Mass execution of 52 Iranian dissidents at Camp Ashraf, Iraq

Now is the time for US, EU and UN to act

This humanitarian tragedy could have been prevented if U.S. had stood by its words and protected those it promised

7 residents who were taken hostage at Camp Ashraf should be released immediately

Iranian Resistance Calls on U.S. and U.N. for:

- The release of the seven hostages who were abducted by Iraqi forces on September 1
- Permanent presence of UN Blue Helmets and UNAMI monitoring team at Camp Liberty
- Providing minimum security requirements at Liberty, repeatedly brought to the attention of the U.S. and U.N., including the return of 17,500 protective four-meter-tall T-walls, transfer of helmets and protective vests of the residents and medical equipment from Ashraf to Liberty, 150, 2-by-2-meter individual bunkers, double-layering trailers' roofs, permission for construction at Liberty, and expanding the area of Liberty.

Khamenei’s agents machine gunned the wounded at Ashraf clinic and delivered coup de grace shots while they were on hospital beds.

The victims were executed while handcuffed.

According to Khamenei’s plan, all Ashraf residents were to be killed or taken hostage

The large-scale massacre of Camp Ashraf residents on September 1st was ordered by the Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and implemented by forces under the command of Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki in complete coordination with the Iranian regime’s Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps’ terrorist Qods Force.

Since some time ago, the Qods Force had been tasked by Khamenei to plan this massacre for implementation by the government of Iraq. According to the plan, all Ashraf residents were to be killed or taken hostage. Following the chemical attack in the outskirts of Damascus and the rising probability of a military strike by the United States against Syria, Khamenei demanded that the attack on Camp Ashraf be expedited.

Bodies of 6 women and 46 men residents of Camp Ashraf
Mrs. Rajavi, President-elect of Iranian Resistance:

Destroying the option of returning to Ashraf and paving the way for future attacks on Camp Liberty were the joint objective of Iraqi government and clerical regime in the September 1st massacre.

September 2013, 1

Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, President-elect of the Iranian Resistance, described the joint objective of the clerical regime and its puppet government in Iraq in the September 1st criminal massacre of Ashraf as destroying the realistic and accessible solution to provide security to over 3,000 Iranian refugees in Camp Liberty. She stated that they want to pave the way for further attacks and massacres in Liberty.

Mrs. Rajavi added that the atrocious massacre in Ashraf, demonstrated the atrocity and brutality of the religious fascism ruling Iran and its puppets in Iraq. Machine gunning down the wounded in Ashraf clinic and delivering coups de grace while they were on hospital beds by agents of Khamenei and Maliki is the other side of the coin of chemical bombing of Damascus outskirt by Khamenei and the Syrian dictator.

She underscored: “UN and the U.S. government with direct responsibility for security of residents of Ashraf and Liberty for various reasons, need to resort to practical measures after this great crime against humanity. In particular, protection of Liberty and Ashraf that was illegally handed over to Iraqi killers in 2009, should be given to UN blue helmets according to international law, including the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) as well as article 45 of the Fourth Geneva Convention.”

President-elect of the Resistance reiterated on the necessity to convene an international fact-finding committee and to conduct independent and thorough investigations into the September 1st massacre, with presence of residents’ and victims’ representatives and lawyers, to refer the case to the Security Council, and to prosecute and punish the perpetrators. She expressed hope that investigations would not be forgotten with time as in the past four massacres in Ashraf and Liberty adding that impartial investigation is the first step in preventing recurrence of crime against humanity and that permitting any interference in the investigations by the main culprit, i.e. government of Iraq, is contrary to the objective of the investigations and ought to be adamantly avoided.
Seinior Iranian regime officials acknowledge regime’s role in mass executions

Qassem Suleimani, commander of the Iranian regime’s terrorist Qods force, speaking before the mullahs’ Assembly of Experts on September 3rd, acknowledged the role of the regime in the massacre of Camp Ashraf residents on September 1. The IRGC affiliated news agency wrote on September 4: “Suleimani addressed the issue of Iraq and Camp Ashraf in which more than 50 of them (residents of Camp Ashraf) were killed, many were among the leaders of the Monafeqin (regime’s term used to describe the MEK). This development was more important than the Mersad operation and, in reality, God’s promise became reality.”

These statements reflect the urgent need of the mullahs regime engulfed in crises for showing power, especially after the presidential sham election and upsurge of internal feuding.

In this meeting, Suleimani added: “We support Syria until the end. Some criticize why we support Syria so much. I must tell them we don’t pay attention to the propaganda of the enemies because Syria is the front line of resistance and this is an undeniable fact ... the main goal of the United States is to break the front line of resistance.”

On Tuesday, August 27, the Commander of the terrorist Qods Force, Ghassem Suleimani, hastily travelled to Iraq and met with Maliki at 10:30 pm outside of regular working hours. In that meeting, Maliki’s National Security Advisor Faleh al-Fayadh was also present, and Suleimani and Maliki agreed on the timing of the attack on Ashraf. Practical measures in anticipation of this attack were taken immediately after Suleimani’s visit.

IRGC Deputy Commander’s fear of PMOI:
Massacre in Ashraf is an act of strategic proportions in the region

IRGC Brigadier General Hossein Salami, Deputy Commander in Chief of IRGC, in explaining the massacre and collective execution in Ashraf, bluntly confessed to the status of PMOI and regime’s fright of downfall in the hands of the Iranian Resistance. While calling Maliki’s cutthroats and the terrorist Qods Force “Iraqi youth”, he said: “One the incidents of last week that will have widespread strategic importance in regional developments was the attack of Iraqi youth against Camp Ashraf and the death of many principal cadres and members of the Leadership Council of Monafeqin. This operation, measuring it consequences, was greater than many previous operations and the effect it leaves on vitality of Monafeqin grouplet is far more than ‘Merssad’ [biggest operation of regime against PMOI].”

Unable to conceal his rage of Iranian Resistance’s disclosures of clerical regime’s nuclear projects he added, “It was them who mixed together documented intelligence with fictitious intelligence to create an unrealistic, imaginary and fabricated atmosphere in the international regime regarding our nuclear activity.” He blamed the sanctions and regime’s increasing isolation with its consequences on PMOI’s actions.

