

THE NYPD PROFILES EVERYONE'S FAVORITE TERRORIST GROUP, MEK

As I noted yesterday, the latest installment of Goldman and Apuzzo's exposure of the CIA-on-the-Hudson relies on a 2006 document laying out plans to profile Iranians and Shiites (and Palestinians) in anticipation of heightened US-Iranian conflict.

New York City has always been a prime target for terrorist groups and as the possibility of military action taken against Iran grows stronger, so does the danger of the City being attacked by agents of the Iranian government or its sympathizers.

Based on that premise, they lay out a bunch of groups to profile.

Among those, however, is the MEK, the Iranian opposition group designated as a foreign terrorist organization. Here's what the document has to say about them:

Mujahedin-e-Khalq Organization (MEK), designated by the US Department of State as a terrorist group, has presence in NYC. MEK is strongly opposed to the current Iranian administration and it is not believe [sic] not to pose a threat of retaliation should the US engage Iran military. The group's actions here are typified by several incidents where suspected MEK members disrupted speeches and protested against Iranian officials visiting and/or present in US.

Now, at one level, the MEK actually is a designated terrorist organization, regardless of how sensible that designation remains. So it makes sense to see them profiled by the NYPD.

Though it is telling by itself that 5 years into the CIA-on-the-Hudson program, they apparently hadn't been, yet. That is, the NYPD doesn't appear to have been pursuing terrorist organizations in general. (Indeed, it did not include Colombians—who might be of interest because of terrorist organizations FARC and AUC—among its ancestries of interest.)

But in spite of the fact that according to the NYPD, the MEK doesn't pose a threat, it does appear to have included the MEK in their Iranian profiling. Among its recommended actions, it suggests,

- Expand and focus intelligence collection at locations affiliated with the MEK.
- Identify leads with subjects or locations having ties to Hamas, Hezbollah, PIJ, MEK, or the Alavi Foundation.

An excellent use of taxpayer dollars!

Granted, this document was written in 2006, so the NYPD's profiling priorities may have been improved in the interim six years. But I wonder. When such prominent New Yorkers as Michael Mukasey and Rudy Giuliani joined the MEK speaking tour (technically committing material support for terrorism under Holder v. HLP) did the NYPD start collecting intelligence on them, too?

In any case, the NYPD's belated decision to profile a designated terrorist organization at the time when they were deemed not to pose a threat sure embodies the kind of idiotic decisions that appear to lie behind the CIA-on-the-Hudson's intelligence program.