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Charges brought against 8 royalists were announced by the military prosecutor

The trial of 8 persons arrested and charged with activities against national security and distributing publications injurious thereto, unlawful transfer overseas of foreign currency and assisting people to flee started yesterday morning in the revolutionary court-martial presided by Hojatoleslam Mohammadi Reyshahri.

The trial began with the presentation of the indictment against the accused, as follows:

A. The identity of the defendants

1. Javad HIRAD, son of Morteza, holder of birth certificate no. 114 issued in Mashad, born in Mashad in 1950, building construction contractor, arrested in Sept. 29, 1981;
2. Mahmoud DARVISH (alias Doctor Pendar), son of Abdolnabi, holder of birth certificate no. 852 issued in Noshahr, born in Noshahr in 1929, lecturer at Abureyhan University before he was dismissed from office, arrested in April 26, 1982;
3. Colonel Iraj KEYVANMANESH (alias Mohandes Javadi), son of Nemat, holder of birth certificate no. 246 issued in Mashhad, born in 1938; the defendant has been a military deserter since March 4, 1980, was arrested in May 9, 1982;
4. Javad AMIRI, son of Mehdi, holder of birth certificate no. 1352 issued in Tehran, born in Tehran in 1949, arrested in April 26, 1982;
5. Attaollah SHAHIDI, son of Mehdi, holder of birth certificate no. 886 issued in Tehran, born in Tehran in 1946, arrested in April 27, 1982;
6. Mahmoud ROUHBAKHSH (alias Dr. Kheirandish), son of Javad, holder of birth certificate no. 13976 issued in Kerman, born in Kerman in 1927, worked at University of Science and Industry (*Elm-o Sana'at*) before he was dismissed, arrested in April 26, 1982;
7. Esmail BOZORGMEHR, son of Mahmoud, holder of birth certificate no. 336, issued in Mashhad, born in Mashad in 1933, retired pensioner of the ministry of education, arrested in March 29, 1982; and
8. Homa SHARIFIAN (alias Mrs. Esmaili), daughter of Kazem, holder of birth certificate no. 34336 issued in Neyshabour, born in

Neyshabour in 1949, former employee of the ministry of education, arrested in March 29, 1982.

B. Charges

Carrying out activities against national security aimed at overthrowing the Islamic Republic.

C. Background

In the Spring of 1979, Reza Mazlouman, former deputy of the Ministry of Education (in the era of the old demon [*taghut*]) and a university lecturer, along with a number of other lecturers associated with the loathed old regime were dismissed. Mazlouman is known for his anti-Islam anti Qoran views. In May-June 1979 when political groups had free rein to behave as they pleased, Mazlouman and a number of other individuals created a group called the "Society for the Defense of the Dignity and Rights of the Academics" (henceforth, the "**Group**") under the guise of furthering the common interests of its members, i.e. the faculty staff. The Group were monarchist to all intents and purposes and their main objective was to defy the Islamic Republic.

The Group received funds from **Shariatmadari**

The Group met twice a week initially in the premises of the **National Front** and later in the headquarters of the **Muslim People's Republic Party (MPRP)**. While they used the facilities of MPRP as a venue for their meetings, a group of dismissed lecturers led by Reza Mazlouman paid a visit to **Shariatmadari** in Qom, during which Mazlouman berated the Assembly of Experts (*Majlis-e khobregan*), the constitution [of the Islamic Republic], the Guardianship of the Islamic Jurist (*velayat-e faqih*) and what he purported to constitute a monopoly of power; he also raised the termination of employment of faculty members. It has been said that Shariatmadari tacitly backed the congregation and supported them with a donation of one-hundred thousand Toman.

After the MPRP was disbanded [in 1980] the Group continued to meet clandestinely in the houses of the Group members and/or their offices. In an effort to inflate the number of groups that opposed the Islamic Republic, the Group published and distributed their announcements under different names ranging from the "Children of Lion and Sun" (*farzandan-e shir-o-khorshid*), "Oath" (*sogand*), "Revenge" (*entegham*), the "Grail" (*Jaam*), "Kaveh Ahangar" (Kaveh Ahangar is a legendary figure, a blacksmith who launched a national uprising against the evil foreign tyrant *Zahāk*), the "Bloody Iran" (*Iran-e khoonin*), "Myrmidons of the Homeland" (*janbazan-e mihan*), etc. They hired thugs and mercenaries to distribute their publications.

Association with the Criminal **Oveissi**

The Group came into direct contact with Oveissi about that time. Mazlouman, who led the Group, was in close and constant contact with the betrayer

deserter Colonel Mansour Gerayoli (Oveissi's fully authorized representative in Iran).

