



IRAN LIBERATION



Mrs. Rajavi welcomes the UN proposal for dialogue with the Government of Iraq in order to provide minimum guarantees for transfer of Ashraf residents to Camp Liberty in the context of the UNHCR statement

Mrs. Rajavi reminded her readiness to travel to Baghdad to talk with the Government of Iraq with the presence of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General.

She reiterated the readiness of 400 Ashraf residents to move to Camp Liberty with their vehicles and moveable properties and called for formation of a joint judicial committee of lawyers of all pertinent parties to sign a comprehensive document containing the minimum guarantees of the transfer.

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Unrealistic and inverse depiction of prison conditions at Camp Liberty

Once again, Ashraf residents are facing a fait accompli similar to the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Mr. Kobler, UN Secretary General's Special Representative, with the Government of Iraq.

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82 Members of Iraqi parliament to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon:

The government of Iraq is planning to turn the new location into a prison for Ashraf residents... The dangerous part is the fact that all of this is happening with UN's silence.

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In a plenary session of the European Parliament

High Rep. Catherine Ashton Urged by MEPs to Protect Rights of Ashraf Residents

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Non-Governmental Organizations with UN consultative status:

Prevent turning Camp Liberty into a prison for Ashraf residents under UN approval

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UNHCR Update, February 1, 2012:

- UNHCR has been for some time and remains ready to undertake verification and refugee status adjudication for the residents of Camp New Iraq (formerly Camp Ashraf) who are persons of concern. It has mobilized teams on the ground, and has put in place the necessary soft and hard ware support capabilities. Individual interviews will need to take place in a safe, neutral and confidential location.
- The stipulation of the Government of Iraq remains that these processes take place outside Camp New Iraq, in the new location which is being provisioned to enable the residents voluntarily to move there and to stay on a temporary basis in safe and decent conditions. UNHCR has been advising on the technicalities of improving the camp infrastructure.
- UNHCR attaches utmost importance to peaceful solutions being found, including that any relocation outside Camp New Iraq proceed on a voluntary basis, with freedom of movement the most desirable state at the site of relocation.
- UNHCR is currently looking at how to expedite verification and RSD processing so as to enable it to be done on an individual basis fairly, fully but also speedily, in the interests of gaining time against tight deadlines.

In a Letter to Secretary Clinton, Twenty-One Former Senior US Officials Call for Delisting the MEK, Camp Ashraf Protection

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Unrealistic and inverse depiction of prison conditions at Camp Liberty sets the stage for attack and suppression of Ashraf residents

Ashraf residents wrote to Mr. Kobler on January 25th and 29th "is quite clear: either you accept these conditions completely 'voluntarily' and concur with them or the blame for the subsequent firing of missiles and then a massacre on the next deadline lies upon yourselves and your leadership!"

The statement issued by UNAMI in Baghdad on the readiness of Camp Liberty for the transfer of Ashraf residents in clear violation of the spirit of the December 28 letter and included guarantees to the Ashraf residents by the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General (SRSG) Mr. Martin Kobler once again leaves Ashraf residents with a fait accompli. This is the repeat of the questionable method previously used for the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Kobler and the Government of Iraq on December 25 and serves to force Ashraf residents to accept a forcible relocation. It seems that the aforementioned statement is written without the knowledge of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, UN High Commissioner of Human Rights, and the World Health Organization which are the relevant parties in the Ashraf issue, and at the same time, it intends to ignore the full responsibility of Martin Kobler, UNSG Special Representative in Iraq and place the responsibility on the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and UNAMI's Human Rights Office in Baghdad.

What makes the case stranger is that Mr. Kobler has repeatedly stated that the UNHCR will issue a certificate of compliance with international standards, but despite all pressure, UNHCR has refused to do so and has reported that the technical infrastructure are in accordance with the international standards for refugee camps.

The goal of issuing this statement regarding Ashraf residents "is quite clear: either you accept these conditions completely 'voluntarily' and concur with them or the blame for the subsequent firing of missiles at Ashraf and then a massacre on the next deadline lies upon yourselves and your leadership!" This is the point that the residents underscored to

Mr. Kobler on January 25th and 29th.