Remarks by clerical regime’s leaders: Fear of PMOI and paving way for further massacres

Mansour Haghighatpour, deputy chair of National Security and Foreign Policy Commission in mullahs’ parliament and a commander of the terrorist Qods Force, explained objectives of the September 1st massacre in Ashraf: “Cleansing [massacring residents] of Ashraf Base in Iraq strengthens national security of our country.” This statement reveals clerical regime’s profound fear of the PMOI.

He added: “We are hopeful that by delivering the final blow to this group we may witness its complete dissolution. The rest of PMOI members must accept deaths like these or deaths in the deserts of other countries. Members of this group should be pursued by revolutionaries and anywhere a nest or center of them is found, it must be destroyed over the top of their heads.” (Fars news agency affiliated with IRGC, September 13)

Hossein Naghavi, speaker of this commission said: “Americans are trying to find a place for the PMOI members in other countries, but providing this group any place in any country is against international law and considered a type of support for terrorism.” Naghavi stipulated: “Governments that provide places to terrorist organizations, in particular the Monafeqin terrorist group, ought to be reprimanded.” (Ressalat state-run daily, September 13)
Mass execution of 52 Iranian Dissidents at Camp Ashraf, Iraq

Zohreh Ghaemi was co-prime secretary of the People’s Mojahedin organization, Giti Givveh-Chian and Mitra Bagherzadeh, were senior members of the PMOI’s Leadership Council, and Jila Tolou, Fatemeh Kamayeb and Maryam Hosseini were members of the PMOI’s Leadership Council. These 17 martyrs were members of the National Council of Resistance of Iran.
7 residents taken hostage must be released immediately

According to reports, in the afternoon of September 10th, 7 Ashraf residents who were taken hostage during the massacre of Ashraf on September 1st by the Iraqi forces, were transferred from Baghdad to the city of Amara in southern Iraq by several helicopters attached to the Prime Minister of Iraq. From this city, the Iraqi government is to transfer the hostages to the religious fascism ruling Iran at its request. The terrorist Qods Force has a great deal of control and influence in Amara. The consul and vice-consul of the Iranian regime in Basra and Amara play an active role in the arrest and torture of Iranian asylum seekers in the region and many have already been extradited.

On September 1, Iraqi forces transported captives in vehicles belonging to Ashraf residents across northern flank of Ashraf through a road which is entirely under the control of Iraqi police and military soldiers. Then they were transferred to Baghdad in other vehicles. Before their departure for Amara, they were held near Baghdad airport.

The detention of the hostages and their transfer was done under the supervision of the director's office commander in chief of the Prime Minister forces. The hostages are «protected persons» under the 4th Geneva Convention and as pointed out by UNHCR, they are asylum seekers under its jurisdiction and are covered by international protection.

Iraq admits 7 Camp Ashraf hostages have been detained by its security forces

September 12 - After 11 days, Iraqi government admits the seven PMOI members taken hostage have been detained by Iraqi security forces

Kamal Amin, spokesman for the so-called Ministry of Human Rights of Iraq said today: “Iraqi security forces have detained these individuals for attacking their own forces (Iraqi security forces).” (Voice of Free Iraq, September 12, 2013).

The Iranian Resistance's President-elect, Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, demanded urgent action by the US Secretary of State, the UN Secretary General, the High Commissioner for Refugees and the ICRC to secure the immediate release of the seven hostages and their return to Liberty. In recent days the seven hostages were seen in blue prison uniforms in Maliki's Golden division.

Amnesty International issues Urgent Action on "SEVEN IRANIANS ABDUCTED FROM CAMP ASHRAF"

Amnesty International said in an Urgent Action statement: "Seven Iranian exiles, members of the People's Mojahedeen Organization of Iran (PMOI), were abducted from Camp Ashraf, northeast of Baghdad, on 1 September by armed men who had attacked the Camp and killed 52 residents. Unconfirmed reports have suggested that they are in the custody of the Iraqi authorities. They are at risk of torture or other ill-treatment and could be forcibly returned to Iran."

"Amnesty International condemns the killing of the 52 residents and has called for an independent and impartial investigation into the killings."

"Eye witnesses from the Camp stated that they had seen the seven people in handcuffs, being beaten and thrown to the ground and then taken away in a white minibus. Their whereabouts remain unknown although unconfirmed reports have suggested that the seven were held in a detention facility at the former al-Muthanna airport in central Baghdad," the statement said.

“Calling on the Iraqi authorities to immediately clarify the whereabouts and the legal status of Fatemeh Tahoori, Vajihe Karbalaey, Mahnaz Azizi, Lila Nabahat, Zahra Ramezani, Fatema Sakhie and Mohammad Ratebi,” the statement said.

"Amnesty International urges the authorities to ensure that the seven people are protected from torture and other ill-treatment and that they are released immediately. Urging the Iraqi authorities not to forcibly return the seven individuals to Iran where they would be at risk of torture and possibly execution; Reminding the Iraqi government of its obligations under international law not to forcibly return individuals to a country where they would be at risk of serious human rights violations, including torture,” the statement added.
September 1 - UNHCR strongly condemns this attack. The use of violence against a civilian population is unacceptable under any circumstances. We call on the Iraqi authorities to ensure the safety of people immediately. It is important to stop the violence and that medical assistance is provided to emergency injuries.

September 7 - UNHCR remains deeply concerned about developments in relation to Camp New Iraq [Camp Ashraf], most notably the security of the remaining residents, not least in light of the horrific events leading to the death of 52 residents last week. UNHCR urges that a peaceful solution be found and calls in particular on the Iraqi government to ensure the security of the residents.

September 9 - The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay, said: «I call on the authorities to do their utmost to protect all the people in Iraq, and I urge the Iraqi government to ensure the investigation it has announced into the recent deplorable killing of at least 52 people in Camp Ashraf is fully independent, thorough and transparent. (...) The authorities must take additional steps to guarantee the protection of the residents in both Camp Ashraf and Camp Liberty.»

