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In a resolution at the House of Representatives

120 US LAWMAKERS URGE OBAMA TO HALT RELOCATION OF IRAN DISSIDENTS

US lawmakers urged President Barack Obama on December 15 to stop the Iraqi government's plan to relocate Ashraf residents within the country by force. Congressman Bob Filner of California, who presented a resolution supporting the residents of Ashraf at the House of Representatives, drew attention to the PMOI's plight at a press conference Tuesday.

December 15, 2009

WASHINGTON (AFP)



US lawmakers Tuesday

urged President Barack Obama to stop the Iraqi government's forced relocation of Iranian dissidents from a border camp that has been closed down.

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Rep. Mike Coffman, R-Colo., left, listens as Rep. Bob Filner, D-Calif., talks during a news conference on the situation at Camp Ashraf, Iraq, home to 3,400 members of Iranian exiles on Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2009, in Capitol Hill, Washington. (AP)

2172 French Mayors Condemn Iraqi Government Decision to Relocate Iranians in Camp Ashraf

It was announced in a press conference in Paris on December 15 that 2,172 mayors in France have signed a declaration condemning an Iraqi government decision to forcibly displace residents of Camp Ashraf, where some 3,400 Iranian dissidents reside in Iraq.

In their statement, the French mayors referred to an April 24, 2009 resolution passed by the European Parliament, and said, "Ashraf residents are protected persons under the Fourth Geneva Convention and the Iraqi government must respect their rights,

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UN General Assembly censures serious and persistent rights violations in Iran

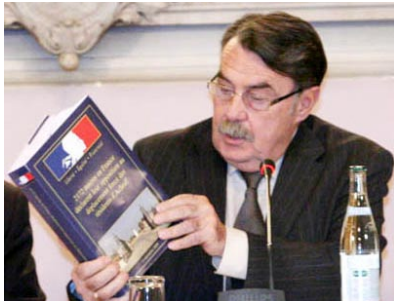


NCRI - On December 18, 2009, the United Nations General Assembly passed a strongly-worded resolution condemning "Serious, ongoing and recurring human rights violations" in Iran, including the increasing number of hangings and stonings, as well as instances of discrimination, brutal suppression of women and ethnic and religious minorities, perpetration of violence and intimidation by state-controlled militias against protestors leading to a large number of deaths and injuries, mass trials, obtaining of forced confessions through torture, and rape.

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2172 FRENCH MAYORS CONDEMN IRAQI GOVERNMENT DECISION TO RELOCATE IRANIANS IN CAMP ASHRAF



Senator Jean-Pierre Michel, mayor of Heri Kur, presented the documents signed by the mayors to Mrs. Maryam Rajavi

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refrain from their expulsion or relocation within Iraq and lift the siege imposed against them.”

Chair of the meeting, Senator Jean-Pierre Michel, mayor of Heri Kur, presented the documents signed by the mayors to Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, President-elect of the Iranian Resistance. The meeting was attended by several other mayors and Dr. Saleh Rajavi, representative of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI) in France, also spoke at the event.

In a message to the conference, Mrs. Maryam Rajavi lauded the statement signed by the mayors in defense of the rights of the Iranian Resistance for democracy and freedom. Mrs. Rajavi said that failing to end the uprising, the religious fascism ruling Iran is trying in vain to destroy Camp Ashraf in a bid to pave the way for an all-out suppression of the Iranian people's uprising. But it is the determination of Ashraf residents coupled with the protests of the arisen people of Iran which will decide the future of a free and democratic Iran.

Senator Michel said: What the government of Iraq is doing to fulfill the demands of the Iranian regime with regards to Ashraf is first and foremost indicative of the instability gripping Tehran.



