

Editor's Note

[The Iranian Regime's Supply Line to Houthi Terrorists Exposed](#)

Last week, damning evidence was exposed showing top regime officials' direct involvement in supporting the Houthis in their attacks against ships in the Red Sea.

According to Fox News, information obtained by the main opposition Mujahedin-e Khalq (MEK) shows how the regime-backed terror proxy based in northern Yemen is supplied by Tehran. The Houthis have conducted more than 50 attacks targeting ships traversing the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden since Oct. 7.

The MEK noted several methods and locations that the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps-Qods Force (IRGC-QF) uses to ship a variety of weaponry, including drones, cruise missiles, ballistic missiles, anti-ship mines, radar equipment and communication systems, to the Houthis.

Some of the missiles in the Houthis' possession are manufactured by the Aerospace Industries Organization, which has been sanctioned by the U.S. Treasury Department.

In its report, the MEK provided broad descriptions of the methods the IRGC-QF uses to deliver military material to Yemen. The MEK said the IRGC has "exerted pressure on some local barge owners" to ferry weapons to Houthi boats "10 miles off the coast of Yemen." On other occasions, the MEK reports that Iran may ship materials to Yemen after making "stopovers in African countries."

Fox News reported that Ali Safavi, a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), urged the international community to "hold the IRGC-QF accountable for leveraging the Houthis to destabilize the region." Safavi told Fox that designating the IRGC as a terrorist entity, as the U.S. did in 2019, would "not only significantly impede the IRGC's ability to use front companies to evade sanctions and fund its malign activities and proxies but also seriously hinder the operations of its agents in the West." Most importantly, Safavi said "it would convey a powerful message to the Iranian people: the main force responsible for suppressing their uprisings is recognized globally as a terrorist entity, thereby legitimizing their resistance against it."

This week's featured article provides more details about these revelations.

On The Capitol Hill Show with host Tim Constantine of the Washington Times, NCRI-US Deputy Director Alireza Jafarzadeh discussed the prospects of change in Iran following mass murderer Ebrahim Raisi's death.

Regarding the impact of Raisi death on the regime, Jafarzadeh said: "This is a serious strategic blow to Supreme Leader Khamenei because he lost the most loyal president in the history of the regime." Jafarzadeh added: "Also to the people of Iran, it shows the mere vulnerability and weakness of the regime. Raisi had boasted about the 1988 massacre. ... This shows the mere weakness and vulnerability of the regime to the rebellious youth who feel now they have an opportunity. ... The mission of Raisi was to prevent the resurgence of uprisings, and his death will have a big impact on the process that could lead to the fall of the regime."

[Watch: Alireza Jafarzadeh's interview on The Capital Hill Show](#)



Human Rights

53 Iranians were summoned and detained for reacting to the death of Raisi

Iran HRM (May 25) - In recent days, dozens of citizens in Iran have been summoned and detained by the Cyber Police (known as “FATA”) solely because they shared their personal feelings about the death of Raisi on their Instagram and social media accounts. According to the report from Iran Human Rights Monitor (Iran HRM), citing IRNA, following the publication of posts related to the death of Raisi, the head of the Cyber Police in Iran announced the initiation of legal proceedings against 35 citizens and their summoning to judicial authorities. According to the report from Iran Human Rights Monitor (Iran HRM), citing IRNA, following the publication of posts related to the death of Raisi, the head of the Cyber Police in Iran announced the initiation of legal proceedings against 35 citizens and their summoning to judicial authorities. Furthermore, in Kerman Province alone, the prosecutor of the province has announced the summoning of eight citizens to judicial authorities following the publication of posts related to the death of Raisi. [Read more...](#)