September 1 - The United States strongly condemns the terrible events that took place at Camp Ashraf today, which according to various reports resulted in the deaths of and injuries to numerous camp residents. We call on Iraqi authorities to act with urgency to immediately ensure medical assistance to the wounded and to secure the camp against any further violence or harm to the residents. We underscore the responsibility of the Government of Iraq and all relevant stakeholders to ensure the safety and security of residents at both Camp Ashraf and Camp Hurriyah.

September 3 - A UNAMI delegation led by the Deputy Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General (DSRSG), Mr. Gyorgy Busztin, conducted a visit to the camp yesterday. Inside the camp, the delegation witnessed 52 bodies in a makeshift morgue. All the deceased appeared to have suffered gunshot wounds, the majority of them in the head and the upper body, and several with their hands tied. The delegation also saw several damaged buildings, including one burnt, and was shown quantities of explosives.

The delegation was informed by the camp’s residents that seven persons were still missing.

September 3 - «I am appalled to hear of the violence at Camp Ashraf in Iraq, which we understand has resulted in the death of many camp residents. We condemn this utterly, and our thoughts go out to the families of the victims.»

September 2 - The High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission issued the following statement today: «I condemn in the strongest terms the killings that took place at Camp Ashraf yesterday, which according to various reports claimed the lives of numerous camp residents. I further call on the Iraqi authorities to ensure that the residents of the Camp are protected from any further violence and that the wounded obtain all necessary medical assistance.

September 2 - British Foreign Office. The Foreign Minister condemns violence at Camp Ashraf in Iraq. Alistair Burt said: «I am appalled to hear of the violence at Camp Ashraf in Iraq, which we understand has resulted in the death of many camp residents. We condemn this utterly, and our thoughts go out to the families of the victims. The Government of Iraq must also do everything necessary to ensure the safety of the residents and care for survivors, and must conduct an urgent and transparent investigation into what took place, and ensure those responsible are brought to justice.»

September 2 - “A very serious incident which arouses deep concern. The loss of human lives is completely unacceptable and must be condemned with the utmost firmness”. This was Foreign Minister Emma Bonino’s statement on the news from Camp Ashraf. “We expect the Iraqi Government to clarify immediately the details of an incident which appears, from the information available at present, to be dramatic. The safety of the residents of Camp Ashraf must be guaranteed”, underscored the foreign minister. “Any form of violence, from whichever side, is intolerable”. 

September 1 - U.S. Embassy in Iraq: The Embassy of the United States strongly condemns the terrible events that occurred at Camp Ashraf today and according to several reports have caused many deaths and injuries among camp residents. Our condolences go to the families of the victims and the wounded of today’s violence.

September 1 - Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today condemned an attack on an Iranian exile camp near the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, and urged the Government to launch an investigation into what happened. “The Secretary-General deplores the tragic events in Camp Ashraf today that have reportedly left 47 killed,” his spokesperson said in a statement. “He expresses his sorrow and extends his deepest condolences to the families of the victims.”

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September 1 - France strongly condemns the violence in Camp Ashraf on September 1. It extends its condolences to the victims’ families and close friends. Violence against civilians, particularly refugees, is unacceptable. France recalls that it is the Iraqi authorities’ responsibility to ensure the security of the refugee camps, including Camps Ashraf and Hurriya, and provide the necessary medical assistance to the injured. It would like the Iraqi government to launch an independent, in-depth report enabling full light to be shed on the violence and enabling its perpetrators to be prosecuted.

September 2 - British Foreign Office. The Foreign Minister condemns violence at Camp Ashraf in Iraq. Alistair Burt said: «I am appalled to hear of the violence at Camp Ashraf in Iraq, which we understand has resulted in the death of many camp residents. We condemn this utterly, and our thoughts go out to the families of the victims. The Government of Iraq must also do everything necessary to ensure the safety of the residents and care for survivors, and must conduct an urgent and transparent investigation into what took place, and ensure those responsible are brought to justice.»

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International outrage
September 1 - The Minister of Foreign Affairs John Baird: «Canada condemns the attack that has taken the lives of scores of residents in a camp housing Iranian exiles northeast of Baghdad. Although the reports have not yet confirmed the perpetrators of this act of violence, Canada will raise its concerns directly with Iraqi officials. Canada urges the Iraqi authorities to bring the perpetrators to justice.»

September 11 - Belgium Foreign Ministry website, September 11, 2013: «Just as High Representative Catherine Ashton does, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Didier Reynders condemns the murders in Camp Ashraf, Iraq, on 1 September 2013.»

September 2 - Norway's Foreign Minister condemns attack on Camp Liberty in Iraq

“I condemn the attack on Camp Liberty last night. Reports indicate that several people were killed and a number of civilians and Iraqi police officers injured,” said Foreign Minister Espen Barth Eide

Madrid, Sep 4 (EFE) - The Government of Spain today condemned «the violence that has claimed the lives of many refugees in Camp Ashraf, in Iraq» and expressed its condolences to the families of the victims while «wishing a speedy recovery to the injured.»

In a press release by the Diplomatic Information Office (OID), Spain expressed its wish that the Iraqi authorities and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) «launch an investigation to bring the perpetrators of these acts to justice.» The statement finally recalls the importance of the authorities to ensure the protection of refugees.

Press Statement, U.S. Department of State

The United States welcomes today’s safe arrival at Camp Hurriya of the remaining 42 individuals from the Mujahedine-Khalq (MEK) who had been residing at Camp Ashraf. These individuals were survivors of the horrific attack that took place on September 1 at Camp Ashraf, and we appreciate their cooperation with the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) in this relocation effort. We also appreciate the assistance of the Government of Iraq in facilitating this relocation.

The United States reiterates its condemnation of the September 1 attack and insists that the perpetrators of that barbarous act be brought to justice. We also continue to be deeply concerned about the seven individuals who remain missing from the attack and urge that all steps be taken to locate these individuals.

September 13 -The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees issued a statement on September 13, expressing grave concern for the safety of the seven Camp Ashraf residents taken hostage during the September 1 deadly attack. «These seven are all known by UNHCR to be asylum-seekers, and the agency hopes to have an opportunity to interview them. In light of the numerous and persistent reports over the past week that these individuals may be at risk of forced return to Iran, UNHCR calls upon the Government of Iraq to locate them, to ensure their physical security, and to safeguard them against return to Iran against their will.»