Meanwhile, the National Council of Resistance of Iran has obtained secret documents from inside the clerical regime regarding a "joint working plan" for dismantling the main Iranian opposition force through imposing conditions at Camp Liberty on the Iranian opposition by exploiting UNAMI in Iraq. According to this plan, Ashraf should be closed down prior to April 2012 deadline and the residents would be transferred in groups of 350, and subsequently in groups of 200. According to the plan, UNAMI should be placed in constant contact with the Iranian Embassy in Baghdad and this has been made clear and understood. The objective is to make as many as of the residents possible to be forced to repent, surrender and return to Iran. The objective of placing Ashraf residents faced with a fait accompli situation is to make them submit to inhumane and illegal conditions at Camp Liberty. And if they would not submit, in the subsequent steps they would be construed as being responsible and would be blamed for the attack on them and the massacre.

The issued statement is in direct contrast to the assertions of the UN Secretary General on Dec 6, 2011 that "the agreement lays the foundation for a peaceful and durable solution to the situation, respecting both the sovereignty of Iraq and its international humanitarian and human rights obligations".

In UNAMI's press release, the standards of treatment and Iraq's conduct for forced eviction of the residents are intentionally ignored. Is this a measure to cover up the truth or is it to escape the responsibility of forceful dislocation of Ashraf residents and to escape the responsibility for the next massacre?

Shocking and shameful facts on claiming readiness of Camp Liberty for 5,500 persons according to international humanitarian standards

The UNAMI's press release of January 31 in Baghdad about Camp Liberty being ready to accommodate 5,500 persons in accordance with the international humanitarian standards claimed: "UN certifies that new camp for Iranian exiles meets international standards" (UN NEWS CENTER).

These claims are absolutely untrue and their sole use is to bypass Iraqi government's obligation to humanitarian and human rights standards and to justify the ominous intentions of the religious fascism ruling Iran for annihilation of the main opposition force of that regime.

The MOU signed on 25 December 2011 by Mr. Martin Kobler, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Iraq, and the Government of Iraq explicitly says: "GOI ensures 'The transit locations meet humanitarian and human rights standards'", whereas nobody has yet certified these standards in regard to Camp Liberty. In the UNAMI statement of January 31 which has claimed that the camp has been certified within the frame of the Memorandum of Understanding, "human rights" standards have been completely forgotten. Technical assessment is merely assessing whether there are sufficient water taps, toilets and showers. It has been specified in the assessment that in six parts of the camp's seven sections, even these facilities are not yet functioning and with regards to the only section which is ready, doubts have been expressed about the complete functionality of these facilities.

The approved area in the technical assessment is for known refugee camps which its residents have freedom of movement to go outside the camp and use public civil services such as parks, sport arenas, mosques, movie theaters and public libraries. This assessment is completely different for Ashraf residents who - according to Mr. Kobler's statements - have no freedom to go outside the camp and all their vital activities are limited to the land where they live on.

Reportedly high concrete walls around Camp Liberty have been equipped with hidden and open cameras, so that along with two police stations and added police observation posts inside the camp, it would be nothing less than a prison.

No one is allowed to exit the camp and residents' access to even the UNHCR's location and the UN monitors near the camp is not possible. If someone wants to go to the UNHCR's location or the UN monitors outside the camp, he must go there in military vehicles accompanied by Iraqi armed personnel.

Transfer of the first group from Ashraf to Liberty, which the Iranian regime's embassy and the terrorist Quds Force are completely informed of its details, will be carried out by Iraqi buses, and the regime's proxies are scheduled to hurl stones at the Ashraf residents along the way (at Qossayrin three-way). This is similar to the scenario carried out at Ashraf in October, November and December of 2010



UNHCR update on Ashraf contradicts UNAMI's claim that Camp Liberty is certified



February 2, 2012 - In its latest update on Camp Ashraf, dated 1 February, which was posted on UNHCR's website on 2 February, the UN refugee agency states that the new location "is being provisioned to enable the residents voluntarily to move there" indicating that the camp is not yet compliant with international standards. It further says, "UNHCR has been advising on the technicalities of improving the camp infrastructure".

The UNHCR update also states, "UNHCR attaches utmost importance to peaceful solution being found, including that any relocation outside Camp New Iraq proceed on a voluntary basis, with freedom of movement the most desirable state at the site of relocation".

