

A Personal Background Report Regarding The Situation of the Iranian Atomic Programme

Prepared for Greenpeace in Deutschland

Assessment of the Current Situation by

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The war in Iraq constitutes the turning-point in the foreign policy decisions of Iran, much the same way as it has changed the manner the Iranian people view things. Two years prior to the commencement of the war in Iraq, an Iranian Intellectual and Journalist called Abdi, carried out an opinion pool. In that investigation the question was put to Iranians to find out whether they would agree to the improvement of the relations with the United States of America. The result showed that 75% of the people questioned wanted good political and economic relations with USA. That led to the arrest and imprisonment of Mr. Abdi, where he has been held since then. The result of the opinion pool and other indications prove beyond doubt that Iranians are interested in having good relations with USA.

Before the American attack of Iraq took place, Iranians, including some few groups among the intellectuals, entertained the hope of being liberated from religious torture through an American attack. Now, two years after the American invasion of Iraq, an ugly reality has emerged. The political defeat of USA in Iraq, the military difficulties of the Iraqi war, the antagonistic attitude the world demonstrated against the war, the diffusion of the pictures of the Abu Ghoreib prison, all have contributed to leave lasting traces in world opinion behind; just as they have affected the opinion of Iranians. Even if Iranians desired to have good relations with USA before the war, they reject any form of intervention or occupation by USA.

In my opinion, the only group of people in favour of an American interference is a very small minority of Monarchists. They dream to attain liberation through America, because they see this as the only chance for them to regain power. The majority of the Iranian people reject both the Monarchy (in whichever form, constitutional or non constitutional) and religious rule.

The picture of torture of the Abu Ghoreib prison, which revealed the true face of the occupying power, teaches a lesson to the Iranian people to abandon their illusion of expecting USA, International Organisations and other Instances to come to their rescue. World opinion and the Iranian people see it as proof enough that USA decided to attack Iraq with the sole intention of safeguarding its strategic interests, its domination over the sources of energy and to prevent and keep away China from the oil reserves of Iraq. It is the desire of USA to remain the only Superpower dominating the world; so the emergence of another Superpower must be nipped in the bud. It

was already widely known before the beginning of the Iraqi war, especially within Government circles in USA, that Saddam did not possess any ABC weapons.

Besides, world opinion and the Iranian people bear witness of the double standards (or, as it is said in Persian, "a terrace with two skies") of western countries. Two examples here are Israel and North Korea. During decades the Western States, most especially USA, have watched with silence how Israel torture and murder in various ways the Palestinian people. And even the UN (which the Iranian public rightly describes as the puppet of USA) looks on without doing anything. Backed by the strength of its atomic weapon, Israel continues to torture and murder, supported by America and its weapons industry. The Western support and the toleration of the Israeli occupation and its attendant barbarous acts are considered humiliating in both Iran and the Middle East.

The second example is North Korea. Iraq has been attacked, even though North Korea possesses atomic weapons and could be more dangerous than Iraq. But North Korea has been treated with an invitation to the negotiating table. These two cases are only two of the many examples the West demonstrates in its dealings with the non industrialised countries. This situation is considered humiliating to the people who suffer from it.

From the point of view of the Iranian people, the conclusion is reached that, had Iraq been in possession of the atomic weapon like North Korea, no one could have dared to attack and "if Iran could acquire the atomic weapon no one would have the courage to attack it". I regret to say that, in consideration of the hard reality, the statement is rather true. It means that in the 21st Century, the Law of the Jungle still rules supreme in human society.

The first atomic bomb was produced in USA and was used for the first time. Almost all the industrialised countries and many countries in Asia and the Middle East like Israel, India, Pakistan possess the atomic weapon. The majority of the Iranian people would also like to make use of the right of self-defence to produce the atomic weapon as protection against the atomic threat posed by the neighbouring countries.

Iran feels itself threatened by Israel and its atomic weapon. But there is a small minority in Iran which sees its rescue from the fanatic Government through an American invasion as the only way out. That minority is against the possession of the atomic weapon, because an American invasion and its expected "rescue", will thus be in danger. Although I am personally against the possession of the atomic weapon anywhere in the world, I plead for the continuation of the Iranian atomic programme for peaceful purposes, and equally for the eventual possession of the atomic weapon, in order to prevent a new war and to hinder an environmental catastrophe in the region.

With the victory of the right wing, that is the Conservatives, in the last Iranian Parliamentary elections, the internal political squabbles of the Islamic Regime has been settled. This puts the Islamic Regime in Teheran into a position to devote itself with determination to the realisation of its foreign policy objectives, regarding the carrying out of its atomic programme. The Iranian Regime is quite prepared to do just that. It is as clear as sunlight to the Iranian people, especially the intellectuals, that

the Iranian Government will succeed in creating the atomic weapon. This is only a matter of time. As stated already, the bitter experiences which the Iraqi people have had with the war and the occupying power, make the greater majority of the population of Iran, including almost all the opposition groups in the country and outside, to agree that the country should be in possession of the atomic weapon. Should USA attack Iran, the majority will go against the invasion and all the left orientated groups shall fight against the attacking power. This means that the left orientated opposition will fight on two fronts at the same time, as much against the Islamic reactionaries as against the imperialist attack of the US. However, the majority of the Iranians, including the left orientated opposition, do not foresee any danger of an American invasion.

The experiences the US occupying force has gained in Iraq, and in view of the antagonistic attitude the world has demonstrated against the war and against the American attack, the US war machinery cannot afford anymore to undertake another invasion in the region.

Summary

1. There exists no realistic danger of an American invasion in Iran. Considering all what has happened to the US in Iraq, together with the antagonistic attitude the world has demonstrated against the war and the occupation forces, there rarely is the likelihood that the US shall attack Iran. A greater part of what we hear and see about Iran in the media can be attributed to the purpose of the election campaign in the USA. The role of the Europeans and that of the EU are only reduced to the pursuit of their economic interests in Iran. The majority of the Iranian people consider the UN and the International Red Cross as being the puppets of USA. Because of these facts both are not taken seriously.
2. Israel takes good care not to attack the atomic facilities in Iran. Israel is aware that if that happens, Iran will promptly take revenge. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a Military Spokesman have made things quite clear in this regard.
3. Both the majority of the Iranian people and the left orientated opposition shall get together and put up resistance against an American invasion, in case that happens. In such a case, the resistance shall be directed against both the Islamic reactionaries and the imperialist attack of the US.
4. The Iranian Government will continue with its atomic programme and that sooner or later, Iran will be in possession of the atomic weapon. The Iranian people think, rightly, that if there should exist no atomic weapon, then that situation must apply to everyone. The double standards of the Western countries in this case cannot be acceptable. Here, the point of view of the Iranians, including the left orientated opposition, happens to tally with that of the Islamic Government. The possession of the atomic weapon in Iran will prevent another war, as well as hinder environmental catastrophe in the region and in the world.

This report is based on the impressions I have gained studying the Persian newspapers, both internal and external, in the last three weeks. As well as discussions with students internally and with intellectuals in the circle of Iranians abroad.