British church leaders condemn Camp Ashraf massacre

Christian Today - The head of the Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales and the Archbishop of Wales have condemned the reported killing of 52 Iranian dissidents at a camp in Iraq on Sunday.

Camp Ashraf once housed more than 3,000 members of the Mujahideen-e-Khalq (MEK), but the number there prior to the latest violence was believed to be about 100.

There are reports that some of the victims were shot at close range in the head. In addition to the killings, seven people, including six women are believed to have been taken hostage.

Speech at UN Human Rights Council by mothers of two victims of September 1 massacre in Ashraf

Shahrzad Tabari, adoptive mother of Saeed Akhavan, executed at Ashraf

My dear son Saeed was executed 10 days ago in Camp Ashraf by Iraqi forces. He was shot in his head while he was handcuffed. He was only 28. Seven of the residents, including 6 women were taken hostage.

My other son the twin brother of Saeed is in camp liberty. We urge you to station a permanent “monitoring team” and “a group of U.N. Blue Helmets” in Camp Liberty round the clock to ensure their security.

If the U.N. conducted an independent and effective investigation for the previous attacks, the September 1st massacre could have been prevented. We also urge you to address the situation of the hostages as the matter of the highest priority.

Fereshteh Bolourchi, mother of Rahman Manani, executed at Ashraf

Following the barbaric attack by Iraqi special Task Force 52 defenseless residents cruelly assassinated. My 33 years old son was one of them. They tied his hands and those of four others and brutally shot to their head. They even shot dead the wounded persons in the clinic. Why was my son killed? He was defenseless. I call on you to immediately send a U.N. team in both camps Ashraf and Liberty for 24 hours staying there to protect the residents and also to conduct an independent, immediate and thorough investigation into Camp Ashraf massacre and report to the Human Rights Council on the crime against humanity perpetrated on September 1, 2013.

IRAN LIBERATION - www.ncr-iran.org - 16 SEPTEMBRE 2013
WASHINGTON, DC, September 12, 2013 – U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ), Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee: “I condemn the brutal violence targeting Camp Ashraf residents in the most forceful of terms and personally offer my deepest sympathies to the families of this horrific act of terror. The surviving residents have been moved to Camp Liberty, but serious threats endure for the community and they remain targets of future attacks even as they are relocated. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq must proceed with their independent investigation and thoroughly ensure the safety and wellbeing of those residents now in Camp Liberty.

“I am deeply concerned for the seven hostages who were taken during this attack. The Iraqi government should act swiftly to determine their whereabouts and ensure their safety. There is added urgency for the global community, as well as for the United States, to help resettle this community outside of Iraq, and end this cycle of ongoing terror attacks.”

WASHINGTON, DC, September 12, 2013 – Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, today released a letter he sent on Sept. 6 to Secretary of State John Kerry calling on the United States to investigate the fatal Sept. 1 attack on residents of Camp Ashraf, Iraq, and to make efforts to protect the survivors.

“While I am relieved that survivors of the Sept. 1 attack have been moved to Camp Hurriyah, I call on the government of Iraq to take measures to ensure their safety and to bring the perpetrators of this attack to justice,” Levin said.

Rep. Rohrabacher recommended halting all aid to Iraq until the refugee matter has been settled. “The refugees disarmed themselves with faith in U.S. Government guarantees of their safety,” he said. “If we fail them, nobody will believe us again.”

Press Release by Congressman Rohrabacher, September 10 - Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia and Emerging Threats, today called on the Iraqi government of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki to take all steps necessary to stop the ongoing violence, including murder, directed against unarmed civilian Iranian refugees.

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I’m writing to you to express my strongest condemnation of the kidnapping and killing of dozens of unarmed residents in Camp Ashraf, Iraq, on September 1. I have previously written to you to express my outrage over the non-protection afforded to these residents and those of Camp Hurriyah [Liberty], and to condemn the persistent and vicious attacks against them.... I am concerned that seven residents are still missing, and possibly kidnapped, and now other Ashraf residents fear that these seven may be in jeopardy of being extradited to Iran where they could face execution....

I respectfully urge you to demand that the Government of Iraq immediately investigate this horrendous attack and to use all measures to prevent any further attacks on these defenseless residents until it can ensure the safety that these residents were clearly guaranteed in the MoU of 2011.

"Yesterday’s unprovoked terrorist attack on Iranian freedom fighters at Camp Ashraf has reportedly left over 50 people dead. Once again, the blood of the unarmed innocent civilians living at Camp Ashraf is on the hands of the Iraqi government who have proven that they are unwilling to protect the residents who remain at Camp Ashraf. Perhaps it is time for the United States to withhold aid from Iraq. This attack reminds us that the influence of the Iranian regime stretches far beyond its borders. The United States and United Nations must hold the Iraqi government accountable for its continued failure to protect the innocent living at Camp Ashraf from terrorists backed by the Iranian regime."

We write this letter to ask for your immediate and personal intervention to save the lives of 7 hostages, members of Iranian opposition who were kidnapped during September 1 massacre at Camp Ashraf, Iraq. Iraqi government’s absolute silence regarding their fate is extremely dangerous and raises concern, and necessitates international intervention more than ever. The bitter result of this so called “protection” were five massacres; three massacres in Ashraf by the Iraqi security forces and two massacres as the result of rocket attacks by the armed forces on the so called “temporary” Camp Liberty.

Iranian dissidents are recognized by the United Nations as asylum seekers under fourth Geneva Convention and thus are subject to protection by the UN. Silence at this moment is violation of the UN and West’s most important principles and treaties to which Iraq is also committed. We urge you-as directly responsible for the protection of Iranian Refugees-to intervene immediately.