Appel contre la répétition d'une catastrophe humanitaire visant 3400 opposants iraniens en Irak

- A la demande du régime iranien, les forces irakiennes ont pris d'assaut en juillet le camp d'Achraf, faisant 11 morts, 500 blessés et 36 otages parmi les résidents
- Le gouvernement irakien envisage un déplacement forcé des résidents d'Achraf, ce qui entraînerait une catastrophe encore plus tragique

PLUS DE 2000 MAIRES DE FRANCE APPELLENT L'ONU ET LES ETATS-UNIS À EMPÊCHER LE DÉPLACEMENT FORCÉ DES RÉSIDENTS DU CAMP D'ACHRAF EN IRAK

Iranian Resistance presents statue of "Neda" to Speaker of Italian Parliament

A statue of Neda, the young woman who was killed by the Iranian regime during the nationwide uprising in Iran, was presented on behalf of Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, President-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, to Gianfranco Fini, Speaker of Italian Parliament on December 7.

The sculpture was presented to Mr. Fini by Reza Olia, the sculptor and a NCRI member who created the statue, and Mr. Abolghassem Rezai, Deputy Secretary of NCRI and the Resistance's representative in Italy.



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The resolution was adopted despite the fact that the clerical regime had strived in world capitals and in Geneva and New York, over the last several months to strike it down. Enticing proposals as well as intimidations by the regime failed to prevent adoption of the resolution at the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly. This time around the regime used all its capacity to force those in favor of the resolution to abstain and thus thwart the adoption of the resolution at the UN General Assembly. Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, the President-elect of the NCRI, described the 57th resolution condemning human rights violations in Iran by UN organs as a definitive vote by the international community on the illegitimacy of the ruling religious fascism in Iran and added: After the passing of this resolution, and in circumstances where the chants by "Down with Khamenei" and "Down with dictator" can be heard by millions of

Iranians in streets across Iran, and while the portraits of [regime's founder Ruhollah] Khomeini and [mullahs' Supreme Leader Ali] Khamenei are set on fire by Iranians, any form of negotiations, deal-making, or appeasement toward this regime is both devoid of legitimacy and an irretrievable political mistake. Making contacts and deals with a regime heading towards its ultimate downfall will result in nothing short of disasters and jeopardize the friendship of the Iranian people.

Mrs. Rajavi demanded the referral of the dossier on human rights violations in Iran to the UN Security Council and adoption of binding and urgent measures. The Iranian Resistance's President-elect also said that the imposition of comprehensive sanctions against the regime, both due to its nuclear weapons project and also its brutal human rights violations, is a necessary international step.

120 US LAWMAKERS URGE OBAMA TO HALT RELOCATION OF IRAN DISSIDENTS

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Congressman Bob Filner of California, who presented a resolution supporting the residents of Ashraf at the House of Representatives, drew attention to the PMOI's plight at a press conference Tuesday.

"We are here to call on whoever will listen, the Iraqi government the US government, to halt the forcible relocation of the residents of Camp Ashraf," he told reporters.

The resolution supported by 131 members of the House;

- Deplores the ongoing violence by Iraqi security forces against the residents of Camp Ashraf,

- Calls on the Iraqi Government to live up to its commitment to the United States to ensure the continued well-being of those living in Camp Ashraf and prevent their involuntary return to Iran,

- And calls on the President to take all necessary and appropriate steps to support the commitments of the United States under international law and treaty obligations to ensure the physical security and protection of Camp Ashraf residents against inhumane treatment and involuntary deportation by Iraqi security forces.

Congressman Filner who also Co-Chairs the Iran Human Rights and Democracy Caucus in the Congress said, "Just yesterday Secretary Clinton was talking human rights of individuals around the world. Right now we have a human rights case that is an emergency and we expect the Secretary, we expect the President of the United States, and we expect all of the US government to protect the residents of Ashraf.

"These are Iranian dissidents; these are people who have provided us with some of the best information on what is going on in Iran. These are the people who we will be counting on and we must protect them. We have a resolution in the House of Representatives, which calls upon the president to take all necessary and appropriate steps to support the commitments of the United States government to ensure the physical security and protection of Camp Ashraf residents. We think this congress and this administration has to take all necessary steps to protect the safety of those who are in fact on our side in the struggle against the tyrannical Iranian government."