The UNHCR update contradicts the claim made by Ambassador Kobler, Special Representative of UN Secretary General (SRSG) on 31 January that UNHCR has "confirmed that the infrastructure and facilities at Camp Liberty are in accordance with the international humanitarian standards."

It is clear that the press release issued by the Public Information Office of UNAMI (headed by Ambassador Kobler) is misleading. The Iraqi government has officially and in the presence of Ambassador Kobler informed the residents of Ashraf that they will have no freedom of movement in Camp Liberty. They will also be completely denied access to lawyers, as well as free access to family and medical services.

According to technical experts, the infrastructure in six out of seven sections of the Camp is not functioning and therefore it cannot currently house the more than 3,000 residents of Camp Ashraf...

Such conditions do not even comply with the standards required in a prison let alone a refugee camp. They are poor, nothing short of inhumane and should not be endorsed by Ambassador Kobler. The legal representatives of Camp Ashraf residents will not advise their clients to consign themselves to the inhumane and degrading fate that awaits them in Camp Liberty.

The legal representatives of Camp Ashraf residents will not advise their clients to consign themselves to the inhumane and degrading fate that awaits them in Camp Liberty."



and January of 2011.

Another unsolvable issue regarding the transfer of Ashraf residents to Liberty is the safety and fate of 200 disabled and wounded residents, which the World Health Organization (WHO) has a list of their names. The WHO representative met with a number of these patients on their beds and wheelchairs on January 19. This is while the briefings presented to the UN Security Council have stressed that to transfer Ashraf residents, the Iraqi Government needs more time to upgrade conditions at Liberty to acceptable humanitarian standards, and WHO and UNHCR must give their approval. They have not yet announced such an approval.

The shameful facts mentioned above raise two fundamental questions that UNAMI and SRSG Martin Kobler must provide clear answers for:

Firstly – What is the legal status of Ashraf residents and those who go to Camp Liberty, and what laws and regulations do they come under? Are they asylum seekers or prisoners? As the mullahs' ambassador has said – citing Mr. Kobler – are they considered "terrorists" and according to Mr. Maliki they have no legal designation?

Secondly – Do Ashraf residents truly have the right to choose and relocate voluntarily, or as Mr. Kobler in his meeting with Ashraf representatives on January 28 made them understand very well, if they do not transfer to Liberty under these very conditions, subsequent attacks may be on the way?

Points from "Technical assessment" of Camp Liberty:

- There is no potable water in Liberty; bottled water must be purchased by the residents. Service water must be supplied by the residents themselves.
- Camp liberty also has a health center to be staffed and stocked. (Simply means trailers with no staff and stock that could be turned into a health center at a later time!)
- Infrastructure for the disabled persons including ramps, stairs and sanitary facilities do not exist and should be constructed by the residents!
- Dining facility is available with seats for 700 people (not 5,500)
- It is foreseen that the equipment for the health center will be brought in by the residents; therefore, at the moment, there is no health centre in Liberty (simply means the same experience as in Ashraf is being repeated in which the residents placed their own medical equipment at the disposal of Iraqi forces who made a torture center out of the so-called "New Iraq Hospital" causing the death of 12 individuals due to medical siege).
- According to final assessment on January 28th, Camp Liberty is prepared for immediate accommodation of only 800 persons.
- The camp has been divided into 7 sections, six of which is not ready yet. The assessments are based on availability, rather than functionality, of the infrastructures (water tanks, sewage tanks, generator sets, etc.).
- The functionality of the kitchen equipment, the number and the capacity of sewage and water tanks and the generator sets are not mentioned in the "Technical assessment".
- On the functionality of the heating and cooling systems, while the assessment claims the readiness of these units, it states, "However, the sole functioning of the heating/air conditioning does not necessarily indicate that these are in proper working condition".
- 117,000 square meters of open space mentioned in UNAMI's press release "providing ample possibilities for exercise and recreation" is nothing but a barren and arid piece of land that should be turned into sport tracks or recreation park by the residents. In reality, there exist no possibilities for exercise and recreation in the camp.

According to the text, the "Technical assessment" has been prepared with the help and cooperation of some Iraqi officers who have played the highest role in the massacres of July 2009 and April 2011 as well as in the siege and suppression of the past three years against Ashraf.