The following initiatives are very urgent and necessary:

• Establishing an immediate communication with the Iraqi government and seeking information about the hostages,
• Demanding the immediate and unconditional release of the hostages,
• Visiting hostages,
• Independent investigation into perpetrators of September 1 massacre and hostage taking.
Hunger strikers in Camp Liberty and in Geneva, London, Berlin and Ottawa demand release of Seven Ashraf hostages and stationing the UN blue helmets in Ashraf and Liberty. Liberty residents announced that they will continue their hunger strike until all hostages including 6 Mojahed women are freed and the UN blue helmets are stationed in Camps Ashraf and Liberty to protect the residents. At the same time, Iranians supporters of PMOI members in Ashraf and Liberty started hunger strike in Geneva, London, Berlin and Ottawa to support the demands of hunger strikers in Liberty. In addition, Iranians in many capitals across the world started demonstrations protesting massacre of unarmed and defenseless residents of Ashraf who are asylum seekers and protected persons under fourth Geneva Convention.

Iranian protesters demand release of 7 Ashraf hostages and deployment of the UN Blue Helmets to Camps Ashraf and Liberty to protect the residents.
Italian MEPs call on EU, UN to intervene for release of Camp Ashraf hostages

Friday, 13 September 2013
Statement by Italian Members of European Parliament

We strongly condemn the recent massacre of defenseless members of Camp Ashraf in Iraq by the Iraqi forces. In this brutal attack 52 people were killed in coldblooded many of whom were shot in the back of the head while handcuffed. They abducted seven members of the Camp including 6 women and a man. According to the news, these hostages were taken to a place near Baghdad airport. They can be extradited to Iran any time which means imminent torture and execution.

Leading Socialist MEPs call for the release of Camp Ashraf hostages

In a joint letter to Catherine Ashton, a number of leading Socialist members of the European Parliament urged the EU’s High Representative to put pressure on Iraq to release 7 Camp Ashraf resident.

Press Release-Strasbourg, September 11, 2013 - “We are extremely concerned about the fate of 7 hostages who were abducted by Iraqi forces during a raid on camp Ashraf in Iraq on 1 September. During this vicious attack, 52 defenceless Iranian refugees, including six women, belonging to PMOI opposition were massacred, many handcuffed and then shot at their heads.

EP Liberal-Democrats condemn massacre in Camp Ashraf, call on EU for action

Guy Verhofstadt, President of the Liberal-Democrat Group at the European parliament strongly condemns massacre of 52 Camp Ashraf residents, members of People’s Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI) situated in northern Iraq on September 1, 2013 by forces of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki. Violence against civilian populations is a crime against humanity. Ashraf residents are “protected persons” under the Fourth Geneva Convention. protection.”

Call for deployment of UN Blue Helmet forces in Camp Liberty and guaranteeing protection and security of Iranian dissidents in Iraq

Press release by European Parliament - Friends of a Free Iran
September 11, 2013 – Strasbourg
In a conference in Strasbourg on Wednesday, September 11, members of the European parliament from various political groups called for an independent investigation into the mass execution of Iranian dissidents in Camp Ashraf on September 1, 2013. Calls were made for linking further EU financial assistance to Iraq to the implementation of a probe and guaranteeing protection and security of Iranian refugees.

MEP Muscardini calls on EU’s Ashton to intervene for release of Camp Ashraf hostages

Hon. Cristiana Muscardini, spokesperson for the Conservatives and Reformists group at the European Parliament has written to Catherine Ashton, the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs to mediate and secure the release of seven Iranian dissidents taken hostage by Iraqi forces during September 1 massacre at the camp.

“The European Union should act in defense of the seven Iranian hostages, including six women, held by Iraqi forces loyal to the government of Baghdad.”

EP’s Reformists and Conservatives: West must press for release of Camp Ashraf hostages

The West–distracted by the serious crisis in Syria–has not been able to give sufficient attention to a terrible massacre in Iraq in recent days, but it must now step in to prevent further bloodshed and it must insist on the release of seven Camp Ashraf hostages who are about to be handed over to the Iranians, Struan Stevenson MEP and Charles Tannock MEP, demanded today.

EPP Group calls for safe release of Camp Ashraf hostages held by Iraqi government

EPP Group at the European Parliament - Reports have been received that the seven hostages taken from CampAshraf in Iraq, during the massacre on 1st September, are to be extradited to Iran in the next few days. The seven, six females and one male, were kidnapped during the attack that killed 52 and wounded many more. They are currently being held near Baghdad airport and have been on hunger strike since their abduction.

Alejo Vidal-Quadras, Vice-President of the European Parliament:

September 1 - Attacking defenceless refugees in Camp Ashraf by Iraqi forces is a crime against humanity. Catherine Ashton must resign and Martin Kobler held responsible for his collaboration with criminal regimes. We strongly condemn the brutal attack by Iraqi military this morning against the defenceless residents of Camp Ashraf. This is a crime against humanity carried out by the orders of Prime Minister Maliki at behest of the Iranian regime. We call on President Obama and Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and the EU to immediately intervene to prevent more killings. They must immediately send their envoys to visit the camp, the dead bodies and the wounded and mobilize troops to protect Camp Ashraf and Camp Liberty. Silence and inaction at this point will only be taken as green light for further bloodshed.
September 2 - Amnesty International urges the Iraqi authorities to conduct a thorough and impartial investigation into violence at Camp Ashraf that reportedly left at least 47 dead on 1 September. “On previous occasions the Iraqi authorities have failed to conduct effective investigations into attacks on camps housing Iranian exiles. This has meant that no one has been held accountable for these incidents, and that residents live in constant fear for their safety,” said Hassiba Hadj Sahraoui, Deputy Director for the Middle East and North Africa at Amnesty International. “The government of Iraq is responsible for the safety and security of all the residents of Camp Liberty and Camp Ashraf and must take immediate measures to ensure their protection.”

The Danielle Mitterrand France Libertés Foundation - The attack on September 1 is abominable and should be considered a crime against humanity! The Danielle Mitterrand France Libertés Foundation strongly condemns the bloody and murderous attack by Iraqi forces. At the end of the Second World War, mankind instituted international law to prevent the madness and horror of mankind again. If we do not respect these texts and leave Ashraf residents to die without reacting, then we are allowing the horror to happen to us tomorrow!

