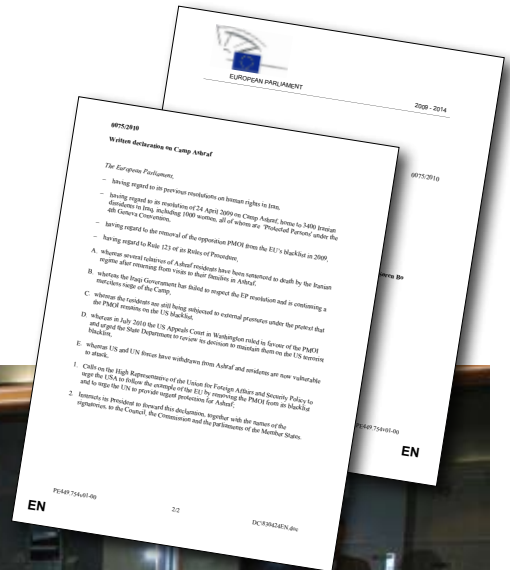




# IRAN LIBERATION

## European Parliament adopts declaration on Ashraf

- Urges USA to remove PMOI from its blacklist
- Call on UN to provide urgent protection for Ashraf residents
- Underlines status of the residents as Protected Persons under the Fourth Geneva Convention



In a meeting at the European Parliament on December 1, Mrs. Rajavi praised members of the European Parliament for adoption of Written Declaration 75 on Ashraf and called on EU to act. Report on Page 3



Commenting on 140 loudspeakers installed around Ashraf by agents of Iranian regime

### Ad Melkert, UN Special Representative for Iraq:

“I subscribe fully to the view that those loudspeakers do not serve any reasonable purpose and we have from the very outset asked the Iraqi government to make sure that these loudspeakers would be removed”

### International Legal Symposium in Defense of Ashraf

## Distinguished lawyers and jurists: US has an obligation to protect Ashraf residents



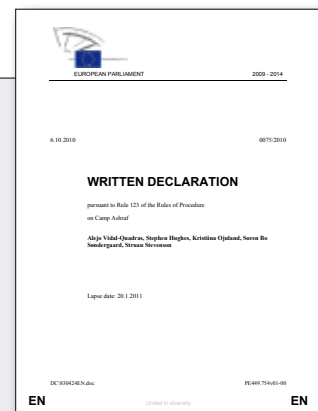
From left: David Matas, Paulo Casaca, Steven Schneebaum, Sid Ahmed Ghazali, Jean-Pierre Spitzer, Maryam Rajavi, Ruth Wedgewood, John Bolton, Juan Garcès, François Serres

0075/2010

## Written declaration on Camp Ashraf

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to its previous resolutions on human rights in Iran,
  - having regard to its resolution of 24 April 2009 on Camp Ashraf, home to 3400 Iranian dissidents in Iraq, including 1000 women, all of whom are 'Protected Persons' under the 4th Geneva Convention,
  - having regard to the removal of the opposition PMOI from the EU's blacklist in 2009,
  - having regard to Rule 123 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas several relatives of Ashraf residents have been sentenced to death by the Iranian regime after returning from visits to their families in Ashraf,
- B. whereas the Iraqi Government has failed to respect the EP resolution and is continuing a merciless siege of the Camp,
- C. whereas the residents are still being subjected to external pressures under the pretext that the PMOI remains on the US blacklist,
- D. whereas in July 2010 the US Appeals Court in Washington ruled in favour of the PMOI and urged the State Department to review its decision to maintain them on the US terrorist blacklist,
- E. whereas US and UN forces have withdrawn from Ashraf and residents are now vulnerable to attack,
1. Calls on the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to urge the USA to follow the example of the EU by removing the PMOI from its blacklist and to urge the UN to provide urgent protection for Ashraf;
  2. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission and the parliaments of the Member States.