Congressman Dana Rohrabacher of California



We did not spend a trillion dollars nor sacrifice the blood and suffering of our young defenders in order to see that Iranian nationals who oppose the Iranian mullahs are being attacked by the government we put in place in Iraq. This is unacceptable. We are going to be looking very closely at what is happening there.

These brave people, who are the only people I know who are in the field fighting the mullah dictatorship in Iran. If they are thrown to the wolves, if their human rights are being violated, if they are treated inhumanely, there will be a price to pay by the Iraqi government. This smells of a rotten deal between the Iraqi government and the Iranian mullah dictatorship.

The United States can't just stand aside and just let this happen. We recognize that the government of Iraq is the sovereign power in that country, but that doesn't mean that we will not be diligent in backing up the human rights of those people who are putting themselves on the line in order to bring democracy and freedom in Iran. This is a matter of high concern. We are watching very closely, the government of Iraq should understand they cannot violate the human rights of these people who are opposing the mullah dictatorship of Iran without serious consequences to themselves. So whatever happens, there, we will be watching and they are not just free to do whatever they want to these brave souls.

Congressman Michael Coffman of Colorado



I appeal to the government of Iraq to respect the human rights of those in Camp Ashraf that they are political refugees and that forcibly evicting them from Camp Ashraf, I believe would cause them great harm. Iraq is a sovereign state but by forcibly evicting those in Camp Ashraf, it is subordinating itself to the will of Iran and not to being a sovereign state of its own. I think it's important that it respects the rights of residents of Camp Ashraf as political refugees and that moving them would clearly harm them a great deal.



Rep. Mike Coffman, R-Colo., left, listens as Rep. Bob Filner, D-Calif., talks during a news conference on the situation at Camp Ashraf, Iraq, home to 3,400 members of Iranian exiles on Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2009, in Washington. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

Congressman Ted Poe of Texas



It does not go unnoticed that the oppressive Iranian regime is trying to influence the Iraqi administration to relocate those good people in Camp Ashraf to unknown places. Many of us in Congress and other people in the United States are quiet aware of this tragedy, but we are going to watch what takes place.

We expect and demand that the Iraqi government secure the safety of these people in Camp Ashraf. If any harm comes to them, that harm will be on the backs and shoulders of the Iraqi government under the influence of the Iranian government. We hope that Iraq follows the Geneva Conventions and secures the safety of these people, these good people that all they want is freedom.

The right to be left alone, the right not to be oppressed by any government, whether it is their own or some foreign government, so, to the people of Camp Ashraf and to the families of these folks throughout the world including those here in the United States, we are concerned. We are supportive of the freedom and of the liberty of these individuals at Camp Ashraf and we will be ever mindful, watchful to make sure their safety is secured.

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Lawmakers urge Obama to halt relocation of Iran dissidents

Agence France Presse

After 24 years at Camp Ashraf, the People's Mujahedeen of Iran (PMOI), who were expelled for opposing the Islamic regime of Tehran, on Tuesday began defying government orders to evacuate the camp.

Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki wants the more than 3,000 former fighters to move with their families to the new camp in the desert south of Baghdad as a first stage towards leaving Iraq.

Democrat Bob Filner, who presented a resolution supporting the refugees at the House of Representatives, drew attention to the PMOI's plight at a press conference Tuesday.

"We are here to call on whoever will listen, the Iraqi government the US government, to halt the forcible relocation of the residents of Camp Ashraf," he told reporters.

IRAQI GOVERNMENT CONTINUES INSISTING ON RELOCATION OF ASHRAF RESIDENTS

On December 15, 2009, 37 police vehicles entered Camp Ashraf along with a number of Iraqi officials from the suppressive Iraqi committee called Committee for Closing Ashraf. Some 50 journalists, photographers, and videographers also entered Ashraf with the same contingent. After a year-long ban on media, the Iraqi government's spokesman last week invited reporters to produce footage of those who refuse to stay in Ashraf and are willing to leave after a call by the said Iraqi committee.