FIDH and the League for the Defense of Human Rights in Iraq (LDDHI) call on the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) to release as soon as possible its report of investigation into the acts of violence perpetrated in Camp Ashraf on September 1st, which led to the death of up to 52 camp residents. «In any case, the primary responsibility for the events that occurred on Sunday lies with the Iraqi authorities. FIDH firmly hopes that no government orders were issued to attack the camp, and that the government’s own investigation into what can only be labeled as ‘extra-judicial killings’ will lead to the arrest and fair trial of the perpetrators», Dr Karim Lahidji, FIDH president said.

September 4 - The World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT) urges the United Nations to carry out an investigation into the recent attack on Camp Ashraf on 1 September 2013, that left 52 people dead. The OMCT is seriously concerned about the fate of 7 residents who were abducted during the attack. It urges the authorities to release them immediately. OMCT recalls that it considers vital to find a viable and durable solution for the camp residents in accordance with the law governing human rights. It calls on the international community to increase its efforts to prevent serious human rights violations against the camp residents.

September 10 (excerpts) - MRAP condemns acts of violence at Camp Ashraf (in Iraq) that occurred on September 1 by Iraqi forces, and killed 52 people including six women, and left many wounded. The Iraqi authorities have the primary responsibility for this new massacre. MRAP demands the release of hostages and immediate measures to ensure the protection of the camp’s residents. It calls on the President of the United States, the Secretary General of the UN and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, who have direct responsibility vis-à-vis the safety of the hostages, to secure their release by actively engaging and not to let the Iraqi government return these dissidents to their torturers.

September 11 - Amnesty International said in an Urgent Action statement: «Seven Iranian exiles, members of the People’s Mojahedeen Organization of Iran (PMOI), were abducted from Camp Ashraf, northeast of Baghdad, on 1 September by armed men who had attacked the Camp and killed 52 residents. Unconfirmed reports have suggested that they are in the custody of the Iraqi authorities. They are at risk of torture or other ill-treatment and could be forcibly returned to Iran.»

September 11 - The British Parliamentary Committee for Iran Freedom strongly condemns savage attack on Camp Ashraf and killing of innocent civilians. Statement by Lord Carlile of Berriew on today’s attack on Camp Ashraf: The British Parliamentary Committee for Iran Freedom strongly condemns the brutal attack on the ‘protected persons’ who are civilians in Camp Ashraf and calls on the UN and the UK and US governments to uphold their commitment for protecting these refugees. They should immediately call on the Iraqi government to stop the massacre and dispatch their representatives to the scene to save the wounded and the hostages.
No matter how many executions, hangings, and massacres it carries out, Regardless of the number of missiles, rockets and bombs that it drops, and however many evil and more inhumane and cruel plots it hatches, they must know that this generation will not surrender, it will not be destroyed, and it will not submit to despair. On the contrary, this generation will raise its head even more, its ranks will grow and multiply, and it will fortify its resolve and hope for the path and ideal of freedom.

And, you martyrs of the Ashraf massacre, how becoming of you and graceful was the land on which you fell: Ashraf, the land of dignity and pride. A land that has been the beating heart of the Iranian people’s resistance for nearly 30 years.

What occurred on the bloody morning of September 1 at Ashraf was a massacre that carried with it the same cursed spirit and methods that gave rise to the massacre of political prisoners in Iran in 1988. This was a massacre that was, by any measure, an instance of crimes against humanity. The simultaneity of this event with the chemical attack in Syria was not a mere coincidence. Khamenei, the corrupt and murderous dictator of Iran, commands both the criminal dictator of Syria, Bashar Assad, and the dictator of Iraq, Nouri al-Maliki, from the same command center in Tehran.

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The 52 residents who were the subject of the massacre in Ashraf on the morning of September 1, belong to the 100 individuals who had remained at Ashraf in accordance with a quadripartite agreement involving the residents of Ashraf, the U.S. government, the UN and the Iraqi government, in order for them to act as the guardians of property.

Why have the UN and the UNHCR failed to fulfill their minimum duties to provide protection and security for the residents? Why has the United States reneged on its repeated commitments about the residents’ protection?

It is necessary for the UN to deploy Blue Helmets in Camp Liberty to prevent the recurrence of crimes against humanity.

First, the seven Ashrafis taken hostage must be immediately released and returned to Ashraf.

Second, it is imperative that an international fact-finding commission be formed to conduct an impartial and full-fledged investigation into the September 1 massacre at Ashraf. Such investigations would be the first step of preventing a repeat of crimes against humanity.

Third, until the transfer of all the residents of Ashraf and Liberty to Europe or the United States, it is necessary for UN Blue Helmet forces to be posted at Ashraf and Liberty to provide the minimum guarantees for their protection.

Fourth, three missile attacks against Liberty in the past seven months leave no doubt that his location is not safe. Liberty is at risk of subsequent rocket attacks at any moment. Necessary steps to make it secure, such as the return of the T-Walls, the transfer of protective helmets and vests as well as medical equipment and expanding the area of the camp are urgent.

I repeat that doing nothing about the recurring massacres is tantamount to complicity in committing crimes and must come to an end. In this regard, the U.S. bears a clear responsibility and must be accountable.

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I thought: What a strength and courage did you have that the enemy was not even able to shoot and execute you without your hands tied. Rahman went to Ashraf when he was 18, leaving behind a privileged life; but his life lacked one thing that gives meaning to life: the fight for freedom.

The death of my father was hard for me, because I had not seen him since my childhood; I thought that the regime did not want our family to be together again. I would have loved to be with him at that time. I cannot help but be proud of him. I am happy to have chosen, too, the path of resistance, where I gained many human values.

Executing Saeed was very painful for me, however I was overwhelmed with pride and honor. When he was three, his mother Sima trusted me with him and his twin when she was going to fight against the religious dictatorship, a fight for which she gave her life. Saeed fell after exhibiting an enormous resistance and was a symbol of devotion and sacrifice. He lives in my heart with his love of freedom.

There are not many people as brave and determined as these people, these Iranians in Ashraf and Liberty. Their strength is enormous. I must of course mention Hossein Madani who was the face of Ashraf for all visitors. At Ashraf, he spent nights talking to me to explain. He was an unparalleled intellectual. We must have the courage to confront these terrorist state crimes.