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## “European Union must act now” Maryam Rajavi told MEPs after adoption of declaration on Ashraf by EP with huge Majority

On December 1, 2010, Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, President-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, was invited by members of the European Parliament to address a meeting on Ashraf. This followed the adoption of a written declaration on November 25 at EP's site in Strasbourg that echoes Euro MPs deep concern against threats facing Ashraf residents. The declaration was adopted after it was signed by 401 members of the Parliament in a record time. The meeting was jointly chaired by Alejo Vidal-Quadras, Vice President of the European Parliament, and Struan Stevenson, President of Friends of a Free Iran intergroup in the European Parliament. Dozens of MEPs and assistants to number of Euro MPs participated in the meeting.



**Alejo Vidal-Quadras**  
Vice President of European Parliament

I would like to congratulate you for the wide majority of members that supported our written declaration on Ashraf.

On Behalf of Friends of a Free Iran in this parliament and the platform In Search of Justice, I now solemnly ask the following measures to be implemented to alleviate the situation of residents of Camp Ashraf. In particular, I address this to the European Council, to the high representative Baroness Ashton and also to the commission.

**First of all, the United States under article 45 of the 4th Geneva Convention and**

## UN should formally declare that Ashraf residents are protected persons under 4th Geneva Convention

the Convention against torture and non-refoulement based on bilateral agreement with camp's residents should be committed to the protection of Ashraf and take back the responsibility from the Iraqi forces. We reiterate the position of our colleagues in US Congress emphasizing that United States is clearly responsible of the harm already inflicted to Ashraf residents and of any harm coming to them in the future.

**Second**, the 2 years siege on Ashraf, especially medical, psychological torture and the 10 month ban on profit work must be immediately abolished.

**Third**, UNAMI observer team must be deployed permanently in Ashraf. UNAMI and the United Nations must be the guarantors, particularly of article 2 of the Geneva Convention, and US forces must be responsible for providing protection for UN mission in Ashraf.

**Fourth**, Iraqi forces responsible for massacre of the residents must be transferred out of camp Ashraf and the

management of water and power facilities that were occupied by Iraqi forces must be returned to the residents.

**Fifth**, The United Nations either UNAMI or the High Commissioner for human rights should formally declare that the residents are protected persons under the 4th Geneva Convention and should have their basic rights and protections guaranteed under the international law.

**Sixth**, the Iraqi government must recognize and be committed to providing these rights under the 4th Geneva Convention. Failure to acknowledge these rights, would mean the continuation of repression and murder.

I want to call again on the European Council and on the High representative for Foreign Policy that after this written declaration signed by over 400 members of this House, they must take action. Parliament has spoken with a clear and loud voice and now the council and the commission must listen to us and must take action.



**Struan Stevenson**  
*President of Friends of a Free Iran intergroup in the European Parliament*

It is quite unacceptable and an absolute breach of the human rights of the people in that camp that 140 loudspeakers now surround the camp and blare threats and propaganda 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This is a form of psychological torture. The prohibition of entering the camp by any doctors or medicines for the many people who are ill, who are in the camp, the prohibition against people with cancer and other serious illnesses from leaving the camp to seek hospital treatment is an utter disgrace and again an absolute breach of their human rights.

A great thank to you Mrs. Rajavi for coming to address us today. The protection of people of Ashraf is now the settled will of the European Parliament and this under the Lisbon treaty now with that written declaration means that the Council, the Commission and the High Representative for the Foreign Affairs, Baroness Ashton have to take action to fulfill our written declaration. So this is a very important turning point in the future of Ashraf and in the future of the relationship between the EU institutions and the main opposition to the evil regime in Tehran.



**Richard Falbr**  
*MEP from Czech Republic*

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

I think all those who saw the demonstration in front of the Parliament were deeply moved by the courage and the resistance the demonstrators showed. I am in contact with the PMOI representatives for a couple of years, I have a lot of information and I have a great respect and admiration for those in Iran who are fighting against the regime and for changing the situation in the Ashraf Camp. I am proud that I am among the more than 400 MEP's who have signed the WD. Now it is time for Ashton to act.



