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IRN29681.E 3 July 1998

Subject: ►Iran◄: Update to Responses to Information Requests IRN22646.E, IRN18161.E, IRN20799.E, IRN11737.E, IRN20800.E, IRN21414.E on a group called ►Iran◄-Paad

Regional Office: 5

From: Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board, Ottawa

Keywords: political movements; political activities in exile; political opposition; statistical data; monarchy; political activities; meetings; ideologies; private sector; public sector; security forces; political opinion; population; Europe; Scandinavia; North America; ►Iran◄

An Internet search found a Homepage for a group calling itself ►Iran◄-Paad (<http://home.clara.net/farshid>). The group claims to operate abroad and in ►Iran◄ under the name Saltanat Talab although it has no offices or representation there. According to the ►Iran◄-Paad Homepage the organization is "struggling underground [in ►Iran◄] in the name of Saltanat Talab."

No information on ►Iran◄-Paad could be found among documentary sources, including LEXIS-NEXIS, a commercial database which comprises updated news reports from international and national newspapers, magazines and news agencies.

In November 1995, 19 sources consulted by the Research Directorate stated that they had never heard of ►Iran◄-Paad (see Response to Information Request IRN21931.E of 3 November 1995). For the purposes of this Response, the Research Directorate contacted 4 additional sources (details below) three of whom stated that they have no information on ►Iran◄-Paad (Copithorne, 30 June 1998; Director, 30 June 1998; Sociologist 30 June 1998); a fourth knew of ►Iran◄-Paad's activities in Europe but is not aware of any activities in ►Iran◄ (Counsellor, 2 July 1998).

The four sources referred to above are: Mr. Maurice Copithorne, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights Situation on ►Iran◄ (30 June 1998); the Director of the Foundation for Iranian Studies in Bethesda (30 June 1998); a sociologist and researcher on ►Iran◄ with the Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS) in Paris (30 June 1998); and the Counsellor for Foreign Affairs of the Aliens Appeal Board of Sweden who is in charge of the Research section on ►Iran◄ (2 July 1998).

Regarding Iranian monarchist groups in general, Mr. Copithorne had earlier stated that

I have to say that I don't think any information has come to me in three years about the condition, positive or negative, about ►Monarchists◄ in ►Iran◄ today (IRB, 24 Feb. 1998, 88).

Despite ►Iran◄-Paad's claim to millions of ►monarchists◄, three of the sources agree that there are only a small number of sympathizers:

The Director of the Foundation for Iranian Studies said that there is only a "nostalgic or residual sympathy for ►monarchists◄ in ►Iran◄ today" and the regime is no longer interested in pursuing any Iranian with monarchist affiliations as long as they do not engage in anti-regime activities (30 June 1998).

The sociologist and researcher with the CNRS, a publicly-funded research institution that

employs 11,600 research scientists, stated that ►monarchists◄ do not conduct any anti-regime activities today in ►Iran◄ and as such do not represent a threat to the regime. The only activities of the few monarchist sympathizers remaining in ►Iran◄ today are private gatherings where people remember the time of the Shah with nostalgia. These meetings remain private and small because ►monarchists◄ no longer have an audience in the Iranian population. Due to their very small number, ►monarchists◄ are unable to apply any pressure on the government of ►Iran◄ and the regime no longer takes them seriously (30 June 1998).

With regard to the treatment of monarchist sympathizers in ►Iran◄, the sociologist added that there are monarchist sympathizers who work for government and private organizations in ►Iran◄ today who do not face difficulties as long as they avoid making public statements about their monarchist ideology. All active and militant ►monarchists◄ left ►Iran◄ during the 1980s and are now active mainly in Europe, Scandinavia and North America. Their attempts to keep their political project alive are not taken seriously by the Iranian intelligentsia inside and outside ►Iran◄ (ibid.).

The Counsellor For Foreign Affairs at the Aliens Appeal Board of Sweden corroborates this information saying that the small number of monarchist sympathizers remaining in ►Iran◄ today do not represent a threat to the regime and are not actively pursued by the Iranian security forces. ►Monarchists◄ no longer represent a political reality in ►Iran◄ and are considered marginal by the Iranian population (2 July 1998).

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.

References

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IRN33937.FE 3 March 2000

Subject: Iran: the situation of monarchists

Regional Office: 1

From: Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board, Ottawa

The *Mideast Mirror* quotes a journalist posted in Teheran as stating, in reference to Iranian opposition movements, that the monarchists have been almost entirely "wiped out" in Iran (7 Feb. 2000).

According to two specialists in Iranian studies, the monarchists are no longer organized and active in Iran (29 Feb. 2000; 1 Mar. 2000). The specialists, who have met with monarchists in Iran, emphasize that the majority of them are now of advanced years. For a long time now, they have no longer posed a threat to the current regime, as can be seen from the fact that there have been no politically motivated arrests or prosecutions of monarchists over the past several years. In fact, the monarchists are no longer representative of current Iranian civil society. A number of individuals with monarchist political tendencies wanted to be candidates in the February 2000 elections, but the Guardian Council refused to authorize their candidacy. As long as they do not campaign publicly, the authorities do not bother them. The two specialists were unaware of any monarchists being arrested during the February 2000 elections.

No information about monarchists in Iran is provided in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 1999*, published on 25 February 2000.

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. Please find below the list of additional sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

References

Mideast Mirror [London]. 7 February 2000. "Mujahideen's Pre-Election Attack in Tehran Won't Hurt Khatami." (NEXIS)

Specialist in Iranian studies at the École des hautes études en sciences sociales de Paris (ÉHÉSS), Paris, France. 1 March 2000. The source does research on opposition movements and has recently published an article on Iran in *MERIP Report*.

Specialist in Iranian studies at the Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS), Paris, France. 29 February 2000. The source is a sociologist of Iranian origin who is also a lecturer at Sorbonne-Nouvelle Paris-III and has often travelled to Iran for research purposes. Her articles on Iran have appeared in scholarly publications such as the *Revue française de sciences politiques*, the *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies* and *Les Cahiers de l'Orient*, as well in *Le Monde Diplomatique*.

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