

# **Iranian Regime's Spy Arrested in Germany**

*Agent of Ministry of Intelligence & Security  
Indicted for Spying on Mojahedin*

Representative Office of  
the National Council of Resistance of Iran - Washington, DC  
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## **Introduction**

It has been more than a month since a Berlin court began hearing the case of a terrorist dispatched by the mullahs' regime to spy on the Iranian Resistance. Hamid Khorsand was ordered several years ago by the Iranian Intelligence Ministry to establish contact with supporters of the People's Mojahedin Organization, Iran's largest and most effective opposition movement. He took part in some of the opposition's activities and reported on them to the Ministry.

In subsequent years, Khorsand tried to establish closer contacts with the Iranian Resistance by going to the NCR's representative office in Cologne. The bid failed, due to his suspicious background and conduct, and he returned to Berlin.

The information provided by Khorsand, a veteran of the regime's fanatic forces, was used to plan terrorist assassinations of Mojahedin officials.

The following excerpts have been taken from the first ten sessions of the trial, ongoing in January 2000. The judge and the Federal Prosecutor, Mr. Bruno Jost, also acted as magistrate and prosecutor in the infamous Mykonos trial, in which several of the regime's intelligence agents as well as top officials in Tehran were convicted of planning and executing the Mafiastyle assassination of four Kurdish dissidents in the Mykonos restaurant in Berlin in 1993.

## **The Indictment**

The indictment presented on the opening day of the trial by the Federal Prosecutor described the methods used by the accused to infiltrate the community of Mojahedin supporters, citing extensive evidence of espionage and even naming Khorsand's contacts in the Iranian Intelligence Ministry. The charges focused on Khorsand's actions from 1997 to 1999, in particular his contacts and ties with the regime in 1999. According to the indictment, the Iranian Intelligence Ministry had instructed Khorsand to infiltrate the ranks of the National Liberation Army of Iran, in order to strike at the movement from within. On at least two occasions, Khorsand received a total sum of DM 12,500 from the Intelligence Ministry.

The indictment issued by the German Prosecutor General's office reads in part:

“Hamid Khorsand, an unmarried Iranian national... resident of Berlin, is accused of spying, from 1995 to his arrest, for the Iranian Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS). He was assigned by this ministry to conduct surveillance and to spy on the organizational structure of the People’s Mojahedin Organization and National Council of Resistance of Iran, as well as their members and activities.

“The Mojahedin, one of the largest and most significant Iranian opposition groups ... struggling against the Iranian regime, have a ‘national liberation army’ which launches military strikes against the Iranian regime from Iraqi territory...

“His initial activities were directed by an agent of the Intelligence Ministry~attached to the Iranian Consulate in Berlin. Subsequent to the expulsion of this agent in April 1997 in the wake of the Mykonos trial, the accused was directed by telephone from Tehran by an individual named ‘Seyyed’ ..

The indictment states that in the course of some of these telephone conversations, it became apparent that “Seyyed” had traveled to Germany to coordinate espionage and terrorist operations, and had given the telephone number of the person accompanying him to the agent.

In his telephone conversations with Khorsand, the Intelligence Ministry official repeatedly insists that Khorsand get closer to the Mojahedin, by any means necessary, and constantly criticizes him for his inability to do so. In response to “Seyyed’s” demands that he increases his ties with the Resistance’s office in Cologne and provides more information to the Intelligence Ministry, Hamid Khorsand repeatedly replies:

“Nothing will come from Cologne.

### **Trial Testimony by Representatives of German Security & Criminal Police**

What follows are excerpts translated from the testimonies by two officials from the German security services during the trial of Hamid Khorsand, an agent of the clerical regime’s Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS), currently underway in Berlin. In its ninth session, on December 28, 1999, the Berlin trial heard testimony from representatives of the German Constitutional Criminal Office (i.e. security police) of Berlin and Cologne. The presiding judge questioned the police officials on how the spying had been discovered, the contacts of the accused with the Iranian Intelligence Ministry, who was directing the espionage, Khorsand’s relationship with other terrorists, what objectives he sought, and what training he had undergone for his mission.

