

MEK

Question: Why did the MEK – which is a designated FTO – sign a cease-fire agreement with the Coalition forces, and was treated differently from other terrorist groups?

Answer:

- Initially, the MEK signed a cease-fire agreement to allow the combatant commander time to assess the situation while keeping MEK under control and surveillance, and await policy guidance for this large and diverse group. Policy Guidance Message 17 changed the status of the group to surrender, and thus placed them under US control.
- The status of all the members of the group is not known. Some have been supporting the Fedayeen of Saddam as well as the acting as a security arm of the Iraqi Regime, and would thus be treated as enemy combatants. Some are family members and civilians. Each has to be processed under Geneva Convention Article 5 to determine their status and maintain under US control. Once the status of each has been determined, and determined to be a member of MEK, they will be treated as terrorists like other terrorist organizations. So we have been treating all terrorist organizations consistently.

Question: There are reports that this group is not really a terrorist organization and that they have been trying to overthrow the Iranian regime and claim are democratic in nature.

Answer:

- The MEK is responsible for killing Americans in 1978 (although there are no outstanding US indictments against them).
- They have also worked with Saddam's regime and security forces in squashing the 1992 Shi'a uprising in the South as well as the Kurds, and have thus been responsible for the killing of many Iraqi Shi'as and Kurds.
- The MEK (and its military arm the NLA, its political arm the National Council of Resistance of Iran- NCRI) was a charter member of the first US list of foreign terrorist organizations in 1997 and have remained on that list since.