After Mazlouman became a subject of prosecution, he went into hiding in the house of some of the members of the Group before he fled and left Iran unlawfully, leaving Mr. Javad Hirad as his representative.

Mr. Hirad maintained his contact with Mazlouman through Dr. Bozorgmehr and his wife, Homa Sharifian, and the Group continued their activities until they were arrested.

Unlawful transfer overseas of persons and foreign currency

Of the other undertakings of the Group was the unlawful transfer of persons through the border with Turkey and Pakistan by Karim Kiafar and Dr. Mahmoud Rouhbakhsh (alias Kheirandish), and the transfer overseas of foreign currency by Bozorgmehr and his spouse (alias Mr. and Mrs. Esmaili). On a few occasions certain members of the Group procured weapons. Charges related to this count shall be disclosed separately for each defendant.

Importantly, the Group became affiliated with "Neghab" organization at the time of the Coup through Dr. Mahmoud Darvish (alias Pendar). The Group constituted the academic arm of the Coup. As Khalil Darvish and Manouchehr Ghorbanifar were the only links between the Group and the said organization and of those two, one had perished and the other remains a fugitive, the Group remained intact until after Khalil Darvish was arrested and Dr. Mahmoud Darvish made a confession.

Charges brought against each defendant

Several Counts of Charges were brought against each defendant as follows:

A. Javad HIRAD (the first defendant)

1. Active participation in the Group's work including making his office premises available to Mazlouman as the Group's meeting place;
2. Assuming responsibility for publishing documents on behalf of the Group, the declarations and attitudes of the publications were insulting towards the leader of the revolution and the authorities of the Islamic Republic (see pages 7,8, 17, 45, 49, 65, 82, 83,119);
3. Recruiting new members for the Group including hiring motard assigned to distribute the Group's fabricated publications (see pages 9,30, 68,89, 90);
4. Procuring two Colt revolvers and making them available to the perished Tavakoli for Group-related operations (see pages 19 and 96), procuring a G3 rifle and providing a Colt revolver that was delivered to Rouhbakhsh (see Page 18);

5. Unlawful possession of a revolver kept at the defendant's home
6. Procuring a list of weapons and ammunition and TNT;
7. Receiving money from Mazlouman and, after he fled, from persons who were in contact with Mazlouman to be used in the operations carried out by the Group; the funds amounted to nearly 1,650,000 Rials (see pages 22, 44, 63, 71, 110);
8. Giving a Colt revolver to Mazlouman (see pages 8 and 36) and taking action to procure a weapon for Iraj Keyvanmanesh (see pages 112 and 129). The defendant was very fond of the dissolved SAVAK, always sang the praise of the organization and considered its work a valuable service to the country (see pages 7 & 9).

B. Mahmoud DARVISH (the second defendant)

1. Active participation in the Group;
2. Participation in the Coup and acting as the link between the academics and "Neghab" (see pages 55, 56, 19, 30, 44, 52, 53, 54, 60 and 68);
3. Publication of the Group's literature together with Mazlouman and co-writing anti-revolutionary documents insulting Islam and its sanctities the aim of which was to overthrow the Islamic Republic;
4. Introducing Shoja DARVISH (now perished) to Hiran for participating in the operations and unlawful leaving the country (see pages 8, 9, 104, 44, 34, 100);
5. Distribution of the Group's literature, staying in touch with Mazlouman (now a fugitive residing in Paris) by telephone or in writing.

C. Iraj KEYVANMANESH (the third defendant)

1. Active participation in the Group;
2. Introducing Javad Hiran to Mazlouman in relation to the Group, publishing and distributing the declarations of the Group, finding venues for Mazlouman and himself where they could work undercover (see pages 2, 3, 5, 9, 11, 13, 21, 44, 56);
3. Establishing contact with dismissed and active officers in the armed forces to form the military arm of the Group (see pages 11, 12, 15, 36, 39, 40 to 42);
4. In charge of summoning persons who would distribute the Group's literature; he contacted a significant number of people who engaged themselves in working with the Group and have practically worked with the Group (see pages 7, 12, 49);
5. Preparing a list of officers who would constitute the military division of the Group and making the list available to Mazlouman (see pages 15, 16);

6. Asking for a weapon from Hiran, which was made available to him; purchasing an IBM type-writer for the Group to be used in preparing material to be published on behalf the Group (see pages 4, 19, 51);
7. Being in Possession of a Colt revolver (20,36,37);
8. Asking for bullets for his weapon and receiving them from Hiran (see pages 20, 36);
9. Illegal transfer overseas of USD 4,000 and sending it to the USA (see page 24).

