



November 15, 2009

Mr. Laurent Saugy  
Protection Coordinator  
ICRC Iraq

Dear Laurent,

It seems very suspicious the ICRC delegation in Tehran has collected 200 letters addressed to the residents of Ashraf. It clearly indicates the fingerprint of the Iranian mullahs' Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS). However, you may forward the letters to me same as before, and I will pass them to the addressees. As far as using Family Link website is concerned, for clear intelligence and security reasons we cannot post the names of the Ashraf residents on the website because it may put the information at the Iranian regime's disposal, risking the life and security of the families and individuals.

As you may know, one of the two objectives of the mullahs' parliament speaker's visit to Iraq that he made it public was to destroy the Ashraf residents; he said, "Most of people in this group-let are guilty according to the international law and must be extradited to Iran. We believe that hesitation in this regard is not good for Iraq." (Fars news agency, 4 Nov 2009). Furthermore, Kazemi Qumi, the mullah's regime ambassador in Iraq and one of the commanders of the terrorist Quds Force, said: "the Government of Iraq is serious in its decision to expel the Monafeqin and delivering the criminals in this grouplet to Tehran and it has taken some steps in this regard so far." (Mehr news agency, 13 Nov 2009). This would mean that in the Iranian regime's view, the name of any resident of Ashraf on the website will be regarded a crime and a judicial record for him and his family. We have provided ICRC with the list of names of the family members who were arrested on their return to Iran after they had come to visit their loved ones in Ashraf. We also informed ICRC that when in early 2009 we gave the names of Ashraf residents of to Muwaffaq al- Rubaie, two weeks later on January 16, 2009, 18 members of the families who were on their way to visit their loved ones in Ashraf in Iraq, not via the tours organized by the MOIS to Ashraf, were arrested in Tehran Airport. Most of them were very elderly parents who were transferred directly to the Ward 209 in the Evin torture center after being beaten up. Further, the suppressive security forces raided and looted their homes. Many of them are still in Evin, some sentenced to long terms imprisonments. Unfortunately, the ICRC which you wrote has received 200 letters never went to visit these prisoners. Therefore the individuals and families should not be put under further risks by using their names, in particular when all the families and residents could contact each other by telephone or email as it has been so far.

Now, please let me give you more explanation on what is being conducted against us from Tehran:

1. Following criminal attacks of July 28 and 29 against Ashraf, the regime's MOIS has embarked on a dirty psychological warfare against residents of Ashraf and their families. Unfortunately, it is making the maximum use of ICRC in this psychological warfare. Please make sure to read the statement of 10 November 2009 of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI). The

families who recently came to Ashraf said their tour was arranged in coordination with the ICRC.

