



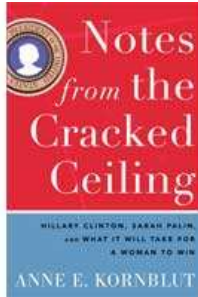
Masters in Diplomacy
Earn a Masters in Diplomacy Online at Norwich University.

University of Phoenix
Earn Your Degree Online Or On Campus. Learn How Today!

Ads by Google

Advertisers:
advertise on this site

Notes from the Cracked Ceiling



Acclaimed White House correspondent Anne Kornblut discusses Hillary Clinton, Sarah Palin, and what it will take for a woman to become president. Essential reading for anyone who cares about politics and the limits for women that persist.
[Read more...](#)

Advertise here



Nicholas Thompson on the Cold War and American Grand Strategy



The author of *The Hawk and the Dove*: Paul Nitze, George Kennan, and the History of the Cold War discusses the Cold War, American grand strategy, and the roots of containment.

Daniel Levy and Jim Gerstein on a New Poll of Israeli Attitudes



New America Foundation/Middle East Task Force Director Daniel Levy and pollster Jim Gerstein discuss a new survey of Israeli attitudes toward Obama, Netanyahu, and the peace process.

Amjad Atallah and Brian Katulis Discuss U.S. Policy in the Middle East

ADVERTISE | SEND FEEDBACK OR TIPS | CONTACT DETAILS | SEARCH THE WASHINGTON NOTE

Home | RSS | About | Archives | Published | Recommended

Support The Washington Note

[Make A Donation](#)

Using PayPal

New America Foundation Banned Organization In Iran - TWICE

[Share / Recommend](#) - [Comment](#) - [Print](#) - Wednesday, Jan 06 2010, 1:53AM



Now, this has to be one of the strangest round-ups of organizations I have seen in a long time -- organizations considered by Iran's Ministry of Intelligence to be trouble-makers inside Iran and thus "blacklisted." Here is the [Iranian source](#) -- as well as a comprised list of translated organizations from [Laura Rozen](#) and [Neo-Resistance](#). (hat tip to [Enduring America](#))

My shop, the [New America Foundation](#), where I run the foreign policy/national security group, has the dubious distinction of being listed TWICE.

What's strange about this is that in my own writing and commentary, I have continued to be a proponent of engagement with Iran, despite its electoral convulsions, though I have also stated strongly that the people in the streets deserve our respect and the support of American civil society, if not explicit support from the US government -- which I think would be a mistake.

My colleague, [Flynt Leverett](#), who publishes the [Race for Iran](#) blog, has been a stronger proponent than I have of serious US-Iran engagement and was among a number of Americans who

had dinner with President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad when he was in New York at the UN General Assembly in the fall of 2009.

Others who comment on Iran within the shop I run are [Parag Khanna](#), [Afshin Molavi](#), and occasionally [Steve Coll](#). Molavi and Khanna would probably be in the streets if they could be -- and Steve Coll is extremely judicious and balanced, hearing all sides of the debate about Iran's electoral mess and the significant US national security priority of working to get Iran off a nuclear weapons track.

Here is the roster of the top 60 blacklisted organizations. I want to thank the Iranian Intelligence Ministry for making sure that the [New America Foundation](#) was in good company on this roster. It's probably a good list to be on -- but it won't affect my shop's view that we must still configure a serious, new strategic approach with Iran, something the Obama team has as of yet failed to do.

Here is the roster:

1. Soros Foundation -- Open Society
2. Woodrow Wilson Center
3. Freedom House
4. National Endowment for Democracy (NED)
5. National Democratic Institute (NDI)
6. International Republican Institute (IRI)
7. Institute for Democracy in East Europe (EEDI)
8. Democracy Center in East Europe (CDEE)
9. Ford Foundation
10. Rockefeller Brothers Foundation
11. Hoover Institute at Stanford University
12. Hivos Foundation, Netherlands
13. Menas, U.K.
14. United Nations Association (USA)
15. Carnegie Foundation
16. Wilton Park, U.K.
17. Search for Common Ground (SFCG)
18. Population Council
19. Washington Institute for Near East Policy
20. Aspen Institute
21. American Enterprise Institute
22. **New America Foundation**
23. Smith Richardson Foundation
24. German Marshall Fund (US, Germany and Belgium)
25. International Center on Nonviolent Conflict
26. Abdolrahman Boroumand Foundation
27. Yale University
28. Meridian Center
29. Foundation for Democracy in Iran
30. International Republican Institute [again --- see 6]
31. National Democratic Institute [again --- see 5]
32. American Initiative Institute (?)
33. Institute of Democracy in Eastern Europe
34. American Aid Center (?)
35. International Trade Center
36. American Center for International Labor Solidarity
37. International Center for Democracy Transfer
38. Community of Democracies (?)
39. Albert Einstein Institute
40. Global Movement for Democracy
41. The Democratic Youth Network
42. Democracy Information and Communication Technology Group
43. International Movement of Parliamentarians for Democracy 44. ???
45. RIGA Institute
46. The Berkman Center for Internet and Society at Harvard Law School
47. Council on Foreign Relations
48. Foreign Policy Committee, Germany
49. Middle East Media Research Institute (described as an Israeli institute)
50. Centre for Democracy Studies, U.K.
51. Meridian Institute [again --- see 28]
52. Yale University and all its affiliates [again --- see 27]
53. National Defense University, U.S.
54. Iran Human Rights Documentation Center
55. American Center FLENA (active in Central Asia)
56. Committee on the Present Danger
57. Brookings Institution
58. Saban Center, Brookings Institution
59. Human Rights Watch
60. **New America Foundation** [again --- see 22]

Note to Iran's list-makers. You forgot the [Heritage Foundation](#), the [Cato Institute](#), the [Hudson Institute](#), and [CSIS](#) -- which I figure all probably want to be added to the list.

