



International Conference at the European Parliament

***Security and Safety of Camps
Ashraf and Liberty Residents***

Brussels

27 March 2013

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Preface



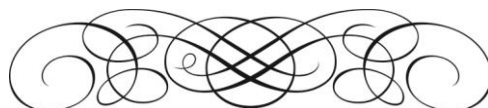
The Friends of a Free Iran (FOFI) held an international conference at the European Parliament headquarters in Brussels on March 27, 2013. The conference was entitled Security and Safety of Camps Ashraf and Liberty Residents. The conference included a number of distinguished members of the European Parliament, former senior UN and US officials, and senators and parliamentarians from other states.

Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, President-elect of the National Council of Resistance, participated in the meeting and provided the keynote speech of the event that included an update on developments at Camps Ashraf and Liberty and asked for urgent action by the EU to protect the 3,100 Iranian refugees there. She said the residents of Liberty should be transferred to the US or a European country, even on a temporary basis, or the conditions should be set for the return of the residents to the relative safety of Camp Ashraf.

The former senior UN officials and US military officers who had held various responsibilities in Ashraf and Liberty in recent years were invited and spoke as witnesses in the conference. In particular, Tahar Boumedra, Chief of the United Nations Assistance Mission in the Iraq (UNAMI) Human Rights Office, who resigned in May 2012 in protest at the conduct of UN envoy Martin Kobler, testified about the policy of the Iraqi government and the UNAMI regarding Ashraf.

The participants' talks and their follow-up discussions and exchanges were insightful and highlighted the unfair plight and unjust treatment of the Iranian refugees in Iraq because of the UN envoy Martin Kobler's incompetence. Excerpts of these talks are included in the conference proceedings before you. We hope you will find them illuminating and that they will help you to better comprehend the challenges and difficulties faced by the Camps Ashraf and Liberty residents and be inspired to more loudly echo their concerns.

The Proceedings Editors



Conference Opening Remarks

Struan Stevenson

Chair, Friends of a Free Iran Intergroup

President, European Parliament's Delegation for Relations with Iraq

Could I start by saying that yesterday I chaired a meeting of the Delegation for Relations with Iraq where we were discussing the crisis in Camp Liberty. We have a situation where Alejo Vidal-Quadras, myself and other senior members of parliament were persuaded by the UN Special Representative Martin Kobler that we should put pressure on the residents of Camp Ashraf to move to Camp Liberty, where their safety and security would be guaranteed, and where their living conditions were ideal for a Temporary Transit Location, which is what they call Camp Liberty, that they would be there for only a few short weeks, they would have a revolving door situation where UNHCR would interview them, register each individually as a refugee and they would then be quickly resettled to countries of safety.



In a year and a half after people moved into Camp Liberty, more individuals have been taken out of Camp Liberty in body bags than have been resettled. The safety and security that we guaranteed them, I was a party to this, and I feel partly responsible for this, the UN, the US and the EU guaranteed the safety and security of these 3,100 people, that was horribly breached on the 9th of February when there was a rocket attack, where more than 45 rockets fired in a tight trajectory in a professional military manner over a 15 minute period, killed eight people, dismembered 10, and wounded over 90 in a serious way.

So we have deceived these people. They're living, in the words of a Working Group from the United Nations, in prison-like conditions. The 1,500 who have already been registered as refugees

"Mr. Kobler, you have become the problem, not the solution."

have none of the rights of refugees under the UN charter. They have no freedom of movement. They have been forced to pay massive amounts of money for their own food and welfare which has to be imported from Kuwait; they're not being supplied with food, water, fuel, by the government of Iraq who adopted responsibility for their

welfare and their security. We have betrayed and deceived these people. And as you will hear from a series of speakers today, we, now, are demanding that these people be given a guarantee of security by immediately either moving them back to the relative safety of Camp Ashraf or immediately restoring and rebuilding the 17,500 concrete T-walls that were removed by the Iraqi government before the 3,100 people took residence in Camp Liberty.

You have to ask: why were these T-walls removed? They were built by the Americans to provide security from rocket and mortar attacks when the American military were occupying Camp Liberty, why were they removed? You have to ask yourself why were the body armor and hard hats which belonged to the people of Camp Liberty forced to be left behind in Camp Ashraf? Why have they not been given the right to build a concrete bunker in which they can take shelter in the

event of another rocket attack? Why have they been refused permission even to be supplied with shovels to dig trenches in which they can hide in the event of another attack? And the only conclusion I can come to, more than a month and a half since the vicious attack of 9 February, is that they are being lined up to be annihilated by the Iraqi government and their puppet masters



in Tehran. And yesterday, unbelievably, the spokesman for the EEAS, our foreign affairs service told us that “the European Union takes no responsibility for the safety and security of the people in Camp Liberty. That responsibility is entirely an issue for the Iraqi government.” I was saying to Alejo before this meeting, that is almost like telling King Herod that he will be in charge of the nursery. This is an outrage and is a stain in our credibility as a parliament.

I have here a letter from Iraqi assemblies of tribes, sheikhs and human rights societies. It says: “On behalf of 45 assemblies as well as over 100,000 citizens of Iraq whose letters and signatures are safely kept with us, we declare our demands: first of all, that Martin Kobler be replaced, and secondly, that the people in Liberty immediately be returned to the relative safety of Camp Ashraf.” One hundred thousand Iraqis have signed up to this.

So, ladies and gentlemen, for the memory of these eight people who died needlessly, and all the dozens of others who have died in the three vicious attacks that have now taken place, their blood is on our hands, our responsibility. We guaranteed the safety of the people when they moved from Ashraf to Camp Liberty. I cannot sit here in all conscience and allow any more blood to be spilled in my name and we demand action from Catherine Ashton. It is no good that she says the security and safety of these people is in the hands of the government of Iraq and we demand now that UNAMI whose sole job was to look after the security and safety of these people, they have failed miserably in that job. They should be removed from the scene all together. We don't need a replacement for UNAMI. Now it's up to UNHCR to finish the interviewing process, register all of these people as refugees, and get them out to countries of safety.

Mr. Kobler you have become the problem, not the solution.

“IN A YEAR AND A HALF AFTER PEOPLE MOVED INTO CAMP LIBERTY, MORE INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN TAKEN OUT OF CAMP LIBERTY IN BODY BAGS THAN HAVE BEEN RESETTLED.”

Maryam Rajavi

President-Elect, National Council of Resistance of Iran

Mr. President, Honorable Representatives,

I am delighted to be here and meet you at the Seat of Democracy in Europe.

We have come together at a time when the religious fascism ruling Iran is utterly weak and desperate. Overwhelming discontent has turned the Iranian society into a powder keg. The ruling clique has fragmented into hostile factions and the internal power struggle has reached an explosive stage leading up to the presidential election.

The revolution in Syria and the uprising by the people of Iraq has put the mullahs' regional alliance on the brink of collapse. Iran's rulers are terrified of the tide of change in the Middle East and the resistance's internal and international advances have exacerbated the mullahs' anxiety. To forestall its inevitable overthrow, the regime has stepped up its efforts in three different fronts.

