



FACT SHEET: IRAN – LEADING STATE SPONSOR OF TERROR

- In Germany, EU officials are aware of 800 Iranian-backed Shiite Hezbollah terrorists that reside in the country and sleeper cells in 20 European Union nations. Hezbollah cells are utilizing key European capitals as intelligence gathering centers. Europe has also acted as a popular location for Hezbollah operatives to conduct fundraising activities, estimated to accrue more than \$198 million a year.¹
- Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and his spiritual leader have called upon Iranian youth to join the **Iranian Organization of Martyrs**, which trains men and women to carry out *shahada* (martyrdom) operations against the enemies of Islam. So far, 40,000 young Iranians are waiting to receive instructions to carry out their suicide-terrorist operations around the world.²
- The Shiite Iranian-backed terrorist group Hezbollah is viewed as Tehran's utmost violent weapon against Israel and the west. Iran helped found, organize, and train Hezbollah. Iran provides nearly €77.8 million (\$100 million) annually to the terror organization. Hezbollah terrorists maintain close ties with Islamic Revolutionary Corps officials, which are under the command of Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khomeini.³
- Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad began recruiting suicide bombers and praising the merits of Islamic terrorism a month after he was sworn in. The President has launched a group of suicide bombers under the name 'Lovers of Martyrdom.' The organization's goal: to recruit and train men and women for suicide operations. The application for membership alerts potential recruits that they will join the "martyrdom division" in every Iranian province. About 52,000 people have reportedly joined the group. Muhammad Ali Samadi, a spokesman for the group, has said that "These countries should know that they have interests in some sensitive areas which can be targeted by our suicide attackers," referring to the European Union and the United States.⁴
- In a Tehran cemetery, 100 aspiring suicide bombers were sworn in at a ceremony that was attended by a group of Hezbollah militants from Lebanon. The new recruits are part of a movement called Setad Pasdast Shohadaye Nehzat Jahani Islam (Headquarters for the Commemoration of the Martyrs of the International Islamic Movement). Mohammad Ali Samadi, the organization's spokesman, said that "Israel is a target of the group along with the US and European Union countries where the group has allegedly recruited militants. We have brothers who are ready to sacrifice their lives for the triumph of Islam in Great Britain, France, Belgium, Spain, Italy, the Netherlands and also the United States." According to Tehran, there are 25,000 members ready to be suicide bombers.⁵
- According to intelligence officials, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad attended a meeting in Syria with one of the world's most wanted terrorists, Imad Mugniyeh, the Lebanese commander of Hezbollah's overseas operations, in early 2006. Mugniyeh is said to be working very closely with Ahmadinejad, traveling with him in January from Tehran to Damascus, where he participated in a "terror summit" attended by top terror leaders from groups such as Hezbollah, Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad. Mugniyeh is on the FBI's "Most Wanted Terrorists" list for his role in a series of high-profile attacks against the West, including the 1985 hijacking of a TWA jet and murder of one of its passengers; a US navy diver and was recently promoted to instigate chief terror nemesis by Ahmadinejad should Iran be attacked by western entities in the future.⁶



- Twenty terrorist camps and centers run by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) have recently been exposed by a former IRGC officer. The former officer said the camps and training centers were under the control of the IRGC's elite Qods Force, the extra-territorial arm of the Revolutionary Guards. He stated, "The Qods Force has an extensive network that uses the facilities of Iranian embassies or cultural and economic missions or a number of religious institutions such as the Islamic Communications and Culture Organization to recruit radical Islamists in Muslim countries or among the Muslims living in the West." From stations abroad, recruits are then shipped to Iran via other allied countries and are sent to the training camps. According to the officer, some 50 Islamists from neighboring Arab countries are receiving training.⁷

The 20 Iranian bases used for training include:

1) Imam Ali Training Garrison, Tajrish Square, Tehran 2) Bahonar Garrison, Chalous Street, close to the dam of Karaj 3) Qom's Ali-Abad Garrison, Tehran-Qom highway 4) Mostafa Khomeini Garrison, Eshrat-Abad district, Tehran 5) Crate Camp Garrison, 40 kilometres from the Ahwaz-Mahshar highway 6) Fateh Qani-Hosseini Garrison, between Tehran and Qom 7) Qayour Asli Garrison, 30 kilometres from Ahwaz-Khorramshahr highway 8) Abouzar Garrison, Qaleh-Shahin district, Ahwaz, Khuzestan province 9) Hezbollah Garrison, Varamin, east of Tehran 10) Eezeh Training Garrison 11) Amir-ol-Momenin Garrison, Ban-Roushan, Ilam province 12) Kothar Training Garrison, Dezful Street, Shoushtar, Khuzestan province 13) Imam Sadeq Garrison, Qom 14) Lavizan Training Center, north-east Tehran 15) Abyek Training Center, west of Tehran 16) Dervish Training Center, 18 kilometres from the Ahwaz-Mahshar highway 17) Qazanchi Training Center, Ravansar-Kermanshah-Kamyaran tri-junction 18) Beit-ol-Moqaddas University, Qom 19) Navab Safavi School, Ahwaz 20) Nahavand Training Center, 45 kilometres from Nahavand, western Iran.

¹ Levitt, Mathew A., "Islamic extremism in Europe," Testimony to the Committee on International Relations Subcommittee on Europe and Emerging Threats, United States House of Representatives, April 7, 2005, http://www.house.gov/international_relations/109/lev042705.pdf ;

² "Iran's new president glorifies martyrdom," Middle East Media Research Institute, Special Dispatch No. 945, July 29, 2005, <http://memri.org/bin/articles.cgi?Page=archives&Area=sd&ID=SP94505>

³ Byman, Daniel L., "Iran, Terrorism, and Weapons of Mass Destruction," Subcommittee on the Prevention of Nuclear and Biological Attacks of the Homeland Security Committee, The Brookings Institute, Sept. 8, 2005, <http://www.brookings.edu/views/testimony/fellows/byman20050908.pdf>

⁴ Thomas, George, "Iran trains 'ultimate martyrs,'" *Christian World News*, May 12, 2006, <http://www.cbn.com/CBNnews/CWN/051206Iran.asp>

⁵ Rafat, Ahmad, "Europe a Target of Iranian Suicide Bombers," Student Movement Coordination Committee for Democracy in Iran, May 26, 2006, http://daneshjoo.org/publishers/currentnews/article_6031.shtml

⁶ Baxter, Sarah, and Mahnaimi, Uzi, "Iran's president recruits terror master," *The Sunday Times*, April 23, 2006, <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2089-2147683,00.html>

⁷ Razi, Farhad, "20 Terrorist training camps in Iran uncovered," *Global Politician*, March 1, 2006, <http://globalpolitician.com/articledes.asp?ID=1639&cid=2&sid=4>