82 Members of Iraqi Parliament call for urgent attention to protect rights of Ashraf residents

“The trend of events at camp Liberty has every character of a forced displacement to a detention center with UNAMI’s approval.”

Members of Iraqi Parliament

Text of the letter to Secretary General Ban Ki-moon:
January 22, 2012

We would like to address the ongoing crisis of camp Ashraf after the UN signed a memorandum with the government of Iraq for a voluntary relocation of residents to the UN endorsed camp Liberty in Baghdad for their relief from blockade, inhumane treatment and harassment. But unfortunately the reports indicate that the government is planning to turn the new location into a prison for the residents depriving them of their right to property as well as reducing the size of the camp to .5 km² against the previous promises, with the police force inside the living areas. The dangerous part is the fact that all of this is happening with UN’s silence.

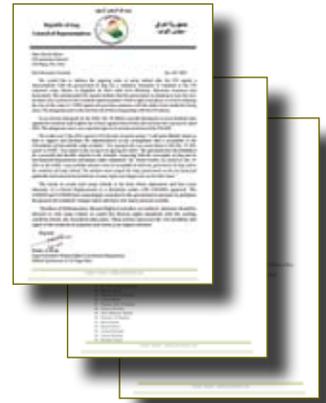
In an obvious disregard for the MoU, Mr. al-Maliki recently threatened to move judicial cases against the residents and implied use of force against them if they did not leave the country by April 2012. This dangerous move was expected sign not to remain unanswered by UNAMI.

We recall your 7 July 2011 report to UN Security Council saying: “I call upon Member States to help to support and facilitate the implementation of any arrangement that is acceptable to the Government of Iraq and the camp residents.” You repeated the very same theme in the Dec. 5th 2011 report to UNSC. You stated on the occasion of signing the MoU: “the agreement lays the foundation for a peaceful and durable solution to the situation, respecting both the sovereignty of Iraq and its international humanitarian and human rights obligations. Mr. Martin Koblertoo stated on Dec. 6th 2011 in the UNSC “any workable solution must be

acceptable to both the government of Iraq and to the residents of Camp Ashraf. The solution must respect the Iraqi government on the one hand and applicable international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law on the other hand.”

The trend of events at camp Liberty is far from those statements and has every character of a forced displacement to a detention center with UNAMI’s approval. The UNHCR and UNAMI have surprisingly conceded to the government’s pressure to postpone the process for residents’ refugee status and have lost many precious months.

Members of Parliamentary Human Rights Committee or residents’ attorneys should be allowed to visit camp Liberty to match the Human rights standards with the existing condition before any relocation takes place. These serious issues put the UN credibility and rights of the residents at jeopardy and merits your urgent attention.



International Committee of Jurists in Defence of Ashraf calls on UN Secretary General to put off transfer of residents to Camp Liberty until all conditions in the camp, and not just its “infrastructures and facilities”, meet the international standards

In our letter of January 13 to Mr. Kobler we wrote: “We also strongly recommend to you that unlike the MOU which was signed without our consultation and even without informing us and our clients, not to act without informing us and our clients and without obtaining our and our clients’ agreement about whether the Liberty facilities comply or not with the international standards.”

Excerpts of ICJDA press release, February 2, 2012:
Infrastructures of Camp Liberty are not adequate for even the minimum needs, especially for the patients, the disabled and the elderly who are in need of special care. However, even if the infrastructures were adequate, the residents’ rights could not be degraded to this level. In our January 30 statement we warned:

“The SRSJ and the UNHCR not to be accomplice in turning Liberty into prison by certifying the camp under such conditions. Liberty must live up to international standards. International standards are not related merely to water, electricity and sewage system. They must uphold the International Human Rights Law, including the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights and Convention against Torture.”