On the one hand, it has engaged in an all-out effort to massacre the people of Syria in a bid to save the Assad dictatorship. It has also spared no effort to defend Nouri Al-Maliki, whose position is increasingly threatened by the Iraqi people's uprising.

On the other hand, it has redoubled its efforts to obtain nuclear weapons and has dragged the international community along through futile negotiations in order to buy time for this ominous program.

And most importantly, it has intensified social and political repression, taking public executions to new heights. The focal point of this suppression is to destroy a resistance movement that holds the key to change.

The February 9th attack on Liberty Prison and the killing of members of the People's Mojahedin of Iran was carried out to this end. The annihilation of the organized opposition, especially in Ashraf and Liberty, is indispensable to the regime's survival.

We are awaiting another catastrophe at any moment. While we don't know the timing, we know the location, Camp Liberty, and the victims are the 3,100 members of Resistance in this camp. In a statement on February 11th, the United States said that similar attacks would occur at any given moment. And the Iraqi government underscored that it cannot prevent similar assaults. The regime's operatives declared that they will attack again and the resistance's intelligence makes clear that more attacks by the Iranian regime, with the Iraqi government complicity, are in the offing.

What is the solution? It is clearly the transfer of all residents to the US or to a European country, albeit temporarily, from where they could be resettled in third countries. If that is not feasible,



which it seems not to be possible in a short time, the only temporary solution is to return the residents to Ashraf, which is relatively more secure.

Yet, the United States, the UN and the European Union have been promising a slow resettlement process. And when we ask what about the fate of the vast majority who will remain in Liberty and threatened by further missile and mortar attacks, they accuse us of opposing resettlement.

On May 4, 2011, following the April 8th massacre, Mr. Stevenson returned from Iraq and came to Paris, where we met for several hours. He shared with me the plan to resettle the residents in third countries. I managed to convince the residents of Ashraf to agree to this plan and since then we have undertaken a major effort to implement it. But, since 2012 and before the latest missile attack, only seven residents were accepted by third countries. Three of the eight martyrs of Feb. 9th attack were German political refugees. All that was needed was for the German embassy to renew their passports. This is the sad truth about the resettlement process.

Yet, these same countries exerted tremendous pressure on the residents to relocate to Liberty Prison by issuing repeated statements and ensuring their safety and security; you all recall Ms. Ashton's statements to this effect. This was a well-coordinated chorus to deceive the residents. After Feb. 9th, no one should expect us to be beguiled again and continue a process that would lead to another massacre. Allow me to give you an example.

In early 2012, the Iranian Resistance engaged Tirana, Washington and Geneva in order to convince the Government of Albania to accept all or a large group of the residents. Concurrently, the UNHCR and the US followed up this matter. Last November, the US representative wrote to us that Albania has accepted 210 residents. Our representatives went to Tirana in early January and met the Prime Minister. They gave him written assurances that the resistance would provide all expenses for those accepted and requested an increase in the number of residents for resettlement in Albania. The Prime Minister was favorably disposed towards the idea.



The US and Albania correctly advised us against making this development public to prevent the Iranian regime from sabotaging the effort. However, the March 15 trip to Tirana by the UN Secretary General's Special Representative for Iraq and the public announcement of the acceptance of 210 residents undermined the possibility to accept a greater number of Liberty residents by Albania. The SRSR was trying to make propaganda use of this matter in order to overshadow the Feb. 9th massacre and the urgent issue of the residents' security during the Security Council deliberations. In December, the residents' representatives provided the UN, Albania and the US with a list of those ill and those with priority in resettlement and were waiting for their transfer.

However, the situation has drastically changed after the Feb. 9th attack. The residents are not inclined to leave Liberty from a moral, political and humanitarian stand point since that would leave the overwhelming majority of their sisters and brothers under the barrage of missiles and

mortars. They want to leave Iraq along with the rest of the residents or be transferred to Ashraf where they would be relatively safer.

In the past 47 days, the Iraqi government has refrained from undertaking the minimum security measures at Liberty to reduce the number of casualties in case of further attacks:

- Returning the 17,500 T-Walls, taken out of the Camp by Iraqi forces after the residents relocated there;
- Bringing helmets, protective vests and medical equipment from Ashraf to Liberty as well as allowing the residents to engage in construction and expanding the area of the Camp.

These are the bare minimums. If it were not for the Iraqi government's evil-intentions, these steps could have been taken immediately.

Nevertheless, I asked those who are ill as well as those whose resettlement has priority, to accept the transfer to Albania despite their personal reluctance.

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Now, if Martin Kobler intends to exploit the Albania resettlement as justification for keeping the residents under more missile and mortar attacks and dictate to them this trickle-down relocation without providing security for the remaining residents, and then

accuse the residents of refusing resettlement, they are only paving the way for another massacre. No resident would accept resettlement under such terms.

If you recall, during 2012 there was orchestrated pressure on us, starting with Kobler and followed up by UN Secretary General, US Department of State, Baroness Ashton and some European countries to order the residents of Ashraf to move to Liberty prison. Not realizing that these people make their own decisions. However, when we expressed our concern about security in Liberty we were told that they ensure safety and security of the residents in Liberty which proved to be empty promises.

Once again the same orchestrated pressure has started. Martin Kobler's letters and his disgraceful remarks at the UN Security Council as well as the statements issued by the US Department of State and Baroness Ashton calling on us to order 210 people, meaning only 6% of the population, to go to Albania and 94% remain under missile and artillery. Gentlemen, it is time to understand and respect the free choice of residents of Liberty. They do not take orders. We can talk to them, make recommendation but they make their own decisions.

Martin Kobler failed to explain in the UN Security Council what happened to the safety and security of the residents which he had promised. He failed to report that Iraq refuses to implement the minimum security measures. He did not also report about the extremely poor medical condition in Camp Liberty. He further failed to say that rapid resettlement which he had promised and Temporary Transit Location is a failed project.

Instead, Kobler expects me to tell the residents of Ashraf to go to Liberty killing field and ask those who are already there to forgo their security. He wants them to be happy that a few might be resettled while others are waiting another massacre. I have told him many times that nothing is done in our movement through mere orders. If Mr. Kobler really likes the culture of orders from

above and blind obedience, let me tell him in the name of humanity to refrain from playing with the lives and liberties of human beings and forcing them to surrender to religious dictatorship. He should immediately leave and let an impartial official take his place; someone who would not be a facilitator for crime against humanity and forced eviction and would not cram 3,100 refugees in a hell hole called Liberty under the barrage of mortars and missiles without even helmets and protective vests.

“After three massacres, what I recommended to the combatants of freedom is to persevere in obtaining their rights based on the Fourth Geneva Convention and refugee laws.”

After three massacres, what I recommended to the combatants of freedom is to persevere in obtaining their rights based on the Fourth Geneva Convention and refugee laws. UNHCR’s handbook stipulates that when refugees are attacked, they must be relocated to a safer location, namely Camp Ashraf.

I call on European Parliament and great friends of the Resistance who for many years have led the campaign in defending residents of Ashraf, do their best not to allow the Ashrafies to be once again victims of such orchestrated unjust pressure.