I will go as far as possible with you, because your fight is beautiful. I just want to pay tribute to the victims. Our American friends have a great responsibility, and must meet their obligations. We cannot let people get killed. You know what is happening in Syria and Iraq: The serpent’s head is in Tehran. This is the head that should be cut.
At least 52 Iranian exiles executed in Iraqi camp, U.N. says

By Ernesto Londoño

At least 52 members of an Iranian opposition group exiled in Iraq were executed over the weekend, the United Nations said Tuesday, drawing loud condemnations from supporters in Washington, who have called on the United States to find a safe haven for the group’s members.

The attack Sunday on a camp north of Baghdad was the latest targeting of members of the Mujahideen-e Khalq, a group once aligned with Saddam Hussein, whose members disarmed following the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of Iraq after getting assurances from the U.S. military that they would be protected. Their fate since the U.S. military withdrawal in 2011 has been one of the most dramatic and violent subplots of the post-American era in Iraq.

Iraq’s Shiite-led government, which has long loathed the group, has been widely suspected of involvement or acquiescence in a string of attacks against the group — also known as the MEK — for which no one has been held responsible. Sunday’s was particularly brutal, according to photos, which showed the corpses of several men shot in the head and back, some with their hands bound.

Gyorgy Busztin, a U.N. envoy in Baghdad, visited the camp in Diyala province a day after the killings and spoke to survivors. In a statement, he expressed “his outrage at the brutal killing of the camp’s residents” and called on the Iraqi government to launch an investigation and “acknowledge its responsibility for the safety of the camp’s residents.”

Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki ordered an investigation into the killings, according to news reports in Baghdad.

Former Pennsylvania governor Ed Rendell, who is among the prominent Americans who champion the cause of the MEK, said he was horrified that the United Nations and the United States haven’t done more to get the Iranians out of Iraq.

“We are a joke when it comes to living up to our moral obligations,” Rendell said. “It is our legal and moral obligation to protect them.”

Rendell and the other prominent American MEK supporters have received speaking fees from the group, but the former governor said they were making the latest lobbying effort pro bono.

The status and fate of the MEK has long been a thorny issue for U.S. officials in Baghdad. After the invasion, most members lived in Camp Ashraf, a sprawling compound where the Iranians grew their own food, plotted to overthrow the Iranian government and lived according to strict behavioral edicts, including abstaining from sex.

Because of its militant past, the MEK was labeled a terrorist organization by the United States until last year.

The government in Baghdad sought for years to expel the group from Camp Ashraf, but that goal became possible only after the U.S. military pulled out of Iraq at the end of 2011. Most members of the group were transferred to a former U.S. military base in Baghdad called Camp Liberty, where they have come under attack a handful of times.

The members killed over the weekend were among the 100 or so who remained in Diyala province.

The State Department on Sunday called “on Iraqi authorities to act with urgency to immediately ensure medical assistance to the wounded and to secure the camp against any further violence or harm to the residents.”
Embassy Row:

Another massacre in Iraq?

By James Morrison

September 8, 2013

The Washington Times

Iranian opposition leaders and their U.S. and European supporters are urging President Obama to draw a "red line" in Iraq — a week after gunmen killed 52 Iranian dissidents at a refugee camp north of Baghdad.

Rep. Ted Poe, Texas Republican, called on Secretary of State John F. Kerry to cut U.S. aid to Iraq's government, which is strongly influenced by Iran.

Struan Stevenson, leader of the European Parliament's committee on Iran, denounced the "inaction" of the U.S., U.N. and European Union after the Sept. 1 attack on Camp Ashraf, where gunmen believed to be Iraqi soldiers killed the unarmed Iranian exiles.

"Silence in relation to such murderous activity is shameful and an encouragement for further atrocities," said Mr. Stevenson, a Conservative Party member from Scotland.

Opposition leaders also said that U.S. prestige is at risk in Iraq as much as in Syria, noting that all of the victims carried U.S. government-issued cards identifying them as protected persons under the Geneva Conventions.

The dissidents, members of the former armed wing of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, surrendered their weapons to U.S. forces in 2003 in exchange for security guarantees. The U.S. transferred responsibility for their safety to Iraq in January 2009.

"The U.S. government and the president bear legal, political and moral responsibility regarding the safety and security of the residents," said Mohammad Mohaddessin, a spokesman for Camp Ashraf and Camp Liberty, a site in Baghdad that houses about 3,000 dissidents.

In a letter Thursday to Mr. Kerry, Mr. Poe requested the State Department dispatch a team of diplomats from the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad to investigate the Camp Ashraf slayings and report back to Congress. He also noted that the U.S. condemned earlier attacks on the dissidents by Iraqi forces in 2009 and 2011.

"The message does not seem to be getting through," said Mr. Poe, chairman of the House Foreign Relations subcommittee on terrorism, nonproliferation and trade. "We must do a better job at holding the government of Iraq accountable."

A State Department official Friday reiterated U.S. condemnation of the attack in a letter to Maryam Rajavi, president of the Paris-based Iranian resistance council.

"We insist that the perpetrators of this barbarous act be brought to justice and that everything possible be done to find those who are missing," said A. Elizabeth Jones, acting assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs.

Shahin Gobadi, a spokesman for the resistance in Paris, warned that more attacks are likely "absent a firm position by the U.S. government."

He added that Iran is increasing pressure on Iraq to kill the remaining dissidents and support Syrian President Bashar Assad, if the U.S. launches attacks. Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif arrived in Baghdad over the weekend to deliver that message, Mr. Gobadi said.

**The Iraqi government eager to shed light on the killing of Camp Ashraf**

52 Iranian dissidents in exile were killed in an attack on September 1, near Baghdad

[Excerpts] Three days after the killing that has left fifty dead on September 1 in an Iranian exile camp near Baghdad, the pressure increases on the Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al–Maliki who ordered to provide explanation of the circumstances that led to the bloodshed.

The People’s Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI), a formation of opponents of the Iranian regime who have lived in Ashraf since 1986, accused the Iraqi government of having planned and executed the attack on the orders of Tehran, its main ally in the region.

"As we approach possible U.S. strike on Syria, there is a wave of panic inside the Iranian regime," says Afshin Alavi, spokesman in Paris of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, a coalition in which PMOI is a principal component. "Because it weakens the regime’s regional front, it considers it urgent to get rid of the Mojahedin" which is otherwise a threat, and at least a nuisance at its border.

