



# IRAN LIBERATION

No. 325

News Bulletin of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Council of Resistance of Iran

11 July 2011

Camp Ashraf in focus at the Italian Parliament

## Majority members of Italian Senate and Parliament call for protection of Ashraf residents

*1,500 Italian mayors support Iranian Resistance*



Italian Parliament  
July 6, 2011

From left: Elisabetta Zamparutti, Emma Bonino, Irene Khan, Maryam Rajavi, Carlo Ciccio, Patrick Kennedy, Robert Torricelli.

**Maryam Rajavi**, President-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran:

*The protection of Ashraf not only serves the interests of the Iranian people, but it is also in the interest of the region and the entire world because it provides a way to confront the most significant threat to today's world community, which is the Iranian regime.*

**Emma Bonino**, Vice Chair of the Italian Senate:

*It is clear that the issue of Ashraf is a political one. There is no technical difficulty for providing protection and saving the life of its 3,400 residents.*

**Patrick Kennedy**, Son of late Senator Edward Kennedy, Member of US Congress until 2011:

*How inconsistent can you get than to have Iran wanting the dispersal of the residents of Ashraf and America at the same time? We need to correct this.*

**Robert Torricelli**, Former Member of US Senate:

*If in this defining moment America is wrong and does not meet its responsibility, is this not a moment when the Italian people, its parliament, its Prime Minister can lead rather than follow?*

**Carlo Ciccio**, Italian MP, Co-chair of Italian Committee of Parliamentarians and Citizens for Free Iran:

*The majority of members of the Italian Parliament support the European Parliament's proposed solution for Ashraf.*

**Elisabetta Zamparutti**, Italian MP, Co-chair of the Italian Committee of Parliamentarians and Citizens for Free Iran:

*Displacement of Ashraf residents inside Iraq that Maliki has long called for and US Ambassador supports should not take place.*

**Lucio Malan**, Member of Italian Senate, Secretary of the Italian Senate Presidency:

*I hope that the remarks by Ambassador Jeffrey on displacement of Ashraf residents inside Iraq would be withdrawn as they are unacceptable.*

**Irene Khan**, Secretary General of Amnesty International (2001-2010):

*How can the residents trust the government of Iraq to give them protection and assistance in any other location in Iraq when the government has failed to protect them in Camp Ashraf.*



**Emma Bonino:**

**Protection for Ashraf can be very well done by a permanent UN team**

It is quite clear that this is a political issue. There is no technical problem at all to save the lives or protect 3400 people. Thank God for the experience of the international community that knows how to do this. Protection for Ashraf can very well be done by a permanent team of the United Nations at Ashraf.

I assure you that when we start doing this, solutions would be found. When we decide to do it, we will be able to do it.

The issue is completely political. They do not want to take actions for the protection and for the right of protection of 3500 people, because it might anger some of the powers that are nearby or far away.

**Irene Khan:**

**It is a collective shame that the international community has only pious words to utter as human lives are put at risk.**

Camp Ashraf is a humanitarian time bomb waiting to explode; how often have we heard that said? Ever since the U.S. troops handed over the responsibility of the camp to the Iraqi authorities in 2009, the bomb has been ticking.

It is a collective shame that the international community has only pious words to utter as human lives are put at risk.

In addition to all the treats and fears and risks that the residents of Camp Ashraf have suffered so far, there is now a concern that they could be forcibly relocated inside Iraq.

People are not commodities to be moved against their will. Forcible relocation increases the risk of injury and death. It is not clear where the people are going to be moved inside Iraq or who will take care of them.

How can the residents trust the government of Iraq to give them protection and assistance in any other location in Iraq when the government has failed to protect them in Camp Ashraf, which is under the glare of publicity everyday.

Relocation is froth with risk if it is not carried out with the consent of the residents. It could lead to more bloodshed.

**Patrick Kennedy:**

**The policy of the United States supports the Iranian mullahs**

There will be no dictatorship that can survive for long. The question is for how long are we going to let them survive, are we going to facilitate the perpetration of these crimes against humanity by Iran and now by Nouri al-Maliki who wants to disperse the residents of Ashraf? I'm sorry to say that it is the policy of the United States to support the Iranian mullahs. How inconsistent can you get than to have Iran wanting the dispersal of the residents of Ashraf and America at the same time? We need to correct this. Rome and Italy has a chance to lead and America now has a chance to follow your lead, just as in history America often led the way. Now maybe it's our turn to follow Italy in the cause of freedom.