Let me again and in no uncertain terms ask the European Union and Ms. Ashton to take urgent measures: either transfer all the residents to a European country or facilitate their return to Ashraf.

The Iranian people will always cherish the efforts by the courageous members of the European Parliament in defense of the Iranian people’s resistance, especially the combatants of freedom in Ashraf and Liberty. These efforts lay the foundation for the future enduring relations between Iran and the Europe.

I am confident that these dark days will pass like winter which is over and the spring which has already arrived. I hope like the spring of nature, the spring of freedom for the Iranian people will arrive soon and the people of Iran will establish a republic based on separation of religion and state, gender equality, respect for freedom of all regardless of their ethnicity, race, language, religion and opinion.

Thank you all very much.



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Alejo Vidal-Quadras

Vice President, European Parliament

First, I would like to offer my special welcome to the distinguished guests present here, many with long history of support and sympathy for the liberation movement in Iran. There is no doubt that the February 9th rocket attack on Camp Liberty that resulted in the death of 8 people and the wounding of about 100, was carried out by the Iranian regime with the assistance of the Iraqi government. Another such attack on Camp Liberty is highly likely. The US government has announced that such attack could happen any time and the government of Iraq has said that they are not able to prevent such attack. It is of course true because they are cooperating with the Iranian regime.



Prior to the Security Council session on Iraq on March 21 of 2013, I sent a detailed report on Camp Ashraf and Camp Liberty to the Council members on behalf of the international Committee In Search of Justice (ISJ). The reason for writing such letter, 4th of its kind, is the lack of impartiality of Martin Kobler. United Nation's envoy in Iraq has shown to be biased and unfair behaviour. The rapid relocation process has failed. Instead of deceiving the residents with the success of this process, Martin Kobler and his wife, German ambassador to Iraq, should answer this simple question. Why did they refuse to renew the passports of three of the residents who were killed as a result of the Feb. 9th rocket attack? These three were previously refugees in Germany. Why did not they transfer Hamid Rabii, one of the three who died a month later, to Germany for treatment that could have saved his life?

Martin Kobler is a barrier in solving this problem. His intentions were to close Ashraf at any cost with no regards to its consequences. An impartial court should investigate and question him for sending these 3,000 freedom loving individuals to Camp Liberty where they are extremely vulnerable to future missile attacks. As long as Martin Kobler is the United Nation's envoy to Iraq, the danger for the residents of Camp Liberty is much higher than it would be if this function were attributed to an honest, professional and objective UN official, qualities that Martin Kobler is far from enjoying. Martin Kobler is a shame for the United Nations, a shame for Germany, and a shame for Europe. I hope my words will soon arrive to him because I feel fully responsible for what I am saying. I hope one day, he will pay for his malignant behaviour and for the lives of the victims of the Iranian regime that he has failed to protect as it was his duty. I regret and request from the UN Secretary General the immediate removal of Martin Kobler from Iraq and his replacement by someone with a moral diplomatic and human level necessary for the job.

"I have a message for my friends in Camps Ashraf and Liberty. You are right to refuse to go to the seemingly useless cycle of interviews for limited individual relocation. Your minimum rights have not been respected by Iraq and United Nations."

Since security cannot be guaranteed under current conditions in Iraq, any solution must guarantee relocation from Liberty, either the residents should immediately be transferred to US or European countries or they should be relocated to Ashraf where their asylum process could continue.



Allow me to state two points here, first the European Union should not stay on the sidelines, they should take on their responsibilities. On March 7th, Mr. Stevenson, Jim Higgins and five other vice

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presidents including myself wrote to President Van Rompuy and President Barroso. We are unhappy with the institution’s role. I remind these leaders, particularly Lady Ashton who continues to praise Kobler, the responsibility they carry of any bloodshed at Liberty. We must initiate a serious campaign to accept the residents of the Camp to the countries of the European Union or demand the Iraqi government to return all the residents to Camp Ashraf. If not so, the diplomatic relations between Iraq and the European Union should be reduced.

Second, I have a message for my friends in Camps Ashraf and Liberty. You are right to refuse to go to the seemingly useless cycle of interviews for limited individual relocation. Your minimum rights have not been respected by Iraq and United Nations. All the facts are indicating that the days of the Iranian regime are numbered and I have all the reasons to believe that your organization under the leadership of Mrs. Maryam Rajavi is the regime’s biggest frustration. Your resistance is a strong symbol of hope for the Iranian people and for all of us. In today’s world, women and men like you who have dedicated their lives to their beliefs are very rare. Mrs. President, I congratulate you and your movement for such men and women and what you have achieved so far and the democratic future that we are all hoping

for. In this path, Mrs. President, our support and our full commitment will never end.

Robert Torricelli

Former Member of the US Senate from the Democratic Party

Our conversation is about Liberty and Ashraf but I think everyone in the room knows it is really about Iran. What is happening at Liberty is every much a part of the final showdown for a free Iran, as what is happening in Syria or wherever else the Iranian regime employs its terrorism. This is a proxy fight on that regime and it is one more reason why we, the international community, dare not lose. I was thinking something, listening to the discourse here this morning that is happening, you know, history is so hard to see when you see it up close. But a wonderful thing is happening here in the western world. This European Parliament is becoming the conscience of the western world. And what a wonderful thing it is to see. What a wonderful thing, and what a time for you to come in to your own, when ever needed more than now to be heard on behalf of the people of camp Liberty and of a free Iran.



The simple reality is we, the international community and each of our institutions; needs to accept a simple truth. There is one thing you can say about the Mullahs in Iran as we try to appease them, accommodate them, compromise with them in failure after failure after failure. At some point you take a person at their word, they are not interested in appeasement. They are not interested in compromise. It speaks to the best of this parliament and my congress and the international community that we have tried and tried and tried. It is a good statement about us, but it will not work. Sometimes you have to look the truth in the face. In my country, I suspect as I am sensing in this parliament, a very broad coalition has formed in support of the MEK (PMOI). Not simply because we think it is the best opposition group, because in reality it is the only opposition group. The Mullahs have destroyed any independent voice. There is no one left standing that has organization and leadership and resources and willing to make the sacrifice of life to bring freedom to the oppressed people of Iran. So, from Democrats, Republicans, left and right, as I am sensing in this parliament we stand firmly behind the MEK as the one organization that can end this nightmare for the Iranian people.

The road to a free Tehran today leads through Liberty. But it is important to understand the attack on Liberty. Much as those who sat in our chairs 15 year ago, 10 years ago, saw the attack on Sarajevo not an attack on the people who lived there, but on the credibility of your parliament and my congress and the United Nations and the international community. We gave our word for the security of these people. The United Nations gave its commitment. We were to protect their lives and we didn't. I understood the outrage of the Sarajevo and Rwanda and a host of other places. I understood that. I don't understand the silence here. They didn't attack the people of Liberty. They attacked the credibility of the United Nations and Europe and America. We were attacked. You, me, and we were left wanting. That's the issue before us today.