Man detained for remarks on regime president’s death

HRANA (May 24) - Security forces have detained Ali Reyhani Kujavar after he posted comments about the death of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi in a helicopter crash. Reyhani is currently held in Tabriz prison. The incident occurred on the afternoon of Sunday, May 20th, when a helicopter carrying President Raisi and several officials, including Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, crashed in the Dizmar forest between Varzaqan and Jolfa. Official media reported the deaths of Raisi and his companions the following morning, after locating the crash site and the wreckage. Numerous citizens have been arrested or faced legal action for expressing views on the incident, which the authorities have found objectionable. [Read more...](#)

Five arrested in Hashtrud for environmental protest

HRANA (May 23) - In Hashtrud, East Azerbaijan province, five individuals were detained by security forces following a protest against environmental damage. The detainees, identified by HRANA as Rahmat Saeedi, Jafar Sharifi, Davoud Sharifi, Hadi Sharifi, and Aghil Talebi, are residents of a village in Hashtrud County. They were protesting the ecological harm caused by local sandwashing workshops. The protest escalated into violence following intervention by police and security agents, leading to multiple arrests. The specific charges against the arrested individuals have not yet been disclosed. [Read more...](#)

Kurdish women’s rights activist sentenced to 21 years in jail

NCRI Women (May 26) - Zhina Modarres Gorji, a Kurdish journalist and women’s rights activist from Sanandaj, has faced significant challenges due to her activism. She was arrested during the 2022 nationwide protests in Iran and has been sentenced to 21 years in prison. Additionally, she has been exiled to Hamedan Central Prison by the Iranian

regime. The charges against Zhina Modarres Gorji are serious and include various allegations related to her activism. The court also accused her of activities such as establishing the Zhivano Association with feminist ideology, participating in gatherings, expressing subversive slogans, communicating with anti-revolutionary elements, participating in conferences and workshops abroad, and publishing content on the internet. These actions were allegedly aimed at undermining the government and creating tension in society. [Read more...](#)

Protests, Economy

[Iran's rebellious youth defy regime's repression](#)

PMOI (May 23) - As the Iranian regime intensifies its repressive measures, including violence against impoverished border communities, crackdowns on women and girls, and a surge in executions, the country's rebellious youth are responding with defiant acts of resistance against the mullahs' centers of oppression and corruption. On May 12, a series of attacks against regime centers erupted in response to the new wave of executions, which has seen nearly 100 executions in the past three weeks alone. In Karaj, a center of fundamentalism was torched, while Basij bases were targeted in Tehran, Karaj, Zanjan, Amol, Bam, and Zarandiyeh. The Basij is the regime's main tool for suppressing protests and spying on dissidents. Basij forces have played an essential role in the recent wave of repression against women and girls. The Basij has played a pivotal role in cracking down on nationwide uprisings, making it a prime target for those seeking to undermine the regime's grip on power. Billboards and signs of Basij bases were also torched in Gachsaran and Ahvaz, further highlighting the youth's determination to challenge the regime's repressive apparatus. Posters of regime founder Ruhollah Khomeini, regime supreme leader Ali Khamenei, and Qassem Soleimani, the regime's former terror mastermind, were set ablaze in Tehran, Karaj, Zanjan, Zahedan, Eslamabad-e Gharb, and Masjed Soleiman, symbolizing the youth's rejection of the regime's ideology and its export of terrorism at the expense of the Iranian people. [Read more...](#)

Western Policy, Nuclear Weapons

[What Raisi's death means for Iran, the world](#)

Townhall (op-ed, May 22) - Last weekend, the Iranian regime was thrust into turmoil with the deaths of President Ebrahim Raisi and Foreign Minister Amir Hossein Abdollahian in a helicopter crash in Iran. This represents a significant setback for Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, who now faces an intensified crisis and a more precarious grip on power. Khamenei had orchestrated Raisi's rise to power in 2021, eliminating even loyal stalwarts within his own factions to ensure Raisi's election. Raisi was not just a figurehead. He was known for his unwavering obedience to Khamenei. His death now leaves a vacuum that will be exceedingly difficult to fill, as finding someone who combines absolute loyalty and ruthlessness will be a daunting task for Khamenei. Raisi's background is marked by his role in some of the regime's most brutal crackdowns. As Tehran's Deputy Prosecutor during the 1988 massacre, Raisi played a key role in the execution of thousands of political prisoners, most of whom were members of the Mujahedin-e Khalq (PMOI/MEK). His rapid rise through the ranks was a testament to his effectiveness in enforcing the regime's most brutal crimes against humanity. From overseeing mass executions to his tenure as head of Astan Quds Razavi and later as judiciary chief, Raisi epitomized the regime's genocidal actions. [Read more...](#)