**Jim Higgins**  
*Member of European Parliament from Ireland*

I would like to join you in working with Mrs. Maryam Rajavi.

Back in 1992 we in Ireland elected our first female president of our country and she quoted a phrase on the evening of her election; the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world. Certainly if there was a leader at the right place and at the right time in terms of freedom of Iran which we all yearn for, certainly Mrs. Rajavi is that leader.

What we have done last week is very significant. It is just a milestone in terms of putting international pressure on the international authorities, what the United States and the United Nations to do what is and should be happening; and that is to provide protection.

What we have got to understand as well, and Mrs. Rajavi touched on this, we are dealing with a regime in Iran that is extremely dangerous, that is undemocratic, that is tyrannical. We are dealing with a regime that poses a major threat to international peace and stability, particularly because of its enhancement of nuclear weapons.

On with the journey, on with the struggle, and on with the quest that we have for ensuring that Camp Ashraf becomes totally safe, protected by the international community, and until then, we will not cease our efforts.



**Petito Salato**  
*MEP from Italy*

This morning I participated in a demonstration by Iranians in solidarity with the residents of Ashraf.

The EP declaration shows that European are increasingly in support of your people who are of rich culture and are represented by you.



**Sid Ahmed Ghozali**  
*Former Algerian Prime Minister*

We must break the conspiracy of silence that for decades the reality is hiding in Iran. Ask anyone, both here and in the arab muslim sphere, the reality of the Iranian crisis is a religious dictatorship that takes shape and operates under the most ignominious forms against human beings. It is a plan in which they condemn to death, kill and execute Iranians for the sole crime of being against the government or having a relative or a friend residing in Ashraf. I bow to the memory of the victims of execution, the 120,000 executed political prisoners.

I offer my solidarity to the Iranian Resistance and its brilliant efforts for the cause of the Iranian people.



**Soren Sondergaard**  
*MEP from Denmark*

The resolution concerning camp Ashraf, which is of course the most important thing with a clear demand that Ashraf residents have to be protected by the international community and it very clear states that PMOI has to be withdrawn from the terrorist list in the United States. The reason for this is of course that we know when PMOI was on the terrorist list in the European Union, it was very difficult to make solidarity work and to make people to understand that it was necessary to support for example Camp Ashraf. We have to call on our American colleagues to really make an effort to remove the PMOI from the terrorist list.

We are going to continue our struggle to get the PMOI out of the terrorist list and the struggle in order to save the people in Camp Ashraf and secure their protection in future.

# Maryam Rajavi: Solution to Iran problem is democratic change by people and Resistance

The adoption of the European Parliament's resolution mirrored and manifested the European people's public opinion. Now it is incumbent on the European Union to heed the calls of its citizens that pierce through this resolution and to side with the Iranian people and Resistance for democratic change in Iran.

Today, following the [July 2010] ruling by the US Court of Appeals in Washington, you have brought about this resolution to call on the US government to also yield to the rule of law and end the unjust terror listing of the PMOI in the United States.

One of the adverse consequences of the US listing is evident vis-à-vis the residents of Camp Ashraf in Iraq.

Following the European Parliament's written declaration, a regime official said that Tehran must try to convince Baghdad to extradite the residents before the PMOI is delisted in the US. The mullahs realize that the removal of this label will act as a game changer against the regime.

This is a campaign to end medical restrictions and psychological torture against the residents of Ashraf.

This is while many families of Ashraf residents are imprisoned inside Iran simply for having visited their loved ones in Ashraf. At least eight of these family members have been charged with moharebeh (waging war on God) and are on death row.

The clerical regime seeks the annihilation of Ashraf for two reasons.

Ashraf acts as a symbol and an icon for the collective efforts to bring about democratic change in Iran, and it also stands as the epicenter of the struggle for freedom and liberty in Iran.

Ashraf represents a formidable cultural challenge against the mullahs' export of fundamentalism to Iraq.