Now the people of camp Liberty not in anger but in a practical culmination to the fact that we didn't keep our word, have made a simple request: they want to live. And to live, they want to return to the relative safety of Ashraf. Not an unreasonable request. Or, they want simply the

means to be defended in Liberty. I'll tell you what they want and anyone here tell me where it is unreasonable. They own bullet proof vests and helmets. They want no money. They want no gifts. They own them. Those helmets are at Ashraf. They would like them brought to Liberty. Unreasonable? The United States Military had left T-walls for blast protection around the places where men and women now sleep in camp Liberty. For exactly this kind of attack; they exist; they are paid for by our tax payers. They would like them back in the camp Liberty to defend against another rocket attack. Unreasonable? Is there something wrong with that? They would like blast protection bunkers. They would like to know there is a safety zone around the camp from which rockets cannot be launched. Who here can argue with one of those requests?

Who here can argue with one of those requests? Instead we are told by my government and perhaps yours that security lies not in these means but in leaving the country. I would accept that if we were talking about 3200 people, but we moved 7 in the last year. The casualty count of deaths is greater than those who have moved. But the request is; is that 70 or a 100 or 200? If you take every country, now willing to accept people from Liberty, everyone, assume there are no problems and get them all out tomorrow, it might be 500 people. 2,700 remain. No helmets, no T-walls, no blast protection, no safety. Facing imminent attack, 2700. If I were to say to this room, this room is going to be attacked, 10 of you can leave and the remaining will stay and face death, would you? And if you did, what kind of people are you?

There is a wonderful quote that I remembered all my life, at the end of the battle of France and as the battle of Britain was beginning, the Germans sent a message to Churchill. Will he surrender? He was so contemptuous, he didn't answer. He simply said: What kind of people do they think we are? What kind of people would live in camp Liberty, if they would leave their children, their brothers, their sisters, their comrades, people who they have lived with for 26 years? And a few would run for the door and leave the rest to fight for their lives. What kind of people would they be? That is not an answer for security. Tell me where we were wrong in what we have asked for? Tell me that having a few leave, and leave the rest behind is right and we will do it. But you know it is not, and that is the line that separates us today. How do we move this? Well those diplomats who prescribed accommodation with Iranians or leaving Liberty or remaining in danger and waiting and waiting for the Iraqi's fraud protection, they do not work for themselves. They are not a force in themselves. They work for you, or for me. They are answerable in a democratic society to our constituencies.

I know it is the hardest thing in politics, to see history up close. You can never tell where it's going or where it came from even if after a few years it becomes obvious. Here is what is obvious: even as we speak, the seeds of the end of the Iranian regime are being planted. You can see it in Syria, you can see it in Iraq, you can tell in international chambers. It is there. It is coming; someday soon it will appear as obvious as it can be. By being here today you have chosen sides. You've done the greatest thing any parliamentarian can do. And why I believe this parliament is becoming the conscience of the Western world.

Anybody can stand with the rich; anybody can take the side of the powerful. Anybody can be intimidated by nuclear weapons. Anybody can be intimidated by oil, but those who will stand with the poor over the rich, the weak over the strong; they not only inherit history but in moments like this can be proud of it for the rest of their lives. Not only you are not on the side of the rich, but from everything I believe you are on the side of the winning. We have weeks, days, not months not years, to save the lives of the people of Liberty. Remind your diplomats who they work for and remind them the kind of parliament that you want to be and everything that Europe should represent to the world. This is that moment. Thank you.

Tahar Boumedra

Former Chief of the Human Rights Office for the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI)



I am the former adviser of the Special Representative of the Secretary General Mr. Kobler and also the former chief of the human rights office of UNAMI. I resigned from this position in protest of what I witnessed in both preparing people to be relocated from Camp Ashraf to Camp Liberty and also over the situation I witnessed in Camp Liberty. Let me tell you from the beginning that I was the person who took the lead in drafting the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) for the closure of Camp Ashraf and the relocation to Camp Liberty. I could assure you that the draft report I took the lead in preparing was not the one actually approved by the Prime Minister Al Maliki. It was redrafted on 25th of December, on Christmas day. It was redrafted between Martin Kobler and Faleh Fayaz the security adviser of the Prime Minister. But let me also tell you the background of this MOU. We did prepare it with the intention and the ultimate objective of disbanding the MEK or PMOI (Iranian opposition group). That was the ultimate objective to disband the MEK and expel them from Iraq. That was absolutely the policy of the government of Iraq. And UNAMI was there to implement and help the government of Iraq to implement this policy and we did it. Now I came to resign because I found myself as the chief of the human rights misleading the international community and misleading the United Nations. How? We drafted the MOU and we have not done anything to effectively protect. What we have done was to close Camp Ashraf and relocate the residents to Camp Liberty. Now we made two assessments to Camp Liberty before people were transferred there. We made a humanitarian assessment and a security assessment. And I am afraid to say that nobody ever mentioned the security assessment we made in November of 2011.

That security assessment pointed exactly to vulnerability of the Camp from the air from missile attacks. But we did nothing to protect the residents that will be soon arriving there. On the contrary, the United Nations recruited 62 Fijian soldiers to enforce the security of UN personnel that will be going to Camp Liberty. Nothing was done to reinforce the security or to guarantee safety and security of the residents. That is the security. In return assessment, and I was in charge of that assessment, I reported that the Camp was not fit to accommodate 3300 people. The humanitarian situation was appalling. Now my boss Martin Kobler asked me to lead, in actually doctoring pictures and reports. I was asked to put together “appealing,” this is the word he used “appealing pictures” of the Camp and we made a lots of them about 500 pictures of the Camp and he himself had to actually make the selections which pictures are sellable to the international community and to the Ashraf residents. So we did it. We mislead the international community, we mislead the EU delegation which I used to brief every other week. I used to brief them on the human rights situation not only in Camp Liberty but also in Iraq in general. So we mislead the international community and I did warn, not only Kobler but also the UN in general, that the situation is not as represented by Kobler to the international community. Unfortunately I found no ear to listen to me and I was about giving up because I felt that I might pass my message better

outside of UN than within the UN. I want to also point out that in preparing this process, we had met with the Iranian embassy and every time we met with the Iranian ambassador we had to prepare to present to him accounts on what have we done so far and they were never happy to the extent that he refused to give a visa to Kobler to go to Iran. I tell you that Kobler got his visa to go to Iran on the day the first groups of Ashrafis were transferred to Camp Liberty. So that was done. Now we have numerous meetings with the Iraqi authorities and they made public announcement that they will not

“Kobler would tap me on the shoulder and say be positive. Be positive meaning forget about human rights, forget about humanitarian standards, we need to do the job, we need to close Camp Ashraf, we need to relocate these people. That’s the mission, that is what UNAMI is doing.”

be bound by the human rights standards of UNAMI and the United Nations and that is on public record. Every time we discussed the humanitarian situation we were told forget about the UN standards we are not going to give VIP treatment to people who are terrorists. Now when we decided to finally move on and in order to convince the international community that everything is fine, the UN hired a shelter expert they brought him from Ethiopia to visit Camp Liberty and to certify that Camp Liberty has actually the required humanitarian standards. The shelter expert refused. I was with him we discussed in details the situation on the ground and he issued a draft report saying that he cannot certify. So Kobler decided to do without him, and believe me, this was done at serious money, tax payers money, EU money, US as well. So this serious money was spent just to bring somebody to make a report, and then that report was dismissed and Kobler issued his own report and we finally convinced everybody that things are up to the standards. Face to face I asked Kobler how can we do that, we are the UN we have values to live up to. Kobler would tap me on the shoulder and say be positive. Be positive meaning forget about human rights, forget about humanitarian standards, we need to do the job, we need to close Camp Ashraf, we need to relocate these people. That’s the mission, that is what UNAMI is doing.