The UN has identified 52 bodies. The Iraqi government has denied the allegations... The items collected locally by the UN mission, which identified 52 bodies, however, tend to support a premeditated massacre. "All the dead appeared to have traces of gunshot wounds, mostly to the head and upper body, and several of them had their hands tied behind their backs," said the United Nations’ statement. Descriptions match the pictures released by PMOI, where we see men bathing in pools of blood, their hands tied, and a woman with a bullet hole in the forehead.

In a statement with triumphant tone, the IRGC, the elite unit of the Iranian regime, welcomed this "revolutionary act" in which "the brave children of martyrs of Iraqi mujahideen have had their revenge on PMOI." According to PMOI, seven other camp residents, are taken hostage.
Letter by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State to Maryam Rajavi, President-elect of Iranian Resistance

United States Department of State
Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20520-6258
September 6, 2013

Dear Madame Rajavi:

I am writing on behalf of Secretary Kerry regarding the current situation at Camp Ashraf in Iraq. The United States condemns in the strongest terms the horrific attack that took place at Camp Ashraf on September 1 and express our condolences to the friends and families of the victims.

We support the United Nations Assistance Mission (UNAMI) and its efforts to conduct an independent fact finding investigation of this terrible event and document what happened. We have called on the Government of Iraq to fully support those efforts. We insist that the perpetrators of this barbarous act be brought to justice and that everything possible be done to find those who are missing. In this regard, we take note of the troubling statements issued by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) praising the attack, and call on the Government of Iran to use whatever influence it might have with groups that may be holding the missing to secure their immediate release. We further call on the Government of Iraq to conduct a full investigation and help find those who are missing.

Regarding the immediate situation at Camp Ashraf, we urge you to accept the UNAMI plan whereby the surviving residents can be safely and without delay relocated under UN supervision, and on UN armored buses, as soon as possible. It is imperative to the safety of those survivors that they accept this plan and agree to relocate immediately. This is an urgent and critical matter.

If you accept this approach, the United Nations will help facilitate the safeguarding of the property at Ashraf through your retention of a trusted local security firm. The U.S. Embassy will do its utmost to support these efforts.

We finally take note of the Government of Iraq's agreement with UNAMI to install large T-walls pursuant to a UNAMI-provided security plan, as well as additional measures. These measures would be taken simultaneously with the safe and secure move from Ashraf, under UNAMI oversight, and we will do our utmost to support this process. We will also enhance our efforts to find safe and secure resettlement locations outside of Iraq. The State Department has just appointed a senior official to oversee this process on a full-time basis.

In the immediate term, we ask for your full acceptance of this UNAMI process, to achieve our common goal of protecting the lives of the Ashraf survivors and to ensuring the safe and timely departure from Iraq of all former Ashraf residents.

Sincerely,
Beth Jones
Acting
cc: Gyorgy Busztin, Acting Director UNAMI

Maryam Rajavi’s Response

September 7, 2013
Honorable Beth Jones
Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Ms. Jones,

I received your letter and the message by Secretary Kerry on September 6 and thank you for your efforts and those of the Secretary as well as your interest to save lives at Camp Ashraf.

I will do my utmost to achieve our common goal. Please facilitate a visit by officials from the U.S. embassy together with Mr. Gyorgy Basztin to Camp Liberty as soon as possible to discuss the details on the implementing this plan with the Camp Leadership, as well as the residents’ representatives and legal advisors.

Before all else, I want to draw your attention to the need for the expedient provision of security needs for the relocation of the residents of Ashraf to Liberty. You are particularly aware that in view of the situation in Syria, as soon as the residents of Ashraf are relocated to Liberty, the Iranian regime will focus on continuing its attacks on Camp Liberty and their defenseless residents. In this regard, the most important issue is to return 17,500 four-meter-tall T-Walls, the transfer of urgent medical equipment, helmets and protective vests for 3,000 residents from Ashraf to Liberty.

From the very outset, the litmus test of the Iraqi government’s seriousness to save lives is contingent upon implementing these arrangements. If you agree, I prefer that they be undertaken tomorrow at our expense and before relocating the remaining Ashraf residents to Liberty. After these steps are taken, all Ashraf residents will go to Liberty.

They will take all their belongings with them, including, among others, all documents on moveable and immovable properties in Ashraf, books, computers, and funds as well as personal security, medical and all communications equipment.

Our urgent remaining requests, which I hope you can simultaneously help in their provision with the assistance the US embassy and the United Nations are as follows:

1. Arranging for the immediate release of the seven hostages;
2. Stationing a unit of UN Blue Helmets and the presence of a U.S. monitoring team inside Camp Liberty on a 24/7 basis;
3. Providing urgent protection requirements at Liberty by the Iraqi government, including the urgent need for double-layered roofs for the trailers according to the list of requirements on June 18, 2013 drafted after the third rocket attack on Liberty. (The list is attached). This includes returning the T-Walls, 150 2-by-2 m concrete bunkers that are left-over from the commitment made during the first rocket attack in February 2013, the right to construction at Liberty and allowing the entry of sufficient and necessary sandbags;
4. As you have written in your letter, we agree to the arrangements for the sale of the moveable and immovable property in Ashraf. But we request that it be implemented under the supervision of Senator Robert Torricelli as the legal representative of the residents. In addition, we would like the Iraqi government, the US, the UN and Senator Torricelli to notarize the list of property. Henceforth, the Iraqi government must not impose restrictions on the sale of moveable assets to Iraqi businessmen and prospective buyers because the residents need the money for their expenses at Liberty and for resettlement.
5. The arrangements to implement the consolidation of the moveable assets in a small area to facilitate their sale must be agreed to at Ashraf in talks between the representatives of the Iraqi government and the residents. Nevertheless, the residents will take with them all the items and their needs left over from the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th convoys to Liberty, including 17 truck-loads of personal property, five power generators, 12 water and sewage tankers as well as forklifts to move around heavy loads around Ashraf.

Very respectfully,
Maryam Rajavi

cc: Mr. Gyorgy Basztin, Acting Director, United Nations Assistant Mission to Iraq