[The UN should memorialize the Iranian President's victims, not Raisi himself](#)

Townhall (op-ed, May 26) - The United Nations has announced that it intends to hold a memorial service on Thursday for Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, who died in a helicopter crash on May 19. The international body already recognized a moment of

silence shortly after the news of that death was confirmed, and then lowered their flags to half-mast “as a mark of respect for the passing of His Excellency.” These formulaic gestures are unlikely to earn much good will from the Iranian regime, which has a long history of openly flouting international law and denying the UN’s authority. Conversely, the implied praise for Raisi’s legacy is sure to be received as an insult by the vast majority of the Iranian people. Although the Iranian regime and its state media have been making every effort to promote an image of widespread public grief over Raisi’s death, the reality is that many Iranians greeted the news with celebratory dancing, fireworks, and the exchange of sweets. The National Council of Resistance of Iran issued a statement. [Read more...](#)

US officials should seize Raisi’s death to address Iran’s worsening human rights record

Stars and Stripes (op-ed, May 21) - With the untimely death of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, the so-called “Butcher of Tehran,” and the country’s foreign minister, Hossein Amirabdollahian, in a helicopter crash in an eastern province of Iran near Azerbaijan earlier this week, U.S. officials would be wise to take stock of Tehran’s escalating human rights abuses and the rising discontent on the Iranian street. ... Raisi’s death constitutes a strategic blow to the Islamic Republic and the mullahs’ political bench — both as the sitting president but also a potential heir to Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei. U.S. and European Union officials should seize this propitious moment to present the loathsome Iranian regime with an existential crisis by returning to the maximum pressure strategy that held belligerent figureheads accountable for their theocracy’s executions, massacres and export of terrorism. [Read more...](#)

Raisi’s death must not deny victims of his grim human rights legacy their right to accountability

Amnesty (May 22) - The death of president Ebrahim Raisi must not deny people in Iran their right to justice, truth and reparation for the litany of crimes under international law and human rights violations committed since the 1980s during his time in the echelons of power, said Amnesty International today, following his passing in a helicopter crash in East Azerbaijan province. Ebrahim Raisi, who at the age of 20 was appointed as Prosecutor General of Karaj, Alborz province, in 1980, quickly rose through the ranks to assume various senior judicial and executive positions, before becoming president in 2021. Over the past 44 years, he was directly involved in or oversaw the enforced disappearance and extrajudicial executions of thousands of political dissidents in the 1980s, the unlawful killing, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance and torture of thousands of protesters; and violent persecution of women and girls defying compulsory veiling, among other serious human rights violations. [Read more...](#)

Iranians attend Raisi's funeral procession while others hopeful for new future

Just the News (May 21) - Iranians are attending the funeral procession of President Ebrahim Raisi on Tuesday following his death in a helicopter crash, while others, such as the National Council of Resistance of Iran, are hopeful that his demise will be a blow to the Islamic Republic. ... While state-run outlets praise Raisi, who earned the nickname of the “Butcher of Tehran” after he oversaw the deaths of up to 30,000 people, including children, in 1988, others are hopeful his death will have a positive impact on the country's future. ... His death “will trigger a series of repercussions and crises within theocratic tyranny, which will spur rebellious youths into action,” said Maryam Rajavi, the president-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran. The council is a coalition of Iranian dissident groups with the primary member being the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran, a group that worked to help overthrow the Shah during the 1979 Iranian Revolution. [Read more...](#)