While Europe was busy talking to the regime in the hopes of inducing a change of behavior, the mullahs not only accelerated their nuclear weapons program, but they also ratcheted up their attempts to infiltrate Iraq and other countries in the region.

For the mullahs, Iraq represents the launching pad needed for the expansion of Islamic fundamentalism throughout the entire region.

Therefore, supporting the PMOI and Ashraf, in addition to its humanitarian aspects, ultimately translates into support for a prudent and principled policy.

It is high time for the West to end the tired and failed game of dialogue with the clerical regime.

In and of itself, dialogue can generally provide a remedy; but this is scarcely true when it comes to a regime that defies all the rules. What is happening now is in effect a monologue and results only in unilateral concessions by the West.

The solution is not to prolong futile negotiations. It is rather democratic change by the Iranian people and the Iranian Resistance.

Today, I would like to urge EU leaders to heed the calls of the people of Europe for the adoption of a new policy on Iran, which you [members of Parliament] are advocating.

This represents a historical moment for the EU to stand with the Iranian people and Resistance to help the establishment of democracy in Iran as well as peace and stability in the region.

I call on [EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs] Baroness Ashton to adopt the following urgent measures:

- Invite the US to respect its obligations and particularly to reassume the protection of Camp Ashraf;
- Cooperate with and help the United Nations to post a permanent monitoring team in Camp Ashraf;
- Enact necessary measures on behalf of the EU to cooperate with the US and the UN to end the unjust siege laid on Ashraf, especially with respect to patient access to medical services as well as to end the psychological torture against the residents;
- Convey the demands of the members of the European Parliament to the US with respect to revoking the terrorist designation of the PMOI in the US.



## Paulo Casaca

*Former MEP from Portugal*

Many congratulations for your success in this record time and magnificent resolution. It is really a message that no one can hide from European people and it also shows the failure of the Iranian regime and its secret services and all its disinformation machinery. We do remind that they even invented an association

of families of the residents of Ashraf that was supposedly concerned about the way the residents of Ashraf were treated by the PMOI and incidentally this very the same association is now managing these 140 loudspeakers that is torturing 24 hours a day the residents of Ashraf with threats with propaganda in support of Ahmadinejad and the Iranian regime.

We have to look very carefully to the ongoing trade negotiations between EU and Iraq and that the issue of human rights in Iraq and Ashraf would not be disregarded.

## David Campbell

*MEP from UK*

I would like to salute the courage and bravery of Mrs. Rajavi. She has suffered terribly personally, her family history is such, and I was deeply moved and inspired by her speech to the Paris rally.

The Iranian regime is an appalling one and I do take great heart from the fact that 70 years ago my own country faced a similar regime, the Nazi regime. I believe if democracy and freedom won through then it can win through again in your cause. I reiterate the call to take the PMOI off this terrorist register. I really do not see any grounds for you to be on that list. This is wrong and it should be addressed immediately.

Finally, may I lend support to your case for Camp Ashraf because the treatment of the people in there is a national and international disgrace and it should be stopped immediately. They deserve fair treatment and I fully support that cause.





## International symposium in defense of Ashraf

The International Legal Symposium in Defense of Ashraf took place on Thursday December 2 in Brussels. The Iranian Resistance's President-elect, Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, was in attendance.

Some of the most distinguished international law scholars from the US and Europe also took part in the event, including Ms. Ruth Wedgwood, one of the most recognized jurists in the US and Chair of the international law and diplomacy department in John Hopkins University, an expert in UN peacekeeping regulations and policies, member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and former members of the advisory committee for the State Department.

Other prominent speakers at the symposium included: John Bolton, former Assistant Secretary of the US State Department and former US envoy to the UN, Dr. Juan Garcès, former political advisor to the late Chilean President Salvador Allende, Sid Ahmed Ghozali, former Algerian Prime Minister and Chairman of the Arab-Islamic Committee in Defense of Ashraf, Professor Steven Schneebaum, prominent international law expert in the US, François Serres, distinguished French lawyer, Paulo Casaca, former member of the European Parliament, David Matas, prominent Canadian lawyer and an international law expert, Jean-Pierre Spitzer, noted French jurist.

