



National Council of Resistance of Iran

Foreign Affairs Committee

15, rue des Gords

95430 Auvers-sur-Oise France

Tel: (1) 34 48 07 28 - Fax: (1) 34 48 01 34

Email: m.mohaddessin@ncr-iran.org

شورای ملی مقاومت ایران
کمیسیون خارجه

May 26, 2009

Ms. Beatrice Megevand-Roggo
Head of operations, Middle East and North Africa
International Committee of the Red Cross

Dear Ms. Megevand-Roggo,

Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, President-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), received your letter of May 13, 2009 and expressed her deep regret and disappointment that the ICRC, as the guardian of the International Humanitarian Law (IHL), is not acting upon its responsibilities toward residents of Camp Ashraf in Iraq. Thus, on behalf of the NCRI, I wish to raise with you some of the points regarding recent approaches of the ICRC toward Ashraf.

1- Any one with the minimum knowledge of the hysteric animosity of the Iranian regime against Ashraf residents and the extent of its influence over the current Iraqi government would know very well that displacement of Ashraf residents would be a prelude for their massacre. In these circumstances, attempts by the ICRC to evade the substance of its letter of March 20, 2007 and to present a new and inverted interpretation of its extremely clear sentences (according to Mr. Juan Pedro Schaerer's letter on April 7 and your letter of May 13 this year) is tremendously astonishing. The explanations provided by Mr. Schaerer in his April 7 letter on the issue of displacement should be judged in the face of the circumstances on the ground and the legal opinions by distinguished jurists specialized on international law. Then it becomes apparent that these are simply justifications to evade the ICRC's responsibility under the IHL. This is while the Iraqi government has explicitly and repeatedly announced, and the last time in the words of its Foreign Minister, Mr Hoshyar Zebari, in his interview with Al-Alam Television on May 20, 2009, that "the main competent party to the issue [of Ashraf] is the ICRC".

2- The remarks by Mr. Schaerer in his interview on December 3, 2008, which openly contradicted the items of ICRC's letter on March 20, 2007, are totally incomprehensible and unacceptable. The outcome of such remarks can be assessed as nothing but paving the way for plots against Ashraf residents, their suppression and

massacre by prosecution and under a judicial cover. He said: "Moreover, should anyone in Ashraf be suspected or accused of committing criminal offences, judicial guarantees must be respected as provided for in international law."

Mr. Schaerer is certainly aware of the implications and the outcome of his remarks and of course is not mistaken Iraq and its judiciary with Switzerland and its judiciary. He must be fully aware of the fabrications of files by the religious fascism ruling Iran through the Iraqi judiciary, cases of which we have repeatedly presented to the ICRC.

3- Below, I would like to point out to the two reports by credible journals in the United States and Britain, which were previously brought to your attention, over the expectations of the Iranian regime from the ICRC. On June 25, 2007, Wall Street Journal wrote: "Iranian officials have floated proposals at international events that would allow agencies such as the Red Cross to oversee the resettlement of MEK personnel out of Camp Ashraf either back to Iran or to third countries."

Few days earlier, on June 20, 2007, the Financial Time published an article by Selig Harrison, director of the Asia programme at the Center for International Policy in Washington, which read: "In the Baghdad talks, Iran rejected a US offer to transfer the camps to Morocco, aides to Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the supreme leader, told me. What Tehran wants is a complete dismantling of MEK paramilitary forces, starting with a screening process in which the Red Cross would arrange reunions between MEK members and their families. Members opting to return to Iran would get an amnesty. Dismantling the MEK would be the best way to signal US readiness for an accommodation with Tehran, since it is the only militarized EXILE group seeking to overthrow the Islamic Republic."

As you notice, pressures by the Iranian regime brought upon the ICRC not to support the rights of Ashraf residents and to take part in their dismantling as well as its expectations from the ICRC in this regard are very obvious. However, we continued to hope that the ICRC would not be affected by such pressures and demands.

4- We are also extremely astonished by the ICRC's manner of approach and contacts with the Iranian regime and elements of its Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS). While you are too cautious about your remarks in defence of the rights of Ashraf residents, you do not appear to deny or condemn the Iranian regime's abuse of its relations and contacts with the ICRC. I would merely refer you to only one of the cases of dozens here. On October 18, 2007, you met with two well known agents of the MOIS; Khosro Jan-Nesaran and Ali Akbar Rastgou. Consequently, in several letters addressed to you, the NCRI informed you of the Iranian regime's abuse of this meeting in its propaganda and the remarks attributed to you. Even after *Der Spiegel* magazine revealed that Rastgou and another agent of the regime were arrested during a visit to Baghdad for spying (*Der Spiegel*, July 14, 2008) you did not deem it to be necessary to rectify this policy.

5- It is even more astonishing that your May 13 letter makes no reference to the IHL and the rights of Ashraf residents under it. This is while you are aware of the

outrageous measures against Camp Ashraf, its blockade and the policy of turning it into a prison. You also mention the ICRC's responsibility for "family reunion" in such circumstances where you know fully well that families are not allowed to go to Ashraf to visit their children or relatives as they used to do in the past six years. Besides, Ashraf residents have been refused access to their lawyers and international humanitarian delegations in the past five months.

Dear Ms. Megevand-Roggo,

ICRC's recent letters and policies have truly been shocking to me. However, with the hope that the current trend could be rectified, Mrs. Rajavi would accept a delegation from the ICRC at the NCRI's office in Auvers-sur-Oise should the ICRC deem it necessary,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, enclosed within a hand-drawn oval. The signature is somewhat stylized and difficult to read, but appears to be the name of the sender.

Mohammad Mohaddessin
Chairman