Now in my job as a human rights officer I always addressed the Iraqis and I was also advising the Iraqis in my capacity as the chief of human rights office. I always advised them and requested that the humanitarian standard set by the US army before they handed over the Camp to the Iraqis I spoke to them. There is a standard about the medical treatment, about the food, water and electricity. There are these standards set by the US army and we need to keep that standard going because after all the supplies that the Ashraf residents receive, they pay for them they pay for it at a more expensive price than the price in Iraq. Most of the utility needs are imported from Kuwait. You will ask me why they import from Kuwait, it is because there is a legislation in Iraq: to make it a criminal offense to cooperate with the Ashraf people. So anybody, organization or individual caught cooperating with the Ashraf residents will be prosecuted under the anti-terrorism act. And this is why they resort to importing things at very high costs. But yet I hear that the government tried to justify that they are doing all they could in order to facilitate their life. They keep on denying them any improvement in the Camp. When I asked the government why do you do that, the reply was we don’t want to make their life comfortable because they will not leave Iraq if we make their life comfortable, so we have to make it “unbearable”. So life has to be unbearable and therefore they will be forced to leave. But let me also mention that there are about 200 arrest warrants against these people. These arrest warrants, some of them issued in Tehran, others issued in Baghdad, target the leadership of the Ashraf. And the whole process of closing Camp Ashraf and sending them to Camp Liberty is in order to actually arrest the leadership. And the whole problem for Iran and Iraq is the leadership; it is not the rest of the population. So

once they transfer them to Camp Liberty. In fact we were expecting that in the process of the transfer there will be a chaotic situation where the normal residents will suddenly just disappear and then in that chaos the government would move in to arrest the leadership. But it did not happen the way the government wished and no Ashraf residents deserted the Camp and therefore they could not sort of make it so obvious that the operation in fact targeting the arrest of the leadership. Now I could tell you and I had lengthy discussions with the Iraqis that the security situation is not going to stop there. We witnessed the act of 9th of February and that was not unpredictable. We knew it is going to happen and we also know right now that further attacks will happen and it is organized in Baghdad the government of Al Maliki is responsible for that. I could tell you that I discussed this and I was always told that these people are criminals they are terrorists and those who have blood on their hands they have to be arrested and extradited and those who don't have blood on their hands will just take their way out and disappear in the air, that is the plan. Now I am really sorry to sort of find myself in this situation where all the values I lived up to when I joined the United Nations I find myself facing exactly the opposite. When as the chief human rights I was advocating that nobody should ever be arrested or held for a crime without the due process of law, the United Nations the UNAMI in particular did everything indeed so far under the presumption that these people are guilty. I opposed to this presumption I asked Kobler you cannot do that, he tells me be positive. Be positive it means just keep your eyes closed. Now the presumption of innocence the United Nations including the UNHCR presume that these people are guilty therefore they are not eligible for the refugee status and this is what is delaying the process and let me remind you that a similar process took place in Camp Mahmoud. You all know Camp Mahmoud; it is a place for the PKK refugees.

I have to tell you those who were processed, I think about 1,500, they were not adjudicated as refugees of concern to the international community. Once you are adjudicated as refugee you have the right to freedom of movement, you have the right to travel documents, you have the right to education, you have all the rights of a refugee. The Ashrafis do not have these rights and yet the UNHCR is keeping quiet on this issue. Worse than that, if you look at the Clause 7 of the MOU signed by Kobler and the government of Iraq, Clause 7 strips the UNHCR from its very mandate. It says that the Iraqi government will allow the UNHCR to undertake the RSD (Refugee Status Determination) process but will not be bound by its outcome, meaning the government of Iraq will not recognize the refugee status of these people even though they are recognized by UNHCR. And yet we do not report on this.

The report to the Security Council by the Secretary General, I tell you how this report was prepared and it is a normal procedure. Every Special Representative of the Secretary General prepares his own chapter to be integrated in the Secretary General's report to the Security Council. So what was quoted in the three chapters about Ashraf, as was presented by Kobler, they were prepared in Baghdad by Kobler himself. So here again misusing the Security Council and this is very dangerous I am afraid. I thank you very much for your attention.

"I asked Kobler you cannot do that, he tells me be positive. Be positive, it means just keep your eyes closed. Now the presumption of innocence the United Nations including the UNHCR presume that these people are guilty therefore they are not eligible for the refugee status and this is what is delaying the process..."

Srebrenica Again

“In Srebrenica there was cowardice, here in Camp Liberty, there is complicity and this is really much worse. Martin Kobler is repeating the mantra of disinformation of the Iranian secret services.”

Paulo Casaca

Former Member of European Parliament (from Portugal, 1999-2009)

Co-Founder, Friends of a Free Iran (FOFI) Intergroup

It is really a great honor to be here among you and I would like to congratulate you for this wonderful success. For all the members of parliaments you managed to come to bring here from several countries of the European Union.



I would like to say that in Srebrenica there was cowardice, here there is complicity and this is really much worse. Mr. Martin Kobler is repeating the mantra of disinformation of the Iranian secret services that says, and I for ten years have been hearing this, that “the problem in Ashraf and now Liberty, is that, there is a leadership that does not allow that the members go away.” This is a complete lie. I was there as well and I can testify what General Philips already did, much better than me because he was there for much more time. This is a complete lie; this is a cover up for a crime, for the assassination of these innocent people.

Martin Kobler is responsible for this and we cannot in no circumstances forget about this and I absolutely subscribe to your proposal that he must go to a court.



Jim Higgins

Member of Bureau of European Parliament



You have heard me many times before. Essentially what we are all doing is recognizing the reality that we are on the brink of Holocaust. We have the two attacks on Camp Ashraf and you have seen the attack in Liberty. The key question is what can we do in terms of heading off to be undoubtedly a massacre. We welcome your support and that we welcome your solidarity and we welcome your determination. But the question is where can we go and what can we do about it. There is Martin Kobler. We have all met him. A lovely man! He gives a lot of reassurances with all kinds of guarantees. Every single one of them has been broken. He has deceived the United States and he is deceiving the United Nations. We are calling on the Secretary General of the United Nations to withdraw him straight away because another massacre will happen unless there is decided intervention. When it happens

the blood of these people will be on the General Secretary's hands as well because he has the ultimate power. The main thing is this: how can we reckon our frustration in relation to where we can go and what we can do?