Terrorism and Cyber Warfare

Labour expected to proscribe Iran’s Revolutionary Guard as 550

[parliamentarians demand action](#)

The Independent (May 27) - A group of 550 parliamentarians have made a final bid before the election to get the next government to proscribe Iran's Revolutionary Guard (IRGC) as a terrorist group. The move by MPs and peers on the British Committee for Iran Freedom has been consistently resisted by the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) even though the USA has led the way on the issue. It is understood that shadow foreign secretary David Lammy have suggested that if he is in charge of the FCDO after 4 July there could be a change of policy. ... And the death of Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi - known as the Butcher of Tehran - earlier this month in a helicopter crash has been seized on as an opportunity for a major change in policy. Added to that the Revolutionary guard, which is the personal army of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei, has been linked to attacks in Britain and Europe including an attempt to assassinate a former Spanish MEP and vice president of the European Parliament. ... The initiative is led by Tory MP Bob Blackman, a long-time supporter of the National Council for Resistance of Iran (NCRI), who has worked with the NCRI and the umbrella group The British Committee for Iran Freedom. [Read more...](#)

Iranian Resistance

[Resistance Units intensify efforts for a democratic Iran](#)

NCRI Women (May 21) - Despite the Iranian regime's wave of executions and repressive measures, the Resistance Units of the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI) continue to expand their activities across every city and corner of Iran. These courageous activists reaffirm their dedication to overthrowing the ruling theocracy and establishing a democratic, secular republic based on the separation of religion and state. In Tehran, PMOI Resistance Units displayed posters of Maryam Rajavi with the slogan "No to forced hijab, forced religion, and forced rulers," rejecting the regime's oppressive laws and advocating for freedom of choice. In various cities, they held placards reading "Woman, Resistance, Freedom," recognizing the pivotal role of Iranian women in the fight against the mullahs' misogynistic rule. In Amol, placards proclaimed "Democracy, freedom, with Maryam Rajavi," reaffirming support for Rajavi's vision of democracy. The Resistance Units also denounced the regime's use of executions to maintain control, displaying signs that read "Abolish death penalty." [Read more...](#)

Featured Article

[Iran's military supply line to Houthi terrorists exposed by dissident group](#)

By Beth Bailey
Fox News
May 25, 2024

FIRST ON FOX – An exiled Iranian resistance group has uncovered damning evidence showing top regime officials' direct involvement in supporting the Houthis in their attacks against ships in the Red Sea.

Fox News Digital reviewed evidence provided by The People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI/MEK) that claims to show how the Iranian-backed terror proxy based in northern Yemen is supplied by Tehran. The Houthis have conducted more than 50 attacks targeting ships traversing the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden since Oct. 7.

The MEK noted several methods and locations that the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps-Qods Force (IRGC-QF) uses to ship a variety of weaponry, including drones, cruise missiles, ballistic missiles, anti-ship mines, radar equipment and communication systems,

to the Houthis. They noted that some of the missiles in the Houthis' possession are manufactured by the Aerospace Industries Organization, which has been sanctioned by the U.S. Treasury Department.

Adding fuel to the group's claims, a February 2024 Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) report demonstrates Iranian support to Houthi proxies through side-by-side comparisons of Houthi and Iranian unmanned aerial vehicles and missile systems. Among the ballistic missiles in both countries' arsenals is the Iranian Shahab-3, which the Houthis call the "Toofan."

Also included in the Houthis' weapons inventory are Iranian missiles that have been used to target Israel. The DIA report also shows the remains of what they believe was a Pavah land-attack cruise missile, designated the "Quds-4" by the Houthis. The DIA says the device was "fired by the Houthis toward Israel in late October 2023."

Following Hamas' Oct. 7 terror attacks, the Houthis' first attempted to target Israel directly on Oct. 19, according to the Combating Terrorism Center at West Point. On March 18, reports noted that the Israel Defense Forces confirmed a Houthi cruise missile had infiltrated Israel, landing near Eilat.

