

# Behind the Mossad-MEK Terror Assault in Iran

by Jeffrey Steinberg

Feb. 10—The Feb. 8 NBC News exposé of Mossad funding and training of Mujahideen e-Khalq (MEK) assassins, deployed inside Iran, has put the spotlight on a vicious terrorist organization, with worldwide tentacles, including payoffs to American politicians to promote their cause and have the MEK removed from the U.S. State Department's list of International Terrorist Organizations (ITO). The MEK was, in fact, placed on that State Department list from its inception in 1997, and prior to the State Department creating the official ITO listing, the MEK was cited frequently in the Department's annual global terrorism survey reports.

Based on a review of the U.S. neocon apparatus that has been boosting the MEK for the past decade, the Mossad links become almost transparent—as does the deeper British sponsorship. The case of the so-called Foundation for the Defense of Democracies (FDD) is exemplary. The FDD was established in the immediate aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks as a propaganda lobby for war and regime-change in Iraq, Iran, Syria, Libya, and other so-called “rogue” countries.

Among the organization's directors and advisors are: James Woolsey, William Kristol, Richard Perle, Rep. Eric Cantor (R-Va.), Sen. Joseph Lieberman (I-Conn.), neocons Gary Bauer, Louis Freeh, Steve Forbes, Paula Dobriansky, Charles Krauthammer, Clifford May, and Oliver “Buck” Revell. Most of these notables have been paid by the MEK, through U.S.-based front groups, to speak at international conferences and to lobby for the MEK's removal from the ITO list. Reportedly, MEK front groups pay “speakers fees” of \$30,000 per appearance. With Obama in the White House, MEK funds are now also going to some Democratic Party luminaries.

## Mega Roots

While the FDD was officially launched right after 9/11, in fact, the organization was started at the beginning of 2001, but under a different name: EMET, the Hebrew word for “truth.” EMET was founded by Clifford May, who continues today as president of the Foun-

dation. From 1997-2001, May was the Republican National Committee's director of communications. EMET's co-founder was Nir T. Boms, a captain in the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) Reserves, who served as a communications officer in the IDF, and then was sent to Washington, D.C. as academic liaison at the Israeli Embassy.

In early 2001, Boms left the embassy to work for EMET, and later, for the FDD. He returned to Israel in 2004, but continues to write for the neocon publications *National Review* and the *Weekly Standard*, and for David Horowitz and Daniel Pipes. He is presently at the International Institute for the Study of Counter-Terrorism at Herzliya, Israel, and he is completing a PhD dissertation on “The Influence of Information Technology on the Creation of Civic Society in Syria and Iran.”

A Nov. 17, 2003 article in the *American Conservative* gave further background on EMET/FDD's funding. “Its nearly \$3 million annual budget comes from 27 major donors, most of whom are members of ‘the Study Group’—also sometimes called ‘the Mega Group’ because of their sizeable contributions—a semi-formal organization of major Jewish philanthropists who meet twice a year to discuss joint projects.”

As *EIR* first exposed,<sup>1</sup> the Mega Group includes such leading right-wing Zionists as Michael Steinhardt, Edgar and Charles Bronfman, Leonard Abramson, and Lynn Schusterman. During its brief existence, before the name change, EMET sponsored recruitment junkets to Israel for university students and professors, to undercut support for the Palestinian Intifada among American youth. At its founding, EMET listed Leonard Abramson, Michael Steinhardt, and Edgar Bronfman as the board of directors.

On March 9, 2001, just as EMET was incorporating in New York City, the Jewish daily *Forward* reported that EMET was actually a project of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and that there was a dispute between the Mega Group and the Foreign Ministry over who would call the shots on the new group.

After 9/11, when the cosmetic surgery was carried out (including the abandoning of plans to have the group establish a second location in Tel Aviv), and EMET re-emerged as the FDD, the Mega Group, led by Edgar and Charles Bronfman, Michael Steinhardt, Lynn Schusterman, Home Depot co-founder Bernard Marcus, and Dalck Feith, put up the seed money.

1. Jeffrey Steinberg, “Israeli Spies: ‘Mega Was Not an Agent; Mega Was the Boss,’” *EIR*, Aug. 31, 2001.



*Behind the rash of assassinations and other terrorist acts in Iran is the Mujahideen e-Khalq (MEK), funded and trained by Israeli Mossad, and orchestrated from London. Shown: the bombing on Jan. 11, of the car of an Iranian nuclear scientist in Tehran.*

## MEK's Own Finances

While the Mega Group has been bankrolling the MEK's support apparatus in the United States, the MEK itself is also awash in money, according to a senior U.S. intelligence source who has monitored the group for years. The MEK has an estimated 10,000-15,000 members worldwide, many of whom work for

next to nothing, generating income for the group. It is estimated that they generate \$35-75 million per year, through sophisticated fundraising operations, promoting themselves as the only militant opposition to the Iranian regime.

For 20 years, the MEK was in the pay of Saddam Hussein, and were paid well as a paramilitary asset, targeting Kurds and other anti-Saddam forces, as well as fighting against Iran during the eight-year Persian Gulf War in the 1980s. The source estimated that the MEK has several hundred million dollars in assets globally. They have operations in more than 80 countries.

Because the MEK has members inside Iran, some of whom have infiltrated government agencies, including the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps and the Army, many foreign intelligence agencies pay them to carry out sabotage operations, gather intelligence, and perform other special activities. The Mossad, British MI6, and French intelligence have all used MEK services, as have the Saudis and other Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

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