D. Javad AMIRI (the fourth defendant)

1. Hiding Mazlouman in his house before he fled Iran (see pages 9,10, 11,31, 32, 42, 43);
2. Illegal transfer overseas of foreign currency equivalent of 720,000 Toman and delivering it to Mazlouman and Cyrus Amouzegar in Paris (see page 29, 30, 38, 53, 54, 76, 91);
3. Financial assistance to Mazlouman through Bozorgmehr for the sum of 180,000 Toman (see pages 38, 50, 53, 54);
4. Introducing to Dr. Rouhbakhsh people smugglers for unlawful leaving of the country through the border with Pakistan, Esmail Bozorgmehr served as the intermediary(see pages 23 to 28, 54 to 57, 78, 79);
5. Establishing close relationship with Mazlouman and Amouzegar overseas and attending their meetings with a view to topple the regime;
6. Taking steps to procure a passport for Mazlouman and coordinating his flee from Iran; the plan was discovered and prevented in the airport (see pages 34, 35, 116, 82, 83);
7. Illegal transfer to overseas of GBP 10,000.

E. Attaollah SHAHIDI (the fifth defendant)

1. The defendant was aware of all the operations and plans devised by the Group; procured weapons -G3 and Colt- and made them available to Hiran (1st Defendant) to be used in the Group-related operation (see pages 7, 8, 36, 48, 49, 65, 80);
2. Making his apartment available to Mazlouman and Hiran, where they could write the Group's declarations (see pages 10, 81);
3. Hiding Hiran, who at the time was being persecuted by the prosecutor's office, in his house;

4. Making his car available to Hiraad to be used for carrying publications for distribution and meeting other members of the Group;
5. Fetching 15,000 Toman from Homa Sharifian for the release of Mazlouman from jail (see pages 16, 61).

F. Mahmoud ROUHBAKHSH (the sixth defendant)

1. Active participation in the Group's activities, publishing and distribution of the Group's announcements in the company of Mazlouman (see pages 2, 21, 26, 37, 63, 64, 82, 84);
2. Participating in Mazlouman's meetings with other Group members (see pages 35, 38) and involving his wife in typing the material prepared by the Group for publication (see pages 22, 26);
3. Making arrangements for persons to flee the country through the border with Pakistan and fetching 300,000 Toman on account of the operation (see pages 45 to 52, 60 to 63 and 73 to 76 and 78 to 94);
4. Opening a bank account under the instruction by Mazlouman; the account was to be used for donations made to the Group (see pages 35, 36);
5. Attending the meetings held in the house of Bozorgmehr after Mazlouman fled Iran, in order to reactivate the Group; other participants of those meetings were Hiraad, Bozorgmehr, his spouse, Darvish and Asgari (see pages 2, 44, 73 and 85);
6. Obtaining a revolver from Hiraad and 100,000 Toman from the Group (see pages 29, 30, 37).

G. Bozorgmehr (the seventh defendant)

1. Joining a group with the intention to overthrow the Islamic Republic (see pages 95, 96, 206);
2. Continued his liaison with Mazlouman after he fled the country (see pages 103, 104, 108, 172);
3. Continued political activities and participated in the procurement of the material published by the Group as described above (see pages 105 and 106);
4. Assisted in facilitating person's illegal departure from Iran (see page 106);
5. Assisted in illegal transfer overseas of foreign currency (see pages 108, 109, 164).

H. Homa SHARIFIAN [Mrs.] (the eight defendant)

1. Active participation in the Group, including giving shelter to Mazlouman in her house and attending to his needs while in hiding;
2. Typing addresses on envelopes sent out to the recipients of the Group's announcements and other written material;
3. Financial assistance of 10,000 Toman to Mazlouman before he fled Iran;
4. disseminating anti-government rumours against the Islamic Republic (pages 54, 55, 69, 93);
5. The defendant was in charge of Mazlouman's financial matters in relation to the Group's expenses; she was Mazlouman's treasurer and the custodian the funds on which Mazlouman withdrew as and when needed (see page 94);
6. Contacting Mazlouman in Paris in relation to Rouhbakhsh and Djala Golabtoonkar (see pages 26, 54, 96);
7. Sponsoring the release of Hiran with 15,000 Toman paid to that end (see pages 79, 80, 92);
8. The defendant endeavoured to re-organize the group after Mazlouman fled; to that end she organized meetings in her house (see pages 53, 54, 56, 97);
9. Facilitated the establishment of contact by telephone between Mazlouman and other members of the Group (see page 53, 54, 56, 97).

Having regard to the charges brought against each defendant, the prosecutor seized the Court and asked for a final decision to be made for each defendant and a religious verdict to be delivered for each.

After the indictment was read out Javad Hiran, Mahmoud Darvish, Captain Iraj Keyvanmenesh, respectively the first, the second and the third defendants, presented their defence. The trial was adjourned and the next hearing was declared to be held tomorrow (Wednesday).