You can give New America's extra slot, well, to [CSIS](#).

Seriously, this kind of roster is an idiotic gesture by Iran's not so intelligent intelligence establishment as it is implied that Iranians in contact with these organizations will be committing criminal offenses. Let's remember that President Ahmadinejad himself spoke at the [Council on Foreign Relations](#) two years ago.



Center for American Progress Senior Fellow Brian Katulis discusses the need for a new strategic approach to the Middle East that goes beyond the outmoded, 30-year old framework established at Camp David.

More videos are available on the [Video Archives Page](#)



The Washington Note is now a member of the Political Insiders advertising network: [Find out more...](#)

[VA Loan](#) and [VA Refinance](#) Information from [VA Mortgage Center](#)

-- Steve Clemons

« [Previous Article](#) - [Losing Smith Bagley](#)

Reader Comments (7) - post a comment

Posted by Anthony, Jan 06 2010, 4:27AM - [Link](#)

Like everything they have been doing these past few months its a desperate attempt at waging terror on the public.

Posted by Paul Norheim, Jan 06 2010, 6:57AM - [Link](#)

I fully understand your outrage, Steve. On the other hand, when American intelligence puts Cuba on the new extra screening list for airline passengers, together with Afghanistan, Somalia, Yemen, Sudan, and, yes, Iran - why be surprised when Iranian intelligence blacklists all kinds of organizations?

By the way, on Christmas eve, The New York Times published a belligerent op-ed recommending a military attack on Iran. Today, perhaps in an attempt to be perceived as balanced, they publish an op-ed by the Leverett couple - where they dismiss those who expect a regime change created through the inner turmoil in the country. The article provides ample evidence of the mistake of blacklisting the New America Foundation - just like Anya Landau French's articles proved the stupidity of putting Cuba on the list of potential Jihadist terrorists.

The essence of the Leveretts piece:

" Clearly, comparisons of the Ashura protests to the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, projecting a cascade of monumental consequences to follow, are fanciful. The Islamic Republic will continue to be Iran's government. And, even if there were changes in some top leadership positions — such as the replacement of Mr. Ahmadinejad as president by Ali Larijani, the speaker of the Parliament, as some Westerners speculate — this would not fundamentally change Iran's approach on regional politics, its nuclear program and other matters of concern.

The Obama administration's half-hearted efforts at diplomacy with Tehran have given engagement a bad name. As a result, support for more coercive options is building across the American political spectrum. The president will do a real disservice to American interests if he waits in vain for Iranian political dynamics to "solve" the problems with his Iran policy.

As a model, the president would do well to look to China. Since President Richard Nixon's opening there (which took place amid the Cultural Revolution), successive American administrations have been wise enough not to let political conflict — whether among the ruling elite or between the state and the public, as in the Tiananmen Square protests and ethnic separatism in Xinjiang — divert Washington from sustained, strategic engagement with Beijing. President Obama needs to begin displaying similar statesmanship in his approach to Iran."

More here:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/06/opinion/06leverett.html>

Posted by Paul Norheim, Jan 06 2010, 7:29AM - [Link](#)

Steve,

I suggest that you write a new post - related to this one - highlighting the Leverett article in NYT in connection with the blacklisting of the New America Foundation.

Just a thought...

Posted by Charles Buell, Jan 06 2010, 9:38AM - [Link](#)

Steve:

Thanks for noting the duplication within the list. Really surprised at inclusion of Search for Common Ground.

One question: Why didn't your opening paragraph express the sentiments you made in the closing one? That would really underline the haste and lack of thought that went into its compilation and by extension, the panic that the Iranian leadership is going through.

Best,
Charlie Buell
Norwich, VT

(The url indicated does not necessarily endorse the opinions above, it is just for identification.)

Posted by PissedOffAmerican, Jan 06 2010, 9:56AM - [Link](#)

Who the hell knows what kinds of assholes compile these lists? Although I hardly agree with Michael Savage's insane blatherings, its truly bizarre that the UK has banned him from entering, and included him on a list of murderers and terrorists.

Personally, I'd like to be able to compose such a list for my own neighborhood. Theres a propane delivery truck driver I'd like banned, and some jackass down the street keeps taking one or the other of my dogs hostage when they show up, calling me on the phone number listed on their collar tags, and saying "I've got your dog". Never mind the fact he lives three houses

away, and Louie or Jake are just cruizin' through on a walk-about. Can I ban him???

Then, of course, there's the Little Lord Fauntreloy head of the Homeowners Association, but really, I'm not sure I'd put him on the banned list, I think he might belong on the cruise missile list.

Posted by questions, Jan 06 2010, 10:31AM - [Link](#)

Perhaps you could demand to be listed THREE times?!

When you end up on a "banned" list, take it as a badge of honor. You've been noted, you've gotten under someone's skin. Not bad for a day's work. And you've done it twice!

Seriously, though, what a sign of a regime's feeling the heat.

Posted by JohnH, Jan 06 2010, 11:22AM - [Link](#)

Well, you might take consolation in the fact that 500,000 people, probably mostly Americans, are on the "terrorist watch list," all without recourse to any courts. Who knows, maybe even some of the folks at NAF are on it without their knowledge?

The Iranian government is definitely weird--kind of like the US government.

Leave a comment:


Your Name (required)

Your Email Address (required)
 - only for verification, not for display or any other use.

URL

Remember personal info for next time?

Your Comments (required)

Captcha:


Type the characters you see in the picture above.