The speakers offered their legal opinions about the legal status of Ashraf and the international community's responsibilities, in particular the US and UN responsibilities to protect the camp and respect international conventions in this regard.

The senior international law experts stressed on the legal status of Camp Ashraf residents as "protected persons" under the Fourth Geneva Conventions and described the transfer of protection of the camp to the government of Nouri al-Maliki as a violation of US obligations.

The experts said the US is obliged to reassume the protection of Ashraf as soon as possible while the Iraqi government has the obligation to immediately end the unjust siege, psychological torture and inhumane restrictions against the residents.

The symposium released a final statement that in part says, "The rights of the residents in the context of international law have been recognized and affirmed in dozens of legal opinions submitted by prominent international jurists such as the late Lord Slynn, Professor Eric David, Professor Cherif Bassiouni, Sir Michael Wood, Professor Jean-Yves de Cara, Professor Marco Sassoli, Guy Doodwill-Gill, Professor Siobhan Wills, Professor Steven Schneebaum, Professor William Schabas, and Mark Stephens."

In her remarks, Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, the President-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), thanked the legal experts' efforts in support of Ashraf. She said these valuable efforts in support of the Iranian people's resistance for the realization of freedom and human rights are at the same time a service to international peace, rule of law and justice in the world.

### The jurists statement concluded:

1. The international community and specifically the United Nations is duty-bound to reaffirm the status of Ashraf residents as protected persons under the Fourth Geneva Convention, and to remind the Iraqi government of the need to respect the fundamental rights of Ashraf residents under International Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law.
2. Relevant UN bodies, including UNAMI and the High Commissioner for Human Rights, are obliged to continually report on rights violations against Ashraf residents and to make the necessary recommendations to prevent future occurrence of such violations.
3. The international community, and in particular the United Nations, are duty-bound to enact necessary measures to end the restrictions against Ashraf, especially when it comes to restrictions on access to medical care as well as the continual psychological torture the residents have been subjected to for the past 10 months.
4. In view of the violation of the articles of the Fourth Geneva Convention by Iraq, the US is obliged under Article 45 of that convention to reassume the protection of Ashraf residents.
5. The United Nations must post a permanent UNAMI monitoring team in Ashraf.
6. In accordance with the Responsibility to Protect (RtoP) principle, the international community, including the European Union, is duty-bound to prevent crimes against humanity against the people of Ashraf and to enact urgent measures in this regard through the United Nations. Therefore, in addition to the US, the EU is also obliged to take the necessary steps to protect the residents and to ensure that their fundamental rights are being respected in accordance with International Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law.

# Demonstrators in Brussels call on Melkert to guarantee rights of Ashraf residents



Hundreds of Iranians gathered outside European Parliament on December 1 to welcome adoption of declaration on Ashraf and call on Ad Melkert to protect the rights of Ashraf residents under siege for the past two years. Several Euro MPs, human rights activists, religious figures, jurists and members of NCRI addressed the rally

## Alejo Vidal-Quadras, EP Vice President

In the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Parliament we have just had a very interesting exchange of views with the Special Representative of UN Secretary General for Iraq and we told him about the importance of protecting Ashraf residents. I would like to remind you that there is not a single day that we do not work for our friends in Ashraf.



## Struan Stevenson, MEP

Since 2003 the tax payers of Europe have given over one billion Euros for the reconstruction of Iraq. We are not happy to go on paying this money at the time of financial austerity if the Iraqi government does not listen to our concerns and our concerns right now are the human rights of the people of Ashraf.