In our letter of January 13 to Mr. Kobler we wrote: “We also strongly recommend to you that unlike the MOU which was signed without our consultation and even without informing us and our clients, not to act without informing us and our clients and without obtaining our and our clients’ agreement about whether the Liberty facilities comply or not with the international standards. Any expert on refugee rights knows that relocation of Ashraf residents to a place, which is from every perspective much lower than their current location and in which they will face serious threats, is in blatant contradiction with the spirit of the Geneva Convention and the true values of the United Nations.”
In another letter to him on January 26 we wrote: “We have



Mrs. Rajavi welcomes the UN proposal for dialogue with the Government of Iraq in order to provide minimum guarantees for transfer of Ashraf residents to Camp Liberty in the context of the UNHCR statement

February 2, 2012 - Mr. Martin Kobler, the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General (SRS), Ambassador Daniel Fried, the Special Advisor of the U.S. Secretary of State on Ashraf, and Mr. Hugues Mingarelli on behalf of the high representative of the European Union for foreign affairs and security policy held a joint press conference on Camp Ashraf in Brussels this afternoon. Mr. Kobler suggested that constructive dialogue be held between the representatives of the Government of Iraq and Ashraf residents to clarify the modality of the transfer to Camp Liberty and moving of the first group of the residents.

Previously, on February 1, in its statement the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) regarding determining the refugee status of Ashraf resident stipulated that the Government of Iraq has prevented the commencement of the process in Ashraf. It pointed out: "UNHCR attaches utmost importance to peaceful solutions being found, including that any relocation outside Camp New Iraq proceed on a voluntary basis, with freedom of movement the most desirable state at the site of relocation."

"UNHCR is currently looking at how to expedite verification and RSD processing so as to enable it to be done on an individual basis fairly, fully but also speedily, in the interests of gaining time against tight deadlines".

The MOU signed on 25 December 2011 by Mr Kobler, and the Government of Iraq explicitly says: GOI ensures "The transit locations meet humanitarian and human rights standards", whereas nobody has yet certified these standards in regard to Camp Liberty.

Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, the President-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, while emphasizing on the content and points of the NCRI statements on February 1 and 2 regarding the condition of Camp Liberty

and lack of humanitarian and human rights standards, strongly welcomed the suggestion of SRS about starting a constructive dialogue of parties, in the context of the UNHCR statement.

She reminded her readiness to travel to Baghdad and holding dialogue with the Government of Iraq in the presence of the SRS, once again as a good will gesture, reiterated the readiness of 400 of the Ashraf residents to move to Camp Liberty with their vehicles and moveable properties. She called for an international conference or at least formation of a joint judicial committee by lawyers of all pertinent parties to sign a "comprehensive document to arrange the transfer" that would entail the minimum humanitarian and human rights guarantees. During the Brussels press conference, based on the Dec 25 statement of Mrs. Hillary Clinton, the U.S. Secretary of State, Ambassador Daniel Fried, once again, reminded the U.S. responsibility and commitment for a peaceful solution to prevent violence and another massacre at Ashraf.

While expressing once again her appreciation for the attention of Secretary Clinton on this issue, Mrs. Rajavi, called on Ambassador Fried and Ambassador Kobler for guarantees and their implementation for the transfer of Ashraf residents to Camp Liberty. Particularly about stationing of Iraqi armed forces outside the small half square kilometer area, so as it has been stated repeatedly, about 1,000 women could enjoy adequate security and wellbeing. She added: The representatives of the residents have raised this issue on several occasions in their correspondents with the SRS. Unfortunately there has been the least attention to them as well as other "humanitarian and human rights standards" that the Government of Iraq had been committed to in the MoU.

"The MOU signed on 25 December 2011 by Mr Kobler, and the Government of Iraq explicitly says: GOI ensures "The transit locations meet humanitarian and human rights standards", whereas nobody has yet certified these standards in regard to Camp Liberty."



constantly followed the progress of your negotiations with Gol and the hidden obstructions by the Iraqi government and the Iranian regime. During this one month since you have signed the MOU with Gol, the number of breaches of the MOU by the Iraqis has been astounding. Disregarding these violations, had there been just a couple of cases, could have been justified as tolerance and a mean to advance the negotiations; however, in circumstances where these breaches have become instead an escalating norm of events together with the trampling of the international law, they can no longer be tolerated".

"Silence in face of bullying by Gol and surrendering to all its demands while constantly pressuring the residents to show flexibility portrays a very inappropriate view of the United Nations. Expectation from the United Nations and yourself as the Special Representative of Secretary-General for Iraq is to adhere to the rule of law and the observance of human rights, rather than looking to appease the Gol. Expectation is for a

courageous position and the disclosure of the truth. At first glance disclosures may seem to produce instability; however, instead of circumventing the truth and turbulences, one can face them head on by drawing on the international law and resolving the problems in the correct manner."