## **Berlin Security and Criminal Police Official Testifies**

Magistrate: Can you tell us what you know about Khorsand and your relationship with him?

Witness: In December 1995, we were taping this person's conversations, when we became aware that an individual by the name of Moradi was contacting him. Moradi telephoned him once or twice and left messages on Khorsand's answering machine. Moradi is an agent of the regime...

Magistrate: Do you know when Moradi was expelled from Germany?

Witness. On April 10, 1997. Information about that is available in the Criminal Office... In September 1995, we began tapping Hamid Khorsand's telephone. In 1997, he acquired a cell phone. We also put a tap on that phone, and became aware that he was in contact with an individual called "Saeed" in the Intelligence Ministry in Tehran. We could not, of course, ascertain the identity of "Saeed," but we do have the content of his conversations with Khorsand.

Magistrate: What do you conclude from these contacts about the Iranian regime?

Witness: We learned that Khorsand is a trained intelligence agent....

**Magistrate:** Was anyone else, other than Moradi, in contact with him?

Witness: Yes, it is known he was in contact with Darabi. A person by the name of Stephen Kragar conveyed Darabi's greetings to Khorsand.

Magistrate: Other than taking part in the incident at Mainz and contacts with Darabi, was anyone else in contact with Khorsand?

Witness: During the time that Darabi lived on Dortmund Street, Khorsand lived close by and they were in contact. It became apparent to us that after the Mykonos trial, the Iranian regime's agents were being very careful. The Intelligence Ministry changed its methods of communication; most now used cell phones and were in direct contact with Iran. In April 1997 they used pay phones..

Magistrate: Are you convinced that that the Intelligence Ministry's methods changed after the Mykonos trial, or did the people who worked for it, change?

Witness: No, for years, the Iranian regime had been watching its dissidents and appeared very sensitive about them. It was constantly tracking down opposition activists. For example, a telephone conversation between "Saeed" and Khorsand about Leila (Mojahedin official Mahin Afshar) demonstrated to us that they were all really intent on following up on opposition activists, their community, and their organizational network.

Magistrate: The Mojahedin Organization has told us that its activities are open. Is that so? Doesn't this make your office's job a bit easier?

Witness: Yes. For example, Khatami's trips to France and Italy, or the demonstration at the [World Cup] soccer match in Paris [sic.]. What is important to the Iranian regime, however, is obtaining information on the organizational network and who is in charge.

Magistrate: In the opinion of the German security agency, what objectives is the Iranian regime pursuing with these activities?

Witness: We are concerned about preserving and protecting the lives of foreign nationals. We cannot permit the regime to threaten the Mojahedin....

Magistrate: Was the accused trying only to gather information for the Iranian Intelligence Ministry, or was he also pursuing other-objectives?

Witness: We have understood from our experience with Mykonos that the Iranian regime's agents do not simply gather information; this information is used to carry out terrorist operations against the opposition....

## **Representative of Cologne's Security & Criminal Police Office Takes the Stand**

Magistrate: You have been asked to testify in the case of Hamid Khorsand. From your own perspective, tell us about the accused.

Witness: Our office in Cologne received reports from Berlin, asking us to investigate Khorsand. These investigations revealed that he was in contact with the Iranian embassy in Bonn.

Magistrate: Do you know an individual by the name of Moradi?

Witness: Yes, I-Iassan Moradi Shabestari came to Germany in 1993, and until 1997 worked as Deputy Consul in Berlin. In relation to the Mykonos trial, he had numerous contacts with various individuals. Moradi was among the four persons for whom Germany issued expulsions. Another

person was active in Frankfurt, and another in Bonn. It is our opinion that Hamid Khorsand was actively engaged in espionage, and was in direct contact with the Intelligence Ministry in Iran~ ..

Magistrate: Is your department aware of a change in the methods of the Iranian Intelligence Ministry?