## Paulo Casaca, Former MEP

I would like to express, solidarity with all of those in Ashraf. They are facing extremely harsh conditions. They are facing daily torture. They are facing 24 hours a day loud-speakers threatening their lives, praising the Iranian dictators. This is torture by any definition that you can use. The EU, in this precise moment, is driving negotiations for a trade agreement with Iraq. It is unspeakable that these trade negotiations can go on without guarantees of respect for human rights of Ashraf residents. So we have to make a very clear message to the European Commission: they have to block these negotiations up to the point where human rights conditions are preserved and Ashraf residents' lives are protected. This is the most crucial point for us to send here in front of the European institutions.



## Jim Higgins, MEP

Last week was a historic week in terms of relations with the European community. As a result of the tremendous efforts made in Strasbourg, you succeeded in getting 401 members of EP to sign a written declaration which sends a very clear message to the powers in Europe and that in Iran, and to Maliki that Ashraf is sacred and it has to be protected. It is entitled to international protection from the UN and from the European community.



## Petito Salato, MEP

This morning the Foreign Affairs Committee holds a hearing with the UN representative for Iraq. We will tell him he must help the Iranians of Camp Ashraf. I am sure we can do something. We want to help your people, because you are the true and democratic representative of your people.



## Marco Scurria, MEP

Today is a cold day, but our heart is hot because it is with people in Ashraf. We are not alone, and you are never alone in Ashraf because the European Parliament is with you. We are with you in Ashraf, and we are with you in the fight for freedom, and democracy.



## Pierre Galand, President of OMCT-Europe

I think you rightly protest for the victory of rights, the international law, and humanitarian law to be respected. People must continue to hope and ask major international institutions to be able to apply rules, laws and the commitments they take. I think that the work done by Mojahedin is important for democracy in Iran.



## Oreste Rossi, MEP

We and our colleagues in the European Parliament do our best for democracy in Iran. You need democracy which can respect the human rights. We will work to help you to have a democracy in Iran.



## Rosario Crocetta, MEP

I wanted to say that I am with you to share your desire of justice and freedom, because we have the right to change society. Thank you for your struggle. Thank you for your courage. Freedom, justice, respect for human rights for Ashraf refugees.



## Nicole Sinclair, MEP

The terrible atrocities taking place in camp Ashraf must stop. I call upon all democratic nations and institutions to put pressure on the authorities until the people of camp Ashraf can live in a normal democratic fashion. The UN must be allowed in to treat the ill people. I call upon the US to fulfill its obligations under international law and Geneva Convention.



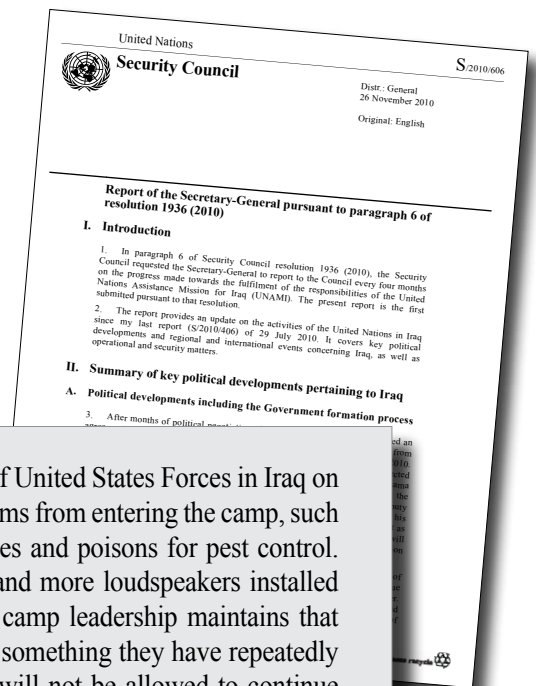
## Robert Rosenbaum, Dutch priest

We have gathered here today to attract the attention to our sisters and brothers in Camp Ashraf. It has been a long time that Iraqi government has been preventing the entry of food and medicine to Ashraf. Also let's attract the attention to Iran where there is no freedom. Freedom of speech, expression of belief, political and religious freedoms.



