

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 3, 2011

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton  
Secretary of State  
United States Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Madam Secretary,

We are writing to raise an issue of concern to us and request your intervention to prevent another humanitarian catastrophe at Camp Ashraf, Iraq, the home of 3,400 members of Iran's long time opposition movement, the Mujahedin-e Khalq (MEK), including 1,000 women. Despite repeated assurances given by State Department officials during various hearings in the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Senate Committee on Armed Services on the safety and security of Camp Ashraf residents, Iraqi soldiers, backed by armored personnel carriers and Humvees, attacked the defenseless residents of Ashraf on April 8, 2011, killing and wounding many residents.

More than a month after the raid, the situation remains tense. Iraqi forces and their armored vehicles continue to occupy the northern third of Ashraf. The wounded have not been treated and medical restrictions continue to be enforced by Iraqi officials. Calls by the United Nations, the US Congress and the European Parliament for conducting a full, transparent and independent investigation have gone unheeded. We were surprised to learn that before addressing these matters of urgent concern, the State Department has been considering the idea of relocating the residents of Ashraf within Iraqi territory, on the basis that this would put them out of danger of possible Iranian attacks.

Nothing could be more disastrous than relocation of the residents of Camp Ashraf within the Iraqi territory. This proposal was first raised by the Maliki government in 2009, as a prelude to the expulsion of the residents and we believe this proposal is a non-starter. First, the threat to Ashraf residents comes not from a potential aerial or missile attack by the Iranian regime, but by the Maliki government. Indeed, the total number of casualties the residents of Ashraf have suffered due to Tehran's missile attacks or air raids in the past 25 years is far less than the number of residents killed by the Iraqi armed forces during the July 2009 assault on the residents when 11 Camp Ashraf residents were killed. Second, the residents would be more susceptible to attacks by the Iraqi Forces in any other place in Iraq where there is not as much international attention and oversight as there has been in Ashraf. Third, if the objective is for the Ashraf residents to safely and under full protection leave Iraq, as they have already agreed to, then the relocation within Iraq would serve no purpose other than consuming the time and resources that is needed to facilitate their resettlement in a third country.

As Senator John Kerry, in his 14 April statement said, "The United States must redouble efforts with all the relevant parties—including the Iraqi government, the United Nations, the European Union, and the Mujahedin-e Khalq itself—to seek a peaceful and durable solution, and to find permanent homes for the residents of Camp Ashraf." In order to implement such a solution, certain conditions should be met. A full and fair inquiry should be launched into the assault on April 8 and Iraqi troops should take steps to reduce tension by withdrawing from the Camp and ending interruptions to vital services.

A Coordinating Committee made up of representatives of the Iraqi Government, United Nations, the United States, European Union, the European Parliament, and representatives of the residents of Camp Ashraf, should be set up to implement a long-term solution where the residents are moved to other countries that accept them such as EU member states, Switzerland, Norway, Australia, Canada, and even the United States. The parties should agree to eliminate provocations and the Coordinating Committee members should guarantee the protection of Ashraf.

We believe that the most practical solution for the crisis in Ashraf is for the United States to take the lead in this matter and work with all sides to ensure that Ashraf residents are relocated and safe in third countries including in the European Union. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Edolphus "Ed" Towns  
Member of Congress



Mike Coffman  
Member of Congress



Barney Frank  
Member of Congress



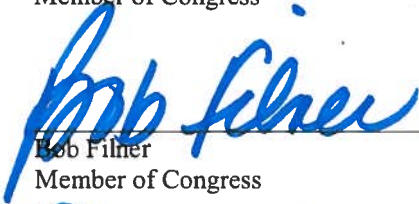
Dana Rohrabacher  
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman  
Member of Congress



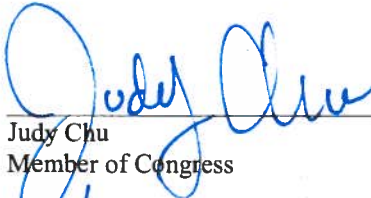
Louie Gohmert  
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Juan Schmidt  
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Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



David Scott  
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson Jr.  
Member of Congress



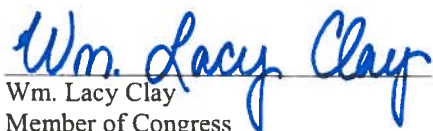
John Garamendi  
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