served as one of the 14 vice presidents in the EU Parliament, has been a longtime paid supporter of the MEK and one of those lobbyists who helped the group get removed from the EU's list of foreign terrorist organizations in 2009. "Spain's Vidal-Quadras went on to help found Vox in late 2013. And supporters of the NCRI provided the funding needed to launch the right-wing party and contest the 2014 European elections," according to El País.

"The MEK may have just been returning the favor to a long ally, Vidal-Quadras, who has been supportive of the MEK for years," FP authors suggest. "But as one former member of the MEK executive committee told Foreign Policy, the financial resources the group gained under Saddam Hussein have likely run out—which suggests that it may have another source of funding today."

"Mojahedin [MEK] are the tool, not the funders. They aren't that big. They facilitate," said Massoud Khodabandeh, former member of the group and the Director of Middle East [continues on page 7](#)

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