

Dialogue of murder

A cautionary tale that must not be forgotten

By Cyrus Kadivar
January 26, 2003
The Iranian

The brutal assassination of Ali Tavakoli and his son Noureldeen on October 2, 1987 shocked and intimidated the Iranian community. Both men were active monarchists and had been found shot in their own home. After that anti-regime demonstrations dwindled to a mere few. Their murderers were released a few years later. Dozens of other opponents were murdered or injured in Rome, Istanbul, Karachi and Dubai.

The scope of the terrorist activities launched against individual organisations opposed to the clerical regime and nationals of other countries took place at an alarming rate and coincided with Hashemi Rafsanjani's rise to power as the President of the Islamic republic and the European Union's eagerness to "improve commercial and political ties" with the "moderate elements" in the Islamic regime.

Despite the complications caused by the late Khomeini's fatwa against the author Salman Rushdie, the EU and Iran continued their "critical dialogue" at the expense of Iranian opposition leaders who now lived in daily fear of assassination.

<http://www.iranian.com/CyrusKadivar/2003/January/Murder/1.html>

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Except:

On December 7, 1979, Prince Shahriar Shafiq, the Shah's nephew, Princess Ashraf's second son, was walking on a Parisian street carrying groceries home to his sister's apartment in the Rue de la Villa Dupont, a cul-de-sac in the fashionable 16th Arrondissement.

A competent officer in the Imperial Iranian Navy and a commander of the Persian Gulf fleet of Hovercraft, Prince Shafiq had fled the Islamic revolution in a pleasure boat after a dramatic chase from the port of Bandar Abbas and across the Gulf to Kuwait.

Nine months later in Paris he was busy plotting with other exiles and his contacts in the Iranian navy to spearhead a counterrevolution from Kish Island. But any hopes that he may have had for his country ended that cold afternoon when a young man, later identified as a certain Boghraie, pulled out a 9-millimeter pistol, and shot him in the back of the head.

As Shafiq fell, the gunman bent over him, fired a second bullet into his head, and then vanished among the crowd in the Rue Pergolese. In Tehran, Sadegh Khalkhali, the revolutionary judge responsible for countless executions in Iran, announced the successful operation. "We were lucky," he told reporters. "We were after his mother but got him instead."