



PRESS RELEASE

Iranian Resistance warns of Iranian regime's efforts to take advantage of ICRC in suppressing Camp Ashraf residents

The website of a branch of the Iranian regime's Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS), known as "Nejat Association branch in west Azerbaijan," attributed a series of remarks to "Mr. Arman, the honorable representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)." Claiming that the afore-mentioned person had spoken at the association's meetings on November 5 and 6, 2009, the website quoted Mr. Arman as saying that after the July 2009 events in Ashraf "our colleagues in Iraq's ICRC twice went to Ashraf but the Mojahedin (PMOI) did not allow them to meet with the residents in the camp. They (leaders of the PMOI) said that we must meet with them, as the representatives of the people in the camp. We went to Ashraf twice but they did not allow us to enter. Finally, the ICRC in Iraq decided against going to Ashraf until the officials of the camp agree to ICRC representatives meeting every single person in Ashraf ... Iraqi authorities may close down Camp Ashraf, and they have made the decision. In such circumstances, the ICRC can easily go there."

These absurd lies are clearly designed to prepare the grounds for further crackdown on Camp Ashraf residents and to cause an even greater humanitarian catastrophe than on the deadly July 28 and 29, 2009 raid on Ashraf.

Such bogus claims coupled with the psychological warfare against the residents by MOIS agents posing as families of Ashraf residents at the camp's main gate, which coincide with the Iraqi elections, bespeak of nefarious schemes by the regime in Tehran.

Attending events organized by the Iranian regime against Ashraf, which seek to destroy the PMOI and the residents of Ashraf, by ICRC representatives is neither understandable nor justifiable in any way. By the same token, the ICRC's remarks which appear to be approving of the closure of Ashraf and the displacement of its residents – if accurate – are regrettable indeed. There is hardly any one unaware of the Iranian regime's designs to have Ashraf residents forcibly displaced by the Iraqi forces and the grave consequences of such a displacement. Many international authorities have already expressed their concerns in this respect.

The very last visit to Ashraf by the ICRC goes back to late February 2009. In their visits to Ashraf until then, the ICRC representatives experienced no restrictions in speaking to the residents and on the contrary it was the residents who wanted the ICRC representatives to speak to more people in the camp and get acquainted with their problems. After this date, despite repeated invitations by the residents to prevent suppressive measures against them by the Iraqi government, the ICRC paid no visit to Ashraf.

There have been no visits to Ashraf by the ICRC after the bloody events of last July either. On October 7, 2009, two ICRC personnel accompanied Iraqi officials who were returning the 36 residents, taken hostage for 72 days, to Ashraf. They left the Camp immediately and even refused an invitation to have lunch with the residents. In addition to the ICRC, the US forces and UNMAI representatives are fully aware of this situation.

On December 24, 2008, an ICRC spokesman told Radio Farda (Persian service of the Radio Free Europe) that the ICRC had visited Ashraf three times and spoken to the residents of the Camp. "Who ever wants to meet with us privately could do so and could inform us of their demands."

The Iranian Resistance warns the international community, in particular the United Nations and the United States, of suppressive plots by the Iranian regime against Ashraf residents. It also demands that the ICRC deny such bogus claims so as to prevent the regime in Tehran from taking advantage of the organization to advance its sinister plans to crack down on Ashraf residents.

Secretariat of the National Council of Resistance of Iran
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