Ireland currently has the Presidency of the European Union and I am now calling on our Deputy Prime Minister that is also our Minister of Foreign Affairs to immediately demand at United Nation's level that Martin Kobler be withdrawn immediately. That he be deposed and replaced by somebody that is truly independent. Anybody who is concerting with Iranian authorities is somebody who has another agenda and we know what that agenda is. And certainly is not in the interest of the PMOI, not in the interest of the residents of Camp Ashraf, not in the interests of the residents of Camp Liberty. You get rid of Kobler. You relocate the residents of Camp Liberty back to Camp Ashraf and have them relocated to the European Union or in the United States. But they cannot live in the conditions that they are living in and under the threat that they are under at present. The silence by Baroness Ashton is deafening. It is an absolute and total disgrace. So to people in Ashraf: I know that there are times it is slow, it is frustrating and there are times you might be inclined to give up and despair. We look at your leader here Mrs. Rajavi. She is truly inspirational, not only in the way of fighting the good cause on behalf of free Iran, which will happen, someday, hopefully and in not too distant future, but also in the way of inspiration for other resistance movements for suppressed people around the world. Mrs. Rajavi we are truly proud of you.

"You get rid of Kobler. You relocate the residents of Camp Liberty back to Camp Ashraf and have them relocated to the European Union or in the United States."

Thank you!

General David Phillips

Former Commander of the US Military Police in Charge of Protection for Camp Ashraf



Madam Rajavi, Distinguished guests, my name is David Phillips and 10 years ago this month I was preparing my brigade of over 3,500 military policeman to invade Iraq and we went over this spring 10 years ago. And it has been 10 years since the Mojahedin Khalq (PMOI) voluntarily disarmed, consolidated from cross the country at Camp Ashraf and we promised them protection. We even issued ID cards saying they were protected persons. I was pretty rough during the first few months there because of the fact I was dealing with what my State Department's representatives told me were terrorists. I would raid their individual dormitories at 2:00 in the morning, 1:00 in the afternoon, looking for weapons, torture, people held against their will, never did I finding any of them. One raid in particular we run into one of the female unit, raided it, and found nothing but females studying. They had their books out.

One of those young woman was Elham; she ultimately became a pen pal through email with my own daughter back in the States. Again, I had raided her barracks. I went back to my Department of State's representatives in Baghdad and said I need to allow my people to come and go freely from Ashraf, unescorted because they obviously are not terrorists. They have done nothing wrong. But the State Department's rep told me, "leave it to the diplomats; you're only a soldier." So we kept them confined. We kept them at gun point. While I have returned numerous times over the past decade and spent more time in Iraq than I can care to recall, but during 2007 and 2008, I was responsible for re-building the Iraqi police and I convinced the people in Ashraf that my building in the Iraqi Police Academy, adjacent to Camp Ashraf, would be no problem. Everything would be OK. We promised them protection. Now we know how that promise of protection went. That very academy which I talked to the members of the Camp Ashraf about was used as a launching pad for two deadly attacks. In one of those attacks, a young woman was critically injured. Well, her name was Elham; my daughter's email pen pal.

Elham, I made a promise to you and over 3,000 others members of the organization protection and my job is not done until all of them are out of harm's way. You can count on that. And Right now while we have the United Nations sanctioning a concentration camp at Camp Liberty, and that's what it is, a concentration camp, and I challenge you, if you doubt my words, two questions: Ask to go see it. You'll be denied. Ask if the people can leave. No, they cannot. Well, my recommendation is to the Secretary General of the United Nations: fire Kobler, charge him, and put him on trial. A lot of speakers have mentioned. Replace him with an impartial person. The Secretary General does not have to look very far; he's got two of them are sitting right here, that have [spent] a great deal of time in Iraq, have worked with the members of the Mojahedin, and I was not their friends from the start. I am as impartial as it comes now. Because I was ready to use deadly force against them. On the other hand I am now speaking out the truth, and I will go back over there. Secretary General, you don't have to be job searching, you don't have to be paying me, and I won't live behind the walls of an embassy or a UN compound. I will live where you should be living Martin Kobler, at the Liberty with the residents, until all are evacuated. Thank you.

Colonel Wesley Martin

Former Commander of US forces at Camp Ashraf

Senior Anti-Terrorism/Protection Officer for all Coalition Forces in Iraq (2003-2004)

Thank you ladies and gentlemen. As General Phillips was speaking, I was drawn back to an assessment I did a couple of weeks ago and I would like to read this to you. When Herr Kobler, Frau Kobler, US State Department claimed that the Iraqi Hezbollah had done the attack instead as we pointed out, it was the Quds Force backed up by Iraqi colonel Sadiq (stationed in Liberty) and backed up by Maliki's forces. Militias do not drive around Iraq with scores of rockets and they lack the skill to perform an attack of this precision. Iraqi Hezbollah is a front organisation of the Qud's force, which in part thanks to the United Nations and the US State Department, has successfully taken heat off Maliki. Iraqi Hezbollah has already made two public pledges. One of never ending loyalty to Ayatollah Khamenei and the other to do whatever that is necessary to keep Iraqi Prime Minister, Nouri Al-Maliki, in power. It is no coincidence these commitments are so embraced by Maliki.



The UN Ambassador, Herr Kobler, the German Ambassador, Frau Kobler, and the US State Department have all expressed confidence in the Iraqi investigation of the attack. It has now been three weeks and not a single paper has been produced. Yet our State Department and the Koblers seem to be very content in allowing Nouri Al-Maliki to age this attack and to allow it to be buried in bureaucracy. Our own State Department cannot even understand that one of the foundations of an investigation is to determine who has the means and the motive. Stopping the bunkers from being brought into Liberty while removing T-walls are to ensure the next attack brings maximum casualties and create greater pressure on the residents, hoping they will mentally break. The way the United Nations and the US State Department handled this event guarantees another attack will occur.

Maliki has escaped accountability, just as he did in Ashraf in 2009 and 2011. He has escaped accountability of crushing demonstrations of Iraqi people. He has no reason not to order another attack. US envoy Dan Fried assured us that he personally warned Sadiq that his behavior was being closely watched by the State Department. As I read the text I ask you to bear in mind my sense of humor and you will see it. It is good that Dan Fried cast deep fear into the heart of colonel Sadiq. Who can imagine what horror and torment would be cast upon the residents now, if Sadiq did not have the image of Dan Fried and the US State Department keeping him awake at night. If that concern was remotely real, which it is not, Sadiq would have the comfort of knowing that no matter what he does Herr and Frau Kobler are always ready to come to his defence and twist all blame away from Iraq and on to the residents of camp Liberty.

Dan Fried assured us he had a contingency plan if camp Liberty did not work out as a relocation. He and Martin Kobler promised. It has not worked out. In the year past, more residents have left the camp in body bags than left for resettlement. That is not a winning season. Now the State

Department's Barbara Leaf admits there is no written plan sitting on the shelf. She tells us that the contingency plan is to work with the UN and the Maliki government.

The State Department's solution is to keep doing things the same way and blame someone else when they get the same results. Just like the contingency plan.

The people who trusted us are in greater danger than ever before, being slaughtered. As Dave Phillips mentioned, we have volunteered numerous times to go forward to Camp Liberty, at no cost to the State Department. Just like we are here today, nobody's paying us to be here today, we're here today for our brothers and sisters in Ashraf and Liberty.