**Robert Torricelli:**

**Italian people can lead**

What is it, at the end of the day, that the people of Camp Ashraf really want? Why are they out in the square? What is it these people ask of us? They want to live. Life.

If in this defining moment America is wrong and does not meet its responsibility and if the French and the Germans are late to meet their responsibilities, is that enough for the conscience of Italy? Is this not a moment when the Italian people, it's parliament, it's Prime Minister can lead rather than follow?

**Majority of members of Italian Senate call for protection of Ashraf residents**

**Lucio Malan**

**Secretary of the Italian Senate Presidency**

I have the pleasant responsibility of presenting to Mrs. Rajavi a declaration signed by the majority of the Senate, that is 166 senators, in support of Camp Ashraf which is being so unfairly subjected to injustice; an injustice that violates all international laws and must arouse our solidarity and support.



**Carlo Cicciole:**

**Majority of the Italian Parliament from all groups has expressed its support in a statement**

Our parliamentary committee has thus far obtained the support of 318 members of parliament out of a total of 630, which means the majority. Therefore, the majority of the Italian Parliament from all groups has expressed its support in a statement.

This statement also considers recognition of the movement supported by President Maryam Rajavi and also stresses protection of Camp Ashraf in Iraq.

We also support the final solution proposed by the European Parliament regarding the precondition for withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Camp Ashraf and the request of protection of Ashraf by the United Nations and with the support of U.S. and European Union.



**Elisabetta Zamparutti:**

**I hope statements on relocation of Ashraf resident are rescinded as they are against international laws**

I would like to thank President Maryam Rajavi for her presence in Italy and I hope that our initiative can help your struggle.

I want to thank her for her perseverance and steadfastness in this struggle as that gives us energy too.

The issue of support for Ashraf makes us pause about ourselves and our democracy. The relocation of Ashraf residents inside Iraq, should not take place; this relocation has been mentioned by Nouri al-Maliki for a while and the American Ambassador supports it too.

I hope these statements are rescinded and reviewed as they are absolutely against international laws.

Excerpts of speech by

## Maryam Rajavi

President-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran

The April 8 massacre at Ashraf, a crime that could have been avoided, is one of the dire consequences of the irresponsible policy of the West, and particularly the United States, with respect to the Iranian regime. The prolonging of this policy, and the silence and inaction about the inhumane siege of Ashraf by the Iraqi government has turned the issue of the wounded in Ashraf into a humanitarian tragedy.

The mullah-inspired deadline for the closure of Ashraf paves the way for yet another catastrophe and the irresponsible U.S. approach, despite all the legal obligations towards the residents of Ashraf, has granted the Iranian dictatorship and its Iraqi proxies enough space to perpetrate more attacks.

The refusal to publish the report produced by the U.S. military, political and medical delegation that visited Ashraf in the aftermath of the April 8 massacre, the opposition to requests to visiting Ashraf by the European parliamentary and U.S. Congressional delegations, which sought to investigate the crime, and the illegal and unfeasible idea of displacing the residents of Ashraf inside the Iraqi territory, all essentially fuel the murderous machinery operated by the clerical regime and the Iraqi government.

Any plan that fails to guarantee the protection of Ashraf residents, including their displacement inside Iraq, would inevitably fall prey to the deceptive tactics of the Iranian regime and its puppet government in Iraq and paves the way for bigger catastrophes.

But, once the idea of repelling the threat of a massacre and cleansing is accepted as a fundamental notion, a variety of solutions for Ashraf appear on the horizon.

The European Parliament's plan has been internationally endorsed and enjoys considerable support from various parliaments, including both houses in Italy, precisely because it ensures the protection of Ashraf residents in the short term while offering a permanent and peaceful solution in the long term.