Considering the aforementioned, we call on the Secretary-General who on several occasions has reiterated that arrangements must be "acceptable to the Government of Iraq and the camp residents", to put off transfer of residents to Camp Liberty until all conditions in the camp, and not just its "infrastructures and facilities", meet the international standards. As stated in the ICJDA statement on January 30, we reiterate: "While the past experiences all indicate the Iraqi Government's suspicious and dangerous intentions regarding Ashraf residents, it is the residents' right to refuse to succumb to the abovementioned conditions when the outcome is clear in advance." This is our strict recommendation to our clients in Ashraf as well.

High Representative Catherine Ashton Urged by MEPs to Protect Rights of Ashraf Residents



Struan Stevenson President of EP's Delegation for Relations with Iraq

Last December Martin Kobler, the UNAMI (United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq) Special Representative in Iraq, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Iraqi Government without first having got the

approval of the residents of Camp Ashraf which he had pledged to get in advance. Nor was he acting in accordance with the wishes of the UN Secretary-General, who said that the Ashraf people must approve the MoU. Yesterday [January 30, 2012] he issued a press release saying that Camp Liberty is ready for the displacement of the 3 300 people from Ashraf, when in fact there is no freedom of movement – they will not be allowed to take their personal possessions, they will be surrounded by thousands of military and police.

This is not a refugee camp, this is fundamentally a prison. Please, can you insist that the Iraqi Government uphold its obligations and not allow them to get away with this kind of unorthodox treatment.



Peter Šťastný

Iranian refugees from Camp Ashraf will move to a new Camp Liberty, which the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly has compared to a prison camp.

The green light was issued by the UN mission in Iraq. This approval was granted without the consent of Camp Ashraf residents, despite the promise of the UN Envoy, Ambassador Martin Kobler, that

such approval be obtained.

The EU should take a much more active role, with Baroness Ashton's direct involvement – especially after the refusal of the Iraqi Government to let it play an active part in the negotiations. In addition there are approximately 900 Camp Ashraf residents with links to Europe.

Therefore, we need to stand shoulder to shoulder with our US friends in exerting pressure on Iraq and the UN for a quick and humane resolution. By the way, people like the refugees of Camp Ashraf are our best hope for a democratic and nuclear-free Iran.



Filip Kaczmarek

I wish to remind the High Representative in the atmosphere of other problems such as nuclear with Iran, she would speak about human rights or a still precarious and dangerous situation in Camp Ashraf.

Members also asked about this in the round of questions. And we must do everything to solve these problems together.

Catherine Ashton EU's High Representative



As you know, I have raised these issues with the Iraqis from the beginning. You and I have been in many dialogues about this and rightly so. It is a very worrying situation.

I do know that Martin Kobler has been in touch with the residents of Camp

Ashraf throughout this process. There is a lot of information so that it is quite hard to unpick exactly what is happening. There are different kinds of interests at work in this whole process. He will be here tomorrow and I know he is meeting with you. He knows not only how important this is to you, but how important it is to Members of this House.

The ambition is to now find the solution that will take these people to a better future, enabling them to live the lives that we all want them to lead. I hope that the transition through Camp Liberty is a way of ensuring that they move forward in the future and that their needs are properly addressed. We will be meeting with him tomorrow to make sure that those messages get through.



Tunne Kelam

I would like to return to my colleague Mr. Stevenson's question because I think the UN mediation negotiated by Mr. Kobler has not provided sufficient guarantees for the safety and freedom of choice for more than 3,000 people there.

This is contrary to the position taken by Parliament several years ago, because the

Iraqi authorities have clearly violated the relocation program, launching missile attacks against the camp. I think the role of your representatives has lately been rather marginalized because they have even been denied a visa for Iraq.

I put it to you that, if you say that the relocation to Camp Liberty is the way for the future, I think it is a very ominous way. I urgently call upon you to use your authority, to speak more vocally and more decisively to solve this humanitarian crisis, which is still pending, because these are people who have consistently advocated a truly democratic, secular and nuclear-free Iran, which is what we need.



Martin Ehrenhauser

I have one question on Camp Ashraf. The deadline has been postponed. Camp Ashraf is to be moved. There is the suggestion that the European countries grant asylum to members or people from the Camp Ashraf, and that those persons who have had a link to EU. Is this proposal still on the table?