2. To my utter regret, before you mentioned in your 10 November email to me, I had already read the news of the ICRC messages in the website of MOIS's branch (Nejat Society-Western Azarbaijan) on 7 November together with the report of the ICRC representative participating in a gathering organized by the MOIS in Uremia city (Western Azarbaijan). Wasn't it surprising to you that in a very short period the ICRC office in Tehran had received 200 family messages to the residents of Ashraf, which were more than the total number of messages the residents had received over the past year?
3. The MOIS branch website in Uremia city wrote: " Following the invitation by office of Nejat Society in Western Azarbaijan, esteemed representative of the ICRC attended the office of Nejat Society in Uremia on November 5 and 6, 2009, and in a sincere and promising atmosphere met and exchanged views with 70 members of the families whose relatives are in camp Ashraf under the control of Mojahedin leaders. In his meeting with the families, ICRC representative witnessed the endless suffering and pain of the families whose only request was to be able to contact or meet their loved ones in camp Ashraf...." In the meeting, considering the humanitarian mandate and goals of this impartial and trustworthy entity, Mr. Arash Rezaii,[ in charge of Nejat Society in Western Azarbayejan] also asked ICRC officials to facilitate the possibility of establishing communication between the families and the residents in camp Ashraf...". The ICRC representative said that he hopes to be able to facilitate communications between families and their loved ones in Ashraf through continuous efforts considering humanitarian objectives of the ICRC. He also said that he would do his best in this regard. He also hoped to be able to facilitate communications for residents." Quoting one of the individuals in the meeting, the website wrote: "Recently I wrote my brother (in Ashraf) a letter and I gave it to Mr. Arash Rezaii to post it on the Nejat Society website. I sent a copy of the letter to ICRC to keep them informed. I ask you the esteemed representative of ICRC to give my letter and telephone number to my brother if you could see him and tell him I will provide him anything he wants only if he gets out of camp Ashraf."
4. I feel sorry that the ICRC is participating and cooperating with the infamous MOIS in its campaign to make the members of an opposition to surrender to a black religious dictatorship. It is worth remembering that Khamenei's advisor had said in order to dismantle the PMOI they want to start by using the ICRC to arrange reunions between PMOI members and their families. (Financial Times 20 June 2007).
5. The ICRC representatives had told us before that their participation in MOIS (Nejat Society) programs had been a mistake and would not be repeated. It is, in fact, participation in suppression of Ashraf residents and their families, escalates a dirty psychological warfare against them, and paves the way for another massacre and human catastrophe in Ashraf.
6. It is common knowledge that the people have risen against the religious dictatorship in Iran and in such conditions, the Iranian regime is in multiple need of suppressing the PMOI and Ashraf. Therefore, under such conditions, ICRC's cooperation with the enemies of Iranian people not only hurts the Ashraf residents and their families, but also all freedom loving people around the world. The ICRC's silence and inaction with regard to the human catastrophe in Ashraf has not gone unnoticed. The Swiss Le Courier, wrote on 18 August:" The situation is gloomy particularly because the ICRC- the guardian of Geneva Conventions- has remained silent. Paulo Casaca, a Portuguese socialist and close to the PMOI asked this question:"If it took 48 hours for the USA to send medical assistance, the ICRC has not made any move yet. Why?", while Eric Sotas said: " This international entity is the one that can take measures better than anybody else under such conditions."
7. The residents of Ashraf have announced time and again that they are always ready to welcome members of their families. However, the religious fascism ruling Iran has deprived them from this right through its proxies in Iraq, especially through the committee in charge of suppressing Ashraf in the Iraqi government. Since the beginning of 2009 when the security of Ashraf residents was transferred to the Iraqis, through an inhumane and illegal siege, the Iraqis have

absolutely prohibited entry to Ashraf of families, lawyers, Jurists, human right activists, European and Iraqi law makers, journalists and even Iraqi workers who used to work in Ashraf for many years. Many Ashraf residents ask what the ICRC has done about all these oppressive and inhumane restrictions. Instead of acting as an intermediary for the mullahs' MOIS, wouldn't it be better for ICRC to condemn the inhumane blockade imposed on Ashraf and to make it possible for the families to visit Ashraf freely, as the years between 2003 until 2008.

8. The ICRC did not even visit those who were killed and injured during the July 28 and 29 attacks. The interview by Mr. Schaerer regarding this issue was regrettable and very painful for Ashraf residents. Astonishingly he ignored the party that was responsible for those crimes against humanity and it seemed he tried to pretend both the Ashraf residents and the Iraqi forces were responsible for the crime which of course only translates to justify the crime and the bloodshed. Should we believe that ICRC is ignorant of the events of July 28 and 29? Didn't officials of ICRC watch the footages of those crimes which were broadcast by tens of TV stations globally such as CNN, Fox News, France Cannel 3, Aljazeera, al Arabia, etc and nobody doubted their authenticity?

Dose the ICRC have any doubt that Iraqi aggressive forces opened fire and used armored vehicles and Humvees, batons, axes, clubs and nailed and sharp whips against Ashraf residents? Does the ICRC doubt that Ashraf residents had no arms or anything to defend themselves? Does not ICRC know anything about statements and calls for urgent action and numerous reports by human right organizations such as Amnesty International, International Leagues of Human Rights, Human Rights Watch, World Organization Against Torture, France Liberte Foundation and statements by local officials in Diyala province or statements by UNAMI.