This plan, however, is being directly or indirectly obstructed by the Iranian regime and the Iraqi government. The mullahs' regime envisions only two options for the residents of Ashraf, surrender or annihilation. As such, it welcomes anything that would make this a reality. For this reason, the mullahs favour displacement inside Iraq because it makes it easier to massacre Ashraf residents.

Allow me to talk about those who are wounded or are suffering from various illnesses at Ashraf. They are currently denied an opportunity to be treated and there is a deliberate attempt under way by the Iraqi government to gradually kill them.

I have tried everything over the past three months to help the wounded

**Maryam Rajavi shows the picture of one of many wounded Ashraf residents who died due to delay in treatment of the wounds they received during the April 8 attack.**



in Ashraf. We have repeatedly asked the United Nations for help. We have repeatedly called on the United States government to accept the wounded residents at an American hospital located near Ashraf.

Out of the total number of those wounded, only 93 people or less than 27 percent of the total number, have been transferred to Iraqi hospitals. But, even these residents were sent back to Ashraf without receiving full treatment. The US has transferred only seven of the wounded to its hospitals.

I have no doubt that if there were access to medical treatment, a number of those who lost their lives would still be among us today. They include Saba Haftbaradaran, Behrouz Sabet, Bahman Atiqi, Mansour Hajian, Mohammad-Reza Pirezadi, and Majid Ebadian.

Due to lack of access to medical treatment over the past three months, some of the wounded have lost the use of their limbs.

Medical specialists have warned that such cases are bound to increase, because the Iraqi government has imposed an inhumane medical blockade on Ashraf. Their objective is to eradicate all the members of the Resistance both in Ashraf and elsewhere.

In the midst of this struggle, I have pinned my hopes on the humanitarian sentiments of the people of Italy. We call on the European Union and the United States to embark on a humanitarian initiative with respect to Ashraf.

The realistic and accessible solution for the period of transition is to install a team of UN monitors in Ashraf whose protection is ensured by the U.S. and the EU in accordance with their international obligations.

The protection of Ashraf not only serves the interest of the Iranian people, but it is also in the interest of the region and the entire world because it provides a way to confront the most significant threat to today's world community, which is the Iranian regime.



### Alessandro Pagano Vice Chair of Italian Parliament's Committee on Budget

Everyone speaks of Iran's danger because of building nuclear bomb, terrorism, the tyranny and repression, but no one is successful in understanding to what

degree Ashraf is more important than all of these.

It is clear that the Iranian regime is focusing on destroying this major thorn on its side and we know very well that violating what is the sacred principles of Geneva Conventions sets a dangerous precedence, as its meaning is that today in Ashraf, and tomorrow who knows when and where?



### Massimo Vannucci Member of Italian Parliament

The Italian

Parliament confirms your fight and supports the Iranian Spring that arrived prior to the Arab Spring. Italy, alongside the European Union, must be on the forefront of solving Ashraf's troubles which are indeed humanity's shame.



### Marco Perduca Member of Italian Senate, Chair of Human Rights Commission

Emma Bonino discussed to some extent, the international laws that

apply to Camp Ashraf residents and the fact that their rights under the covenants of Geneva's Fourth Convention must be respected.

The Italian Parliament must include the issue of Ashraf in its bilateral relations with Iraq.



### Antonio Razzi MP, Chair of European Foreign Policy Commission

It is quite clear that the Iranian regime is grappling with internal crisis and tries to destroy its opponents at Ashraf, while it intensifies the internal suppression. We must support this resistance. Above all else, we must recognize the Iranian Resistance represented by President Maryam Rajavi.

### Souda Sbai Member of Italian Parliament

Discussions and dialogues about Ashraf will be very well conducted with our colleagues here. And this is part of our fight, and not only the Iranians' fight; a fight for civility and civilization.



## 1,500 Italian mayors express support for Iranian Resistance



*On behalf of 1,500 Italian mayors, a number of mayors of Italian cities attended the session held at the Italian Parliament to express their support for the Iranian Resistance and call for the protection of Ashraf residents.*



*Mrs. Rajavi speaking to reporters in front of Italian Parliament.*



*Maryam Rajavi meeting with Alessandro Pagano, Vice-chair of Italian Parliament's Committee on Budget.*



*Iranians greet Mrs. Rajavi outside Italian Parliament.*