“We have volunteered numerous times to go forward to Camp Liberty, at no cost to the State Department. Just like we are here today, nobody's paying us to be here today”



“We have weeks, days, not months, not years to save the lives of the people of Liberty. Remind your diplomats who they work for and remind them the kind of parliament that you want.”

--- Former US Senator Robert Torricelli

Marian Harkin

Member of European Parliament from Ireland

Madam Rajavi and colleagues, about the film you have just seen a few moments ago some of your colleague showed it to me in Strasbourg a few weeks ago. They also showed me photographs and they described what happened. Just behind me here we have the photographs of eight people who lost their lives in Camp Liberty. On the morning of 9th of February all of those people were alive, later that morning they were slaughtered. They were promised to safety and security and I agree with Struan Stevenson, they are in the killing zone. To be honest with you I cannot understand why it is called Camp Liberty, why word Liberty used?! Because there is no Liberty! There is no freedom! There is no safety or security. There is only threat, there is only danger and there are only false promises and the awful thing about those promises is that a lot of those false promises is under our name as well. They are under the name of EU and under the name of UN. How can UN stand over this? How can a global assembly that promotes peace and security stand over what is happening in Camp Liberty?



The US government has said an attack could happen at any time, the Iraqi government has said the same thing. When will they act? How many people have to be slaughtered? How many people have to die? How many more photographs do we have to have on a shrine before somebody takes action on this? And guarantees security to those people that they were guaranteed? I have listened Colonel Wesley Martin and Dr. Tahar Boumedra and all I can tell you is their testimonies are true, their testimonies are genuine and their testimonies have to be listened to, I don't think we can ignore them and as politicians we have a responsibility.

I have been in too many meetings by this parliament and time after time we described first of all Ashraf and secondly Liberty what is happening; the awful conditions, the unacceptable conditions, yet, things just continue to deteriorate, they just get worse and worse and we stand by the sidelines.

Baroness Ashton, absolutely must acts on this. She can no longer in our name stand on the sidelines and let this happen. I mean in this parliament we never stop talking about human rights. We never stop it and yet we see something happening in front of our eyes and we know we could at least try to influence what is happening and we are not doing it. I agree with Vice President Vidal-Quadras that we cannot stand on the sidelines any longer.

I want to congratulate Madam Rajavi and her movement and just say to the residents of Liberty that we have not forgotten you and we will continue to try to help in any way we can.



Tunne Kelam

Member of European Parliament from Estonia

Thank you so much all of you that have come here and my special appreciation to my colleagues, Tahar Boumedra, and Colonel Wesley Martin. We heard their statements already yesterday in the meeting of the Delegation for Relations with Iraq, but what they have said has cleared the air which has been condensed with half-truths and lies. What they exposed is a disgrace for the United Nations and for the high principles it represents. The credibility of the UN has been seriously damaged.



As usual we need to face real politics, where political calculations tend to dominate over human fates and values. But here we have to deal fortunately with still living people minus 8 from one month. But another massacre can happen at any moment. The UN basic duty is to protect these people of whom at least 1500 have been recognized as asylum seeker refugees. Instead the UN representatives have trusted their fates, also EU representatives have trusted their fates, in the hands of their worst enemies that are eager to get rid of them in one or another way. The disclosures that have been made indicate that different standards are being applied in the name of the UN and the European Union on different people.

It looks like political racism that seems to be first category refugees and asylum seekers and second category and third category about which we don't care very much. This is a permanent stain on the reputation of the European Union whose court has cleared the PMOI of any doubts and suspicions already several years ago.

But it is once again real-politic which have excited some people and some states so much to have a share in Iraqi oil and gas business and so to look aside from the real tragedies to avoid any trouble with the Iraqi regime that is connected to Iranian regime. But we are here today to send the message that there can be no mistake that we are together in protecting the interests and future of the free people, and the people that are fighting for it. It is our common cause and we can be very sure that we can't boast to be pride and respectable until our brothers and sisters in Ashraf and Camp Liberty are denied freedom, dignity and safety. John Kennedy once stood at the foot of the Berlin wall and declared: *Ich bin ein Berliner!* And today we can all declare that we are co-residents of Ashraf and tomorrow we will all be co-citizens of free Iran.

“It looks like political racism that seems to be first category refugees and asylum seekers and second category and third category about which we don't care very much. This is a permanent stain on the reputation of the European Union whose court has cleared the PMOI of any doubts and suspicions already several years ago. “

Oreste Rossi

Member of European Parliament from Italy



I welcome Maryam Rajavi, President of the National Council of the Iranian Resistance who I think does not represent only the late eight victims of the violence perpetrated against her people and compatriots but, I believe she can worthily represent the over 120,000 victims of the Iranian regime, who were your organization's people and victims.

I believe that Europe proved itself to be too weak towards Iran and Iraq. The effort to undertake a mission to Iran by a delegation from the European Parliament, which I am involved in and which I opposed to and that was canceled the day before leaving. I think that by carrying out a mission to Iran we would risk to legitimate this regime so, luckily it was canceled! I think that European diplomacy is too weak. I see Catherine Ashton too weak when she intervenes.

And what about UN. I think that Mr. Martin Kobler should answer here, as he witnessed too many murderous events, remaining silent. Too many people were killed, too many assaults were carried out in Camp Ashraf before and in Camp Liberty after and I would like not to forget that, before the UN soldiers' eyes a few years ago 8,000 people were slain in Srebrenica. I fear that Camp Liberty may become a new Srebrenica.

Maybe there are two paths to follow. One, shut down Camp Liberty and return to Camp Ashraf which is, in fact, a city with its own hospitals and today almost deserted. Otherwise a relocation, but that should be immediate, to European, American or others guest countries. One thing is certain: this situation cannot remain as it is today.

Petri Sarvamaa

Member of European Parliament from Finland

Madam Rajavi, it is an honor to have you here. Honorable Chair, thank you for giving me this opportunity. Let me tell you, I travel every week back to Helsinki, Finland to see my family. And in the blocks in down town Helsinki where I live, there is small grocery store. I go get something small, for, you know, for the weekend. And there is this Iranian man standing behind the register counter. And every weekend I look into his eyes, and I want to tell him proudly that I have joined the Friends of Free Iran.



The way he looks at me is just unbelievable. And in his eyes, I see the eyes of my own children who can grow up in peace and prosperity and that is why I really want to repeat the words of Senator Torricelli, what happens at camp Liberty is not just an attack on those people but it is really an attack on me and you and everybody in this room and that is why I will not shy away from using every opportunity that I have to use my words to give a speech to do whatever I can as a member of this Parliament.

Margarita Duran

Member of the Spanish Senate



First of all I would like to thank you for giving us the opportunity to speak briefly in this forum. I hope our words can help to stop the inhuman situation of the 3,100 refugees in Camp Liberty.

On March the 9th, I had the opportunity to participate in Paris in an event, organized by National Council of Resistance of Iran, on occasion of International Women's Day, together with several Spanish members of parliament. I must say that, before coming to this event, I really didn't know much about the situation of Iranian exiles in Iraq, the members of People's Mojahedin Organization, the principal Iranian opposition movement. And Camp Liberty and Camp Ashraf, in fact, meant barely anything to me. Obviously, I had my opinion about the regime of Mullahs. And this view was the reason I wanted to give my support to Iranian women. The news about the bombing of Camp Liberty, the dead and the very many wounded, many permanently disabled, probably had occupied few minutes on the local news.

