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IRN29342.E 15 May 1998

Antal bilag Aktnr.

Subject: ►Iran◄: Information on ►Komala◄ (the Kurdish branch of the Communist Party of ►Iran◄) and its activities inside and outside ►Iran◄ (update to IRN20072.E of 14 March 1995)

Regional Office: 2

From: Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board, Ottawa

Keywords: political movements; communism; Kurds; radio; security forces; rural areas; meetings; Iranians; Turkey; ►Iran◄

Komala's Internet Website < <http://www.cpiran.org:80/En/►Komala◄/> >, which was last modified in December 1997, provides the following information about Komala's activities:

1. ►Komala◄ maintains a "Clandestine Organisation Centre," known as Takish, in order to facilitate communication between representatives of the party outside ►Iran◄ and residents of Iranian Kurdistan. Takish is referred to as a "body," whose "members in the cities and villages of Iran's Kurdistan are contacted either by written correspondence or verbally, by calling them out from ►Iran◄ and discussing matters with them in person (eg in Iraqi Kurdistan, or Europe)."
2. ►Komala◄ broadcasts on short wave for three and a half hours a day, and publishes a political magazine called *Peshraw* and a literary magazine called *Peshang*.
3. ►Komala◄ maintains a military force called "Komala's Peshmerga Force."
4. ►Komala◄ has two camps in Sulaymaniyah province, in Iraqi Kurdistan. These camps "contain some of the departments central to Komala's activities, such as the Executive Committee, the Clandestine Organisation Centre, Radio Broadcasting, Printing, the Health Centre, and the Military Training Centre."
5. ►Komala◄ holds a conference every two years, the last one having taken place in July 1995. At that conference a 15-member Executive Committee was elected, which holds meetings every three months. The First Secretary is Ebrahim Alizadeh.

In a 29 August 1996 interview with the German newspaper *Die Tageszeitung*, Ebrahim Alizadeh (Ibrahim Alisadeh) is identified as the "secretary general of the Iranian-Kurdish ►Komala◄ party."

On 15 December 1997 the Turkish-language television station in Britain, MED-TV, reported that "a preparatory meeting for the Kurdistan national congress was held in Brussels on 13-14 December." Among the participating parties was ►Komala◄. In the final communiqué the participants in the meeting condemned "the Turkish state's attack on Kurdistan."

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum.

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IRN20072.E 14 March 1995

Subject: ►Iran◄: Update to Response to Information Request IRN4283 of 8 March 1990 on the situation of Kurds

Regional Office: 2

From: The Documentation, Information and Research Branch, Immigration and Refugee Board, Ottawa

Keywords: Kurds / Moslems / political parties / human rights violations / death / detention / political opposition / political asylum / political activities / ethnic discrimination / Turkey / Iraq / USA / ►Iran◄

The Office of Asylum Affairs of the Department of State reports in ►Iran◄: Profile of Asylum Claims and Country Conditions that "the Islamic regime deals harshly with rebellious Iranian Kurdish leaders and their militant supporters" (December 1994, 12). According to Amnesty International, members and sympathizers of Kurdish organizations such as the Kurdistan Democratic Party of ►Iran◄ (KDPI) and ►Komala◄ are among the people at risk of serious human rights violations in the Islamic Republic of ►Iran◄ (AI Nov. 1993). The Amnesty International Report 1994 states that two alleged members of ►Komala◄ were reportedly sentenced to death in March 1993 (1994, 165). Another source indicates that in addition to these two ►Komala◄ members, "five more members of the ►Komala◄ party were capture and are being held in incommunicado detention" (LCHR 1993, 175).

Human Rights Watch World Report 1995 points out that, according to Kurdish sources, members of Kurdish opposition groups were assassinated in Turkey and in Baghdad in attacks attributed to the Iranian government (1995, 272).

The Office of Asylum Affairs also indicates that

while Iranian Kurdish applicants for political asylum in the US assert that they fear Iran's Islamic regime because they are Kurds, they often do not fill the above profile of Kurdish political activists, nor do they hold leadership positions in the KDPI which would draw the attention of the Islamic authorities. We are aware of no pattern of action by the regime against Iranians simply because they are Kurds (December 1994, 12).

For additional information on the situation of Kurds in ►Iran◄, please consult the attached documents and the Question and Answer Paper series, ►Iran◄: Political Opposition (August 1993) and ►Iran◄: Chronology of Events June 1989-July 1994 (January 1995) both available at your Regional Documentation Centres.

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the DIRB within time constraints. This response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum.

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Attachments

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REVOLUTIONARY AND DISSIDENT MOVEMENTS

An International Guide

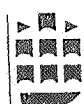
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had been elected as first President of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Jan. 25, 1980, but he was later in disagreement with the Ayatollah over the question of the President's powers. After he had refused to sign bills passed by Parliament and had also been criticized for his conduct of the war against Iraq, he was on June 10, 1981, ordered by Ayatollah Khomeini to be dismissed from the post of C-in-C. of the armed forces (to which he had been appointed on Feb. 19, 1980).