Witness: Prior to the Mykonos trial, numerous people who were Iranian Intelligence Ministry officers worked on the administrative staff of the Iranian embassy in Gennany. For example, in

Bonn, the third floor of the embassy was transferred to Iran after the Mykonos trial. They conduct their activities abroad from Iran in a centralized manner. They do so by telephone, by direct contact, or through third party countries.

**Presiding Magistrate:** What do you mean by “third party countries”?

**Witness:** **The most important** is Turkey, then countries of southeast Asia.

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**Magistrate:** After reviewing Khorsand’s passport, we learned that he had traveled to Malaysia. Is Malaysia one of these “third party countries”?

Witness: Yes. These countries are considered secure for contacts.

**Presiding Magistrate:** Did the regime’s Intelligence Ministry alter its agenda in the wake of the Mykonos affair?

Witness: In my opinion, that is not the case. The regime’s primary target is the Mojahedin. The Mojahedin are the most active opposition force, and seek to overthrow the regime through warfare. Naturally, the Mojahedin are targeted by the regime more than anyone else.

**Magistrate:** We have heard from various witnesses that the Mojahedin conducts its activities openly. How do they become the object of espionage?

Witness: The Mojahedin have 30 years of experience struggling against the Shah. They have been very active. In general, they oppose the regime through military operations. They also confronted the Shah militarily. After the revolution, under Khomeini, their struggle continued, and still does today.

We must bear in mind that in Europe, the organization seeks to carry on publicity campaigns **or activities that expose the regime. For example, they use** the trips by Iranian officials to Europe to stage demonstrations that expose the regime and bring about its censure. Next year, when Khatami plans to visit Germany, we can expect to see this sort **of** demonstration.

The Iranian Intelligence Ministry is interested in gathering information about these activities. For example, for them, for the regime, the egg-throwing incidents [targeting the mullahs’ officials abroad] are crucial. The Iranian Intelligence agency even wants to know exactly how many loudspeakers they will use, how they will stage these demonstrations, so that it can spoil them. More than anything else, it wants to know who are the organizers **for these** events.

This organization has people working 24 hours a day, and it has been waging this struggle for 30 years. They know exactly what they are doing, and they are very committed. These sort of people are very important to the Iranian Intelligence Ministry.

For example, through Hamid Khorsand they wanted to conduct surveillance on a person named Leila in Germany, and even to assassinate her. Just like they did in Turkey, when they conducted surveillance on a woman named Rajabi and her companion, and then assassinated them. The Mojahedin have a headquarters in Iraq, where they undergo military training. The regime attacks them from Iran, and bombards their bases.

Magistrate: Other than the Iranian Ministry of Intelligence, do you know of any other organization that spies on the opposition?

Witness: The activities targeting the opposition in Western countries are carried out by MOIS. Other agencies have other tasks. For example, the Revolutionary Guards Corps is engaged in military incidents in other countries, such as Iraq and Turkey, as well as Afghanistan. We consider the Intelligence Ministry as definitely the instrument of espionage. A

Magistrate: You mentioned telephone conversations. Can you tell us how such contacts are made?

Witness: Yes, sometimes by means of the network of telephone lines, using pay phones. In this way the spy chooses a number of telephone booths from which to call his contact in Tehran at the office. Fax machines are also used.

Magistrate: Which methods are better for your work, better for your progress?

Witness: A person thinks, the Iranian Intelligence Ministry thinks that cell phones cannot be tapped. (Laughter.) The Iranian Intelligence Ministry is obsessed with surveillance of the Mojahedin, and the Mojahedin Organization tries its utmost to wage a political campaign throughout Europe. Which is why it is the only Iranian organization active in political circles such as the G-8 Summit. It is also very active at the parliamentary level. The Iranian government is trying to strike back at the Mojahedin. The Mojahedin have a lot of contacts in the media, and• are in close communication with the press. They provide the press with lots of interesting infornjtion. They have even given the press the names of many of the regime's spies.