What do you think of this proposal?

In a letter to US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton Twenty-One Former Senior USA Officials and Generals Call for Delisting the MEK, Camp Ashraf Protection

In a 20 January 2012 letter addressed to US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, twenty one (21) former senior United States officials and Generals have called for the immediate protection of members of the Mujahedin-e Khalq (MEK) now residing in Camp Ashraf.

The signatories include Secretary Andrew H. Card, Jr., General James Conway, Ambassador Dell Dailey, Governor Howard Dean, Professor Alan Dershowitz, Director Louis J. Freeh, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, Director Porter Goss, Ambassador Bob Joseph, Congressman Patrick J. Kennedy, Admiral James A. Lyons, Jr., Col. Wesley Martin, Attorney General Michael B. Mukasey, Brig. General David Phillips, Ambassador Mitchell B. Reiss, Governor Edward Rendell, Governor Tom Ridge, John Sano, General Hugh Shelton, Senator Robert Torricelli, and General Chuck Wald.

These former US officials are intensely concerned that the US is failing to uphold its legal and moral obligations to ensure the safety and security of the residents of Ashraf, who have now been given refugee-eligible special status. All residents are currently protected under Article 4 of the Geneva Convention. The US has promised to protect each of the 3,400 residents. And each resident has been screened by the FBI and not found to be engaged or intending to engage in any terrorist activity. The residents are supposed to be relocated to the former Camp Liberty for refugee processing out of Iraq.

The UN negotiator, Ambassador Martin Kobler, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General, has yet to secure the safety and security of the residents at Camp Liberty in his negotiations with the Iraqi Government. The Iraqi officials are designing Camp Liberty as a prison-like camp rather than a UN refugee processing center, and pressuring the UN into accepting its substandard and inhumane confinement facilities.

Ambassador Kobler previously assured Camp Ashraf residents and the US in December that Camp Liberty would be 'ready' in one week for habitation, that the Iraqis agreed not to arrest or involuntarily expatriate to Iran any of the Camp Ashraf residents, and that the previous 31 Dec. 2011 'deadline' for forcibly closing Camp Ashraf was extended. The Iraqi government has subsequently and publicly contradicted Ambassador Kobler's (two) assurances and Camp Liberty remains completely unready for refugee relocation. The residents of Camp Ashraf have been denied their right to take vehicles, personal property and basic living equipment with them to Camp Liberty. The Iraqi Government

has built large concrete walls around the tiny area (immensely smaller than what Ambassador Kobler initially advised) of Camp Liberty reserved for the residents, who will not be allowed any freedom of movement whatsoever once interned inside this prison-like facility. Unfortunately, Ambassador Kobler signed the Memorandum of Understanding with the Iraqi Government without approval of the residents, while he had promised not to do so.

Highlighting the ongoing legal and moral responsibility of the US Government to guarantee the protection and welfare of all 3,400 Camp Ashraf residents, the 21 former senior US Officials and Generals (including the former Attorney General, FBI Director, Secretary of Homeland Security, CIA Director, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Marine Corps Commandant, Governors and others) once again are calling upon the US Government to immediately remove MEK from its Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) list.

These former senior US Officials and Generals comprise the best qualified and most experienced counter-terrorism experts in the world. Based on their study and personal interaction with the MEK, they have unanimously concluded and publicly stated that the MEK "is not a terrorist organization and there is no rational factual or legal basis to maintain it on the FTO—where it was placed in 1997 as a political accommodation to the regime in Iran, NOT because it ever engaged in any terrorist activity or had an intent to do so against the US."

Indeed, Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, the MEK leader, exemplifies and proclaims on behalf of her supporters all of the humanitarian and UN-championed rights which the US had made its essential foreign policy principles, including freedom of religion, non-violence, democratic and elected government, gender equality, free markets and the rule of law.