At the Women's Day event, I could put a face to the suffering of thousands of Iranians, whose life is in danger right now for the sole reason of not wanting to be resigned to live under political oppression. People under the leadership of Madam Rajavi believe strongly that it is not true that in North Africa and the Middle East, they necessarily need to choose between secular dictatorship and religious fundamentalism. It is not true. People believe that it is possible to have another kind of government that respects human rights and freedom of conscience, in which a woman is not a second class citizen. That alternative exists and is represented by thousands of Iranians in exile.

But while their alternative becomes the reality, there are thousands of Iranians whose life is really, in danger. Iranians confined in Camp Liberty, in inhuman conditions with no security. People that just ask international authorities to not forget them, because when public opinion forgets the refugees of Camp Liberty, nothing will prevent the regime of Mullahs with the help of the current Iraqi government from finishing them off. And again, it will be only a piece of news for which we are not concerned. Maybe, we even switch off the TV, tired of the bad news. However, many of us will know behind that distant disaster, there are the faces of men, women and children, broken lives and lost hopes.

We will know that behind such a situation there is always someone responsible; those who fired missiles and those who allowed this to happen; those have collaborated with Iraqi government to put the defenseless Iranian refugees in this situation. That's the point. To prevent it from happening, to make Iranian and Iraqi regimes feel the international pressure, and to think that if they do, if they attack against the refugees in Camp Liberty, the crime will not go unpunished.

We now have the responsibility and the opportunity to prevent a slaughter. We can and we must ensure that refugees at Camp Liberty get back to Camp Ashraf, their home of 26 years. We can and we must ensure that there is an investigation of the rocket attack of February the 9th. We can and we must make them take responsibility. In this way we can show that we stand with those who suffer. To Show that we are on their side, and to show that the tragedy of Camp Liberty is not just a piece of news for us. Maybe we can make sure that it does not happen again. Thank you.

Virginia Romero Bañon

Member of the Spanish Senate



First I would like to thank you for your kind invitation. I am very happy to be here today to have the opportunity to address this meeting of friends of a free Iran in the European Parliament. I also want to take this opportunity to wish you all Happy Norouz, the Iranian New Year which was celebrated a few days ago with the beginning of spring. Let us hope that this year will be a year of prosperity that will finally bring the spring of freedom and democracy to Iran. Earlier this month I had the opportunity to attend a magnificent meeting in Paris on the occasion of the international women's day in support of Iranian women for freedom and equal rights. It was the first time I attended a meeting of the Iranian opposition and I must say I was very impressed by the high profile role that women play within the Iranian resistance and by the role

of Mrs. Rajavi in mobilizing such a strong front in support of freedom and democracy in Iran.

Four month ago, Mrs. Rajavi came to Spain for the first time and was warmly received by both houses of the Spanish parliament. We were very impressed to see that despite all difficulties and the dark days of today's Iran, she could represent such a clear future of a free Iran. I really believe that her ideas represent the Iran of tomorrow that we should all support.

The United Nations was formed in the first place to secure humanity and human rights. Therefore it is truly disappointing to see that these incidents are taking place now-a-days in the twenty first century. It is everybody's duty as well as the United Nations duty to defend democracy freedom and human rights wherever they are being contravened. In the case of Ashraf, there have been many warnings thanks to the force of parliamentarians like you in the European Parliament, especially my distinguished colleague Alejo Vidal Quadras. I believe it is our duty today to watch what happened in Ashraf and Liberty with Eyes wide open. We should not allow another crime against humanity to take place.

The residents of Camp Liberty are the hope of the Iranian people, for a better and more prosperous future. They have paid a heavy price during all these years of struggle for freedom and democracy in Iran and therefore deserve all our support. This is why I want to invite all to stand behind Mrs. Rajavi until the residents of camp Ashraf and camp Liberty are fully safe and secure and until freedom and democracy comes to Iran. Thank you very much for your attention.

"A wonderful thing is happening here in the western world. This European Parliament is becoming the conscience of the western world, and what a wonderful thing it is to see."

-- Former US Senator Robert Torricelli

Thorgerdur Katrín Gunnarsdóttir

Member of Parliament from Iceland

Former Minister of Culture, Science and Education

Thank you Mr. Stevenson, Madam Rajavi and all distinguished guests. I am coming from Iceland and especially to underline the importance of supporting the Iranian resistance movement and the leadership of Madam Rajavi who is a role model I think for both men and women of the world. I do this because I believe this is the way to fight for and secure the peace and freedom throughout the world. It is a way to support humanity and democracy in the world.

Coming from a country where oldest parliament in the world is based, it was established in the year 930. It is important to read the main objective and Madam Rajavi's 10-Point Plan for the future of Iran. The ballot box is the only criterion for legitimacy. *"We seek plural system, freedom of parties and freedom of assembly."* And what is also very important is *"gender equality with respect to all social, political and economic rights. And independent judicial system based on the principle of presumption of innocence, the right to defend and the right to be tried in a public court. We respect human rights. We recognize private property, private investment and the market economy. Our foreign policy, of Madam Rajavi, is based on peaceful co-existence and the free Iran of tomorrow will be free of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction."* These words in my opinion are very courageous and they have a deep meaning and very important message to us all.



In Iceland we have been following the development in Iran from a far and in particular the residents of Ashraf who were forced to move to camp Liberty. This move has now turned into a shameful tragedy where the UN and its representative Martin Kobler have by far not lived up to his obligations. The savage attack of February 9 should be condemned by all decent people. But now it appears the only temporary solution with respect to camp Liberty is to move these people to a safer ground in camp Ashraf. The residents in camp Liberty are in immediate danger. That is obvious to everyone and therefore should be a duty, in my opinion a duty of the UN, EU and the international community to move these 3100 individuals to a safer ground and it needs to be done now. It cannot be ignored anymore. We need actions from the international community. The brutal attack beyond the border of Iran indicates that the Iranian regime fears its main opposition. It also indicates that this opposition movement has deep roots among Iranian people. And believing in humanity, freedom and justice, it is absolutely essential for the international community to support the Iranian Resistance movement at a time when the world security is threatened by this dictatorship in Iran.

Therefore, I join other European parliamentarians in striving for the protection of Ashraf and Liberty residents and I once again express my full support for the Ten-Point program of Madam Rajavi for a genuine democratic Iran. Thank you.



Friends of a Free Iran (FOFI)* intergroup in European Parliament

Chair: Struan Stevenson

Vice Chairs: Stephen Hughes (S&D Vice-President); Louis Michel (ALDE); Jim Higgins (EPP) Soren Sondergaard (GUE); Jan Zahradil (ECR Vice President); Tunne Kelam (EPP); Michael Cashman (S&D)

* Friends of a Free Iran intergroup in European Parliament was formed in 2004 in an effort to support human rights and a democratic change in Iran. It has the active support of over 200 MEPs from various political groups.