The Houthis' recent escalations have caused the U.S. Treasury Department to once more list the entity as a Specially Designated Terror Group in February 2024. This designation had been revoked in February 2021.

In its report to Fox News Digital, the MEK provided broad descriptions of the methods the IRGC-QF uses to deliver military material to Yemen. The MEK said the IRGC has "exerted pressure on some local barge owners" to ferry weapons to Houthi boats "10 miles off the coast of Yemen." On other occasions, the MEK reports that Iran may ship materials to Yemen after making "stopovers in African countries."

The report states that Iran sometimes hides weaponry inside fenders, the "large shock absorbers that prevent ships from colliding with piers and other obstacles." On some occasions, the MEK reported that fenders were anchored below the water surface at a predetermined location, "and picked up by a secondary ship using built-in GPS."

Other times, the fenders were attached to Iranian barges. On Aug. 13, 2019, the MEK said fenders "up to six meters long were attached to a ship at Bushehr wharf two days before departure" to Lavan Island in the Persian Gulf. "Military weapons and equipment were concealed inside these fenders," the MEK said, but the group had no information about the cargo's final destination.

On May 27, 2020, the MEK said Yemenis crewed a barge "loaded with light weapons" from a location two miles from the port city of Jask. They also noted that the Bahman Piers, a set of "about 80 or 90" secretive ports constructed along the Persian Gulf and the coast of the Sea of Oman on the 1982 orders of Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Khomeini, remain "outside the monitoring of international organizations." The MEK say the Bahman Piers are utilized as a means to smuggle oil and petrochemicals and ship out weapons to proxies, including the Houthis.

In addition to providing weapons to the Houthis, the MEK explained that Iran trains the Houthis to utilize high-tech weaponry, and has "helped the Houthis to develop from a ragtag force into a conventional military force" by training Houthi military personnel.

In a February interview with CBS, CENTCOM's deputy commander, Vice Adm. Brad Cooper, confirmed that IRGC personnel are "serving side by side" with the Houthis inside Yemen, "advising them and providing target information."

In addition to training, Taleblu also sees signs that Yemen "has been a testing ground for Iranian weapons." Taleblu cited one case in which the Houthis showcased a medium-range ballistic missile with a unitary conical warhead in Yemen months before the Iranians "brought it into their arsenal."

The difficulty of hindering support to the Houthis is underscored by the echelons of Iranian leadership involved in maintaining Iranian-Houthi relations. According to the MEK, the

senior IRGC-QF commander, Brig. Gen. Abdul Reza Shahlai, also known as "Haj Yusuf," is charged with overseeing coordination with the Houthis. He is assisted by Brig. Gen. Ismail Qaani, Brig. Gen. Mohammad Reza Fallahzadeh, also known as "Abu Baqer," and Abu Fatemeh.

The MEK also states that a headquarters within the Iranian Foreign Ministry "reviews and analyzes the effects of Houthi attacks," while IRGC Maj. Gen. Gholam Ali Rashid, commander of the Khatam al-Anbiya command headquarters, is "primarily responsible for military affairs in Yemen." The MEK also alleges that Iran's National Security Council sets the guidelines for Yemeni intervention and escalation, and that Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei is ultimately in charge of finalizing and approving decisions regarding political and military affairs in Yemen.

Khamenei, Shahlai, Qaani, Fallahzadeh and Rashid have been sanctioned by the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control. The Department of Justice has offered a \$15 million reward for information about Shahlai for his role in plotting the assassination of the Saudi ambassador in Washington, D.C., and his role in planning an attack in Iraq in which five U.S. soldiers were killed and three wounded.

The U.S. Treasury Department's sanctions against Iran have grown in passing years in recognition of Iran's role in funding terror in the Middle East. In April, Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen explained that the department had "targeted over 600 individuals and entities connected to Iran's terrorist activity, its human rights abuses, and its financing of Hamas, the Houthis, Hezoallah, and Iraqi militia groups."