The US State Department was directed in July 2010 by the US Court of Appeals—DC Circuit to "reconsider the listing of MEK on the Department's list of foreign terrorist organization." That order was issued "because the record presented to the court was inadequate to sustain such a listing," the letter said. To this day the State Department has ignored the Court and persisted in unreasonable obfuscation and delay, bordering on contempt of court. Both the regime in Tehran and the Iraqi Government have used this unjustified FTO designation as a "license to kill" the residents of Camp

The signatories include:

- Secretary Andrew H. Card, Jr.
- General James Conway
- Ambassador Dell Dailey
- Governor Howard Dean
- Professor Alan Dershowitz
- Director Louis J. Freeh
- Mayor Rudolph Giuliani
- Director Porter Goss
- Ambassador Bob Joseph
- Congressman Patrick J. Kennedy
- Admiral James A. Lyons, Jr.
- Col. Wesley Martin
- Attorney General Michael B. Mukasey
- Brig. General David Phillips
- Ambassador Mitchell B. Reiss
- Governor Edward Rendell
- Governor Tom Ridge
- John Sano
- General Hugh Shelton
- Senator Robert Torricelli
- General Chuck Wald

Ashraf, who were violently attacked by Iraqi forces in July 2009 and April, 2011, resulting in scores of deaths and grave injuries to hundreds of unarmed and defenseless residents. The continuing and baseless mis-designation of the MEK as a terrorist organization also makes it very difficult for most countries, including the US itself, to accept these residents into their countries. The 21 former senior US Officials and Generals are alarmed at the continuing failure of both the UN and US to accomplish the safe relocation of the 3,400 MEK members from Camp Ashraf to Camp Liberty, where they will be treated with dignity, liberty and protection, and processed by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and safely relocated out of Iraq.

Finally, these former senior officials and Generals call on the Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, and the US Ambassador to Iraq, James Jeffrey, to become personally and directly involved in the stalled talks with the Iraqi Government, representatives of the residents of Ashraf, and representatives of UNHCR, to provide for a quick, comprehensive and safe resolution of this crisis. In the absence of such a resolution, these former Officials and Generals believe that a humanitarian disaster of Srebrenica proportion could occur, which would greatly damage and embarrass both the UN and the Obama Administration.

Declaration of Non-Governmental Organizations with UN consultative status:

Prevent turning Camp Liberty into a prison for Ashraf residents under UN approval

We call on the Iraqi authorities to prevent turning Camp Liberty into a prison. We also call on the UN Secretary General and UNAMI to guarantee the minimum standards of safety, security and well-being of the residents in the new camp and call on the UNHCR to start its work in Ashraf and end the delay in affirming the refugee status of the residents.

While the international community is planning to find a peaceful solution for Ashraf and the residents are helping to make it come true through the relinquishment of their certain rights, the Iranian regime is planning for the failure of this solution through the Iraqi government.

The initial area allocated to the residents in Camp Liberty has reduced by 80 times and the living conditions in the camp are far less than initially proposed. The limited area is becoming enclosed by concrete walls; it is insisted that Iraqi police should be present inside the camp; freedom of movement is not allowed; there are increasing restrictions for the residents such as not being allowed to move in their own vehicles from Ashraf to Camp Liberty and transferring them

in buses of the Iraqi forces after thorough body search and taking their personal belongings away from them. This will be a forcible relocation to a prison.

On 30 January, Ambassador of the Iranian regime impudently announced that consular representatives of the Iranian regime will be present in Camp Liberty. This is naturally a red line for the residents.

We urge the Iraqi government to abandon the obstructions and stop transforming Camp Liberty into a prison. We also urge the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General to prevent the relocation of Ashraf residents until the camp meets the international standards, and urge the UNHCR to defend the resident's rights within the laws and to immediately start its work in Ashraf, and not wait until Camp Liberty is ready, in order to expedite the resident's resettlement in third countries.

We also call on the UNAMI and the UNHCR to make separate arrangements for an expeditious transfer of Ashraf patients to third countries.

- France Libertés (Foundation of Danielle Mitterrand)
- Movement against Racism and for Friendship between Peoples (MRAP)
- International Educational Development (IED)

- Nonviolent Radical Party, Transnational Transparty
- Women's Human Rights International Association (WHRIA)
- Marangopoulos Foundation for Human Rights
- Espace Afrique International

286th Day of Sit-in outside United Nations in Geneva

February 3, 2012, Geneva

In bitter cold weather conditions and simultaneous with the arrival of Mr. Martin Kobler, United Nations Secretary General's Special Representative for Iraq, members of families and friends of Ashraf residents gathered outside the United Nations headquarters on their 286th day of their sit-in to express their concern about security, safety and well-being of Ashraf residents.