# In his report to Security Council UN Secretary General expresses concern on Ashraf

*In his report to the UN Security Council on November 26, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary General, outlined the developments in Iraq under different headings. In paragraph 41 of the report under the heading of Human Rights, the Secretary General referred to the situation in Ashraf. The following is what he raised in his report:*



41. The situation in Camp Ashraf continues to be of concern since the departure of United States Forces in Iraq on 2 July 2010. Citing security concerns, the Government has banned a number of items from entering the camp, such as building materials, metal pipes and plumbing supplies, herbicides, insecticides and poisons for pest control. Additionally, a number of checkpoints have been established within the camp and more loudspeakers installed in the east and south of the camp to broadcast messages to the residents. The camp leadership maintains that such measures are intended to tighten control in preparation for their relocation, something they have repeatedly resisted. The Iraqi authorities have declared that the situation in Camp Ashraf will not be allowed to continue indefinitely and that they will notify UNAMI and the International Committee of the Red Cross when the time comes to relocate the inhabitants. Several small disputes between residents and local Iraqi officers reportedly turned violent several times in October and some residents sustained injuries. UNAMI has called for restraint on both sides, respect for human rights and humanitarian standards, while respecting Iraqi laws and recognizing Iraqi sovereignty in further decision-making, taking into account relevant provisions of international law.

## 140 loudspeakers blaring threats to Ashraf residents day and night psychological torture, crime against humanity

Since February 2010, agents of the Iranian regime, in a direct interference in Iraq, have set up loudspeakers that now reach 140 around Ashraf blaring threats to the residents. While fully backed by the Iraqi forces, they openly shout that they want to kill everyone in Ashraf and set fire to the whole camp. This is a constant psychological torture in breach of international law and the rights of Protected Persons under the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Members of the US House Foreign Affairs Committee in a hearing on November 18 denounced the ongoing harassment of Ashraf residents. Congressman Ted Poe raised this question with Jeffery Feltman, Assistant Secretary of State, at the hearing and asked, "What are we doing about these loudspeakers? Are we trying to get these loudspeakers down? Or are we just talking about it? ... If they don't, what do we do? I'm just concerned about when we're finally gone, what happens to these residents in Camp Ashraf?" in response to his concern, Mr. Feltman said: We support an international solution for this whole problem. We need to have an international resolution for the whole problem of the residents of Camp Ashraf.



# Amnesty International appeals for action against medical restrictions on Ashraf

On December 2, 2010, Amnesty International released an APPEAL FOR ACTION expressing concern against medical restrictions imposed on Ashraf and the state of patients in the camp. Excerpts from the report follow:

**Hundreds of Iranian exiles, including refugees, resident in Camp Ashraf in Iraq, north of Baghdad, are reported to have suffered serious complications from medical restrictions imposed on them by the Iraqi authorities. In the past five months the already appalling medical conditions at the camp have deteriorated even further. Many residents are reportedly suffering from cancer, heart problems, loss of vision, gallstones, orthopaedic problems, kidney stones and other diseases that without prompt and adequate treatment can result in irreversible health damage.**

Camp Ashraf, 60 Km north of Baghdad, is home to around 3,400 members and supporters of the Iranian opposition group, the People's Mojaheddin Organization of Iran (PMOI). The residents have been living there for almost 25 years and it is now a small town with shops and other amenities.

Camp Ashraf was held under US control from April 2003 until mid-2009 when the Iraqi government took over control, in accordance with provisions contained in the SOFA, a security agreement signed by Iraqi and US governments in November 2008, which stipulated the withdrawal of US troops from towns and cities. Since the transfer occurred, residents needing medical care have found it extremely difficult to have access to medical treatment in and out of the camp because the camp is surrounded by Iraqi security forces. An Iraqi security committee, responsible for all matters relating to the camp, is now said to be responsible for making decisions regarding medical treatment. The committee members decide who can travel outside the camp for specialist treatment, and they control the influx of supplies into the camp. Moreover, Iraqi security forces are increasingly making life difficult for the residents, including by using loudspeakers to broadcast messages and play loud music at them.