On June 12, 1981, he attacked the rule of the Islamic Republican party as having "worsened the condition of the country day by day", and Parliament thereupon, on June 21, declared him incompetent (by 177 votes to one with one abstention) and on the following day Ayatollah Khomeini formally dismissed him as President, whereupon he disappeared from public life until his arrival in Paris. Bani-Sadr was later named by the NCR as its preferred future President of a "provisional government". On Nov. 6, 1981, it was announced that as a result of negotiations with Dr Saeed Badal, a member of the central committee of the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran (KDPI), this party had formally joined the NCR.

Bani-Sadr left the NCR in March 1984, reportedly as a result of differences with Rajavi over relations with Iraq, with Rajavi favouring close ties with Baghdad regime (see entry under People's Holy Warriors). Some opposition groups were also thought to be suspicious of Bani-Sadr's previous association with the regime.

The KDPI was expelled from the NCR in April 1985, reportedly as a consequence of its willingness to negotiate with the government.

National Resistance Movement (NRM)

Leadership. Dr Shapour Bakhtiar

Dr Bakhtiar had been a supporter of Dr Mossadeq, the (left-wing) Prime Minister of Iran who was overthrown in 1953, and as a leading member of the National Front he was an outspoken critic of the Shah. As the latter's last Prime Minister in January-February 1979, Dr Bakhtiar had a programme of liberalization, including the dissolution of the Shah's secret police and the granting of a greater role to the Moslem religious leaders in drafting legislation. His government was, however, condemned by Ayatollah Khomeini as "a betrayal of our cause" and was eventually brought down by the Ayatollah's followers on Feb. 11, 1979. Dr Bakhtiar subsequently left Iran and settled in France, where he set up his opposition movement.

On May 13, 1979, Ayatollah Khomeini, then head of Iran's revolutionary courts, declared that Dr Bakhtiar was among those former Prime Ministers on whom sentences of death had been passed under "religious laws". On June 10 and July 12, 1980, the Iranian government announced that a conspiracy by military men to restore Dr Bakhtiar to power had been uncovered and that some 300 persons had been arrested in this connexion. By Sept. 3, 1980, a total of 96 of them, including two

generals, had been executed. In Paris Dr Bakhtiar escaped an assassination attempt on July 18, 1980, when three persons were killed and one injured. Ali Tabatabai, a former press attaché at the Iranian embassy in Washington, who was described as a supporter of Dr Bakhtiar and who had been head of a Freedom Foundation (aimed at restoring "a democratic regime" in Iran), was killed in Washington on July 22.

Whilst Dr Bakhtiar had announced the formation of his National Resistance Movement on Aug. 8, 1980, he denied on Sept. 26 that he had formed a government-in-exile in Paris; on Sept. 29 he also denied that he had armed supporters waiting to invade Iran.

In response to an appeal issued on the Movement's radio, thousands of motorists staged a "traffic-jam demonstration" through middle-class districts of Tehran in August 1983, on the anniversary of the proclamation of the monarchist Constitution of 1907. The demonstration passed without incident, but a second one staged in May 1985 resulted in some fighting between participants and Revolutionary Guards.

In September 1984, the Movement claimed responsibility for a bomb attack on a Revolutionary Guards' office in Tehran—this being the first violent incident claimed by the group.

NRM member Abd al-Rahman Broumand was murdered in Paris on April 18, 1991.

Separatist Movements

Komaleh

Leadership. Ibrahim Alizadeh (I.)

Komaleh, the Kurdish section of the Communist Party of Iran, was founded in 1969. It has waged guerrilla warfare against government forces since 1979 (in support of its demand for Kurdish autonomy). It co-operated temporarily with the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran but was soon in open conflict with it and did not, like that party, join the National Council of Resistance for Liberty and Independence (NCR) led by ex-President Bani-Sadr, because the NCR did not aim at social revolution. On Feb. 19, 1982, Djaffar Chafii, a member of the *Komaleh's* executive bureau, said in Paris that his movement was seeking a social revolution. On Feb. 19, 1982, Djaffar Chafii, a would be able to bring about the overthrow of the existing regime. On Aug. 26, 1989, *Komaleh* central committee member Bahman Javadi was assassinated in Cyprus.

Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran (KDPI)

The KDPI was originally formed as an illegal organization after World War II out of an Association for the Resurrection of Kurdistan but was practically liquidated when a Kurdish rebellion in Iran was crushed in 1966-67. Dr Abd al-Rahman Qasemlu—who had been a member of the (communist) *Tudeh* party—was, at a secret KDPI