Ashraf residents did not preclude or resist the police's entry in any way and left all doors and buildings open for visits by the police, Iraqi officials and reporters.

Representatives of Ashraf residents declared that Ashraf is their home and they have stayed in Ashraf on

the basis of their free will, and they have individually communicated this decision to Iraqi officials from the Human Rights Ministry in the course of 19 days of private and one-on-one interviews in the presence of American commanders. In contrast to the rulers of Iran, Ashraf residents respect Iraq's sovereignty, however, forcible displacement or using armed forces to utilize violent methods, as displayed in the attack against Ashraf on July 28 and 29 which led to 11 dead and 500 wounded, would not reflect Iraq's sovereignty claims and would instead be indicative of usurping the country's sovereignty by the ruling theocracy in Iran.

On the other hand, following their meeting with PMOI representatives, Iraqi forces flooded the streets and various locations of Ashraf in



AFP - Members of the Iranian opposition group People's Mujahedeen, and their relatives demonstrate against a decision to move them at Camp Ashraf

large numbers, distributing loads of pamphlets and announcing through loudspeakers that "the Iraqi government is determined to relocate the residents of this camp to another location" and "willing individuals can refer to the police station or any one

of the patrolling vehicles." But, contrary to their expectations not even a single resident bothered to acknowledge such theatrics and ultimately the minibuses which had come to displace the residents returned empty.

UK parliamentarians voice support for Camp Ashraf residents

In a December 9th meeting of the British Parliamentary Committee for Iran Freedom, chaired by Lord Corbett of Castle Vale, Members of Parliament and Peers across party lines joined together to express their opposition towards the Iraqi government's new threats to Camp Ashraf residents.

The meeting produced a general agreement that the United Nations needs to take immediate action so as to prevent further violence in the area.

Speakers in the meeting included, Lord Waddington, former Home Secretary; Lord Dholakia, Deputy Leader of Liberal Democrat Peers; Baroness Boothroyd, former Speaker of the House of Commons; Baroness Turner, former Deputy Speaker; Lord Clarke, former Labour Party Chairman; Lord Cotter, Lord Hilton, Lord Inglewood, Andrew Mackinlay, Member of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee; David Drew, MP; and Roger Gale, MP. Distinguished lawyers; David Vaughan, Mark Stephens and Margaret Owen and NCRI representative in UK, Ms. Dowlat Nowrouzi, also addressed the meeting.

Lord Corbett, chairman of the Committee, said: "the Iraqi

government must know that the world is watching and we will not stand by and allow them to commit further crimes." He also believes that Iraq has made "a pact with the devil (Iran)." Lord Corbett's demands entail the UN to formally announce its opposition to the illegal exiling of the Ashraf residents, as well as maintaining a presence in the area so a further hostile situation is not given a chance to arise.

On her turn to speak Baroness Boothroyd highlighted the fact that the Baghdad has ceased the delivering of all fuel, medicine and medical professionals to the Camp and that "these actions amounted to grave breaches of international humanitarian law."

She further commented on the atrocious infringements upon the human rights of Camp Ashraf's residents by adding that Iraq's goal is to have them released into Iraq "in order to slaughter them."

Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, president-elect of the Iranian Resistance, added her comments via video message as well. She said that the Mullahs are so fearful of the uprisings that so many Iranians have been taking part of that they deem it necessary



UP - From left: David Drew, David Vaughan, Lord Clark, Dowlat Nowrouzi, Lord Corbett, Lord Waddington and Lady Slynn

Below - From left: Baroness Boothroyd, Lord Cotter, Margaret Owen,...



to eliminate those in Ashraf who serve as an inspiration to the rest of the country. She adds that "Ashraf is the front-line bastion in defending democracy and human rights in Iran."

The overall message to be taken from the British Parliamentary

Committee for Iran freedom's meeting; the international community, mainly the US and UK governments as well as the UN, has the moral and political responsibility to step in and help the defenceless and unarmed residents of Ashraf.