No matter how necessary, thwarting Iranian fundraising will prove a difficult endeavor. According to Taleblu, the Islamic Republic of Iran has a well-established system capable of "scaling up material support over time." Through a combination of direct financial transfers, money laundering schemes, illicit revenue, and a nontraditional system of sending remittances that uses front companies and exchange houses across multiple countries, "Iran has the ability to fund terrorism and engage in illicit financial trade across the region while under sanctions."

Ali Safavi, of the Paris-based NCRI's Foreign Affairs Committee, urged the international community to "hold the IRGC-QF accountable for leveraging the Houthis to destabilize the region." Safavi told Fox News Digital that designating the IRGC as a terrorist entity, as the U.S. did in 2019, would "not only significantly impede the IRGC's ability to use front companies to evade sanctions and fund its malign activities and proxies but also seriously hinder the operations of its agents in the West." Most importantly, Safavi said "it would convey a powerful message to the Iranian people: the main force responsible for suppressing their uprisings is recognized globally as a terrorist entity, thereby legitimizing their resistance against it."

[Read more...](#)

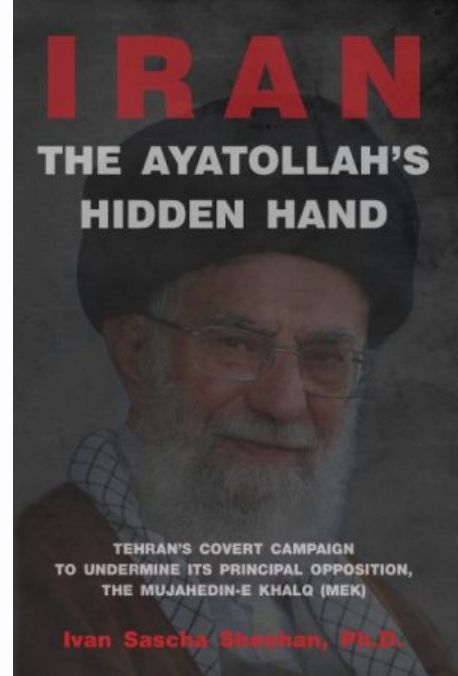
Suggested Reading

[Iran: The Ayatollah's Hidden Hand](#)

In this informative and well-presented volume, Professor Ivan Sascha Sheehan pulls back the curtain on the regime's propaganda franchise. He reveals the excessive investment of funding, infrastructure, and workforce frantically trying to convince Iranians and the world not to believe their own eyes and ears. After years of trying to ignore the MEK, hoping others would do the same, regime officials now seemingly cannot stop talking about how effectively the MEK's message and organizing efforts are empowering the national uprising. Sheehan's research makes clear that the regime is scared, knowing

that there is a blueprint and a competent political organization – run at every level by women – ready to help guide Iran to a legitimate constitutional future when the regime crumbles, just as happened with the Shah.

[Read more here.](#)



Website: www.ncrius.org/ Email: info@ncrius.org



About Iran Weekly Roundup:

This weekly is compiled by the US Representative Office of National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI-US). The NCRI is a broad coalition of democratic Iranian organizations, groups, and personalities founded in 1981 in Tehran. The NCRI is an inclusive and pluralistic parliament-in-exile that has more than 500 members representing a broad spectrum of political tendencies in Iran. The NCRI aims to establish a secular democratic republic in Iran, based on the separation of religion and state. Women comprise more than half of the Council's members. Mrs. Maryam Rajavi is the president-elect of the NCRI.

These materials are being distributed by the National Council of Resistance of Iran-U.S. Representative Office. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.

National Council of Resistance of Iran - US Representative Office
1747 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Suite 1125
Washington, DC 20006
Tel: 202-747-7847
Fax: 202-330-5346

NCRI-US | 1747 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Suite 1125 | Washington, DC 20006 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)