9. On Oct 19<sup>th</sup>, the representative of Iraqi government gave an ultimatum to Ashraf residents to leave Ashraf and move to Samava deserts close to borders of Saudi Arabia by 15 Dec 2009, otherwise they will be forcibly displaced and that the GoI would not hesitate to repeat the events of July 28 and 29. He justified such a brutal displacement by referring to ICRC's letter to Iraqi officials on April 17, 2009,

Surely, the ICRC is aware of the concerns expressed by the U.S. State Department over the brutal and forcible displacement of the Ashraf residents. During a US Congressional hearing on 28 October 2009, Ambassador Feltman, Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs in the U.S. State Department, said: "We're actually more concerned about an Iraqi desire to move Camp Ashraf to someplace else inside Iraq. The expectation is not that they're going to expel the MEK [PMOI] Camp Ashraf residents, but that they would try to move them -- forcibly move them to a different location in Iraq, and that, too, could lead to bloodshed".

10. It is known to everybody that the Iranian regime's MOIS is the main party behind provoking such messages used against Ashraf residents. You promised that ICRC would not distribute such letters again. In 16 December 2007, Juan Pedro Schaerer, the head of ICRC delegation in Iraq wrote to me, "The ICRC transmits the tracing requests through the US/MNF-I in Ashraf, but leaves total freedom to the addressees in Ashraf to determine what to do: There is no obligation to receive the requests and to reply to the enquirers (the families in Iran). Neither does the ICRC request any confirmation of their presence in Ashraf from residents who don't want to communicate.

“It is likely that most families are generally aware of the communication facilities available to directly contact residents in Ashraf; However, hoping to restore contact, they chose to use whatever means are available, including the ICRC's. We are not in a position to reject their requests, as making that decision belongs to the addressees only.

“We once more underline that we understand the concerns expressed, and in particular would like to stress again that there is absolutely no obligation on the side of the residents of Ashraf to receive the requests, reply to their relatives, or acknowledge their presence in Ashraf. This way, we believe that no undue pressure is exercised”.

Please find attached a copy of the letter.

I am also attaching a copy of the letter of 4 June 2006 by the U.S. Army Captain Darrell Martin, then deputy of JIATF that dealt with the Ashraf affairs. Concerning the "Family Contact" and the letters he used to deliver to the residents, he wrote: "Over the past several months JIATF has seen an increase in the number of "family contact" requests from the ICRC and the PMOI have been very cooperative in facilitating JIATF's visits with these individuals. After meeting with the individuals we relay their desires concerning establishing communication with the requester back to the ICRC representative. All of this correspondence takes place via email. Is treated as confidential, and a copy is placed in the Ashraf resident's local JIATF file. Many of the residents of Ashraf express concern over the true intent of those requesting to establish contact, and in order to address their concerns we now offer them the opportunity to provide written responses to the ICRC concerning each request".

Dear Laurent,

Considering your humanitarian sentiments, I believe you would personally abhor that ICRC has ignored its own document "ICRC Protection Policy" which is already on its website with regard to the Ashraf residents, because this way the ICRC has sided with the mullahs against the Resistance of the oppressed people of Iran.

Therefore, allow me to share this letter with others as a forewarning against another human catastrophe underway.

Sincerely,



Behzad Saffari

CC:

- Hon. Jakob Kellenberger, President, International Committee of the Red Cross
- Hon. Sid Ahmed Ghazali, former prime minister of Algeria and chairman of the Arabic-Islamic Committee in Defense of Ashraf
- Hon. Alejo Vidal-Quadras, Vice-President of the European Parliament
- Hon. Lord Corbett, chairman of the British Parliamentary Committee for Iran Freedom
- Hon. Francois Serres, Executive Director of International Committee of Jurists in Defence of Ashraf.