Due to lack of adequate treatment for certain illnesses in the hospital next to the camp, some residents need to seek treatment in specialised hospitals in Baghdad and in the Kurdistan region of Iraq. However, Amnesty International has received reports confirming that patients with appointments in hospitals in Baghdad could not attend their appointments because the Iraqi forces apparently refused to allow others

to accompany them, including interpreters. Most of the patients at the camp do not speak Arabic as Farsi is their native language and therefore without an interpreter they can not communicate with doctors in Iraq. It is reported that patients who have travelled to other facilities for treatment have returned without a diagnosis or treatment because of the lack of an interpreter. It has also been reported that patients with mobility issues have been barred from travelling due to the lack of wheel chairs or special beds. The Iraqi authorities have refused to provide such equipment.

The delay in treatment has caused serious long-term consequences for many people. It has been reported that Elham Fardipour, a female patient with thyroid cancer, could not receive the treatment she needs in Baghdad because she was not allowed to be accompanied by a nurse or interpreter; consequently, leading her to remain in the camp rather than travel alone to keep her appointment. Her current outlook is unknown but without prompt treatment her cancer is likely to spread. Additionally, about 60 residents are in need of assessment by a cardiologist for diagnosis and treatment of various heart conditions. Several need surgery to prevent or reduce damage caused by heart attacks.

Ill-treatment of patients by the Iraqi forces has also been reported. Soldiers have forcibly removed patients from hospitals or entered patients' rooms against their will, in some cases verbally harassing them. In one case a soldier allegedly beat a patient who had just had surgery causing him to go into a seizure.

Index: MDE 14/020/2010 Iraq

Date: 2 December 2010

**TO: HEALTH PROFESSIONALS  
FROM: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL**

## APPEAL FOR ACTION

### RE: MEDICAL RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED ON IRANIAN EXILES, INCLUDING REFUGEES

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**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



### PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY:

- Explaining that you are a health professional concerned about human rights;
- Calling for the Iraqi government to immediately end medical restrictions on Camp Ashraf;
- Calling on the Iraqi authorities to ensure that all residents in need of specialist medical care are allowed to leave the Camp immediately to receive medical treatment at an appropriate facility;
- Urging the authorities to allow patients to choose their own interpreters and to allow interpreters to travel with patients to assist in communicating with health professionals during consultations;
- Urging the authorities to ensure that health professionals are able to practice with clinical independence and without fear of reprisals by the Iraqi forces;
- Calling on the Iraqi forces to end abuse and ill-treatment of patients and allow patients to privately visit with their doctors

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

### EU Urges U.S. to Remove Iran Group From Terror List

By JOHN W. MILLER

The European Parliament Thursday passed a written declaration calling on the U.S. to remove the People's Mujahideen of Iran from its list of Foreign Terrorist Organizations.

The resolution became official when more than half the members of the 736-seat chamber signed it, but support was nearly unanimous, a parliament official said. The resolution also called on Iraq to cease its blockade of Camp Ashraf, a settlement of more than 3,000 Iranian dissidents near the border between the two countries.

The People's Mujahideen, which aims to overthrow the Iranian government, has been on the list since 1997, when the U.S.'s Clinton administration put it there in a bid to secure closer cooperation with Tehran.

In July, a U.S. federal appeals court ordered the State Department to reconsider its decision. The European Union removed the group from its list of terrorist organizations in 2009.

Specifically, the European Parliament demanded that EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton "urge" the U.S. to remove People's Mujahideen from the list. Mrs. Ashton hasn't yet responded, a spokeswoman said.

The Washington Post

### EU lawmakers: US must help Iranian group in Iraq

The Associated Press

Thursday, November 25, 2010; 2:27 PM

BRUSSELS – The European Parliament urged the United States and the U.N. on Thursday to provide immediate aid to an Iranian opposition group camped near Baghdad since the 1980's. In a nonbinding resolution, lawmakers asked the European Union to pressure the U.S. government to take the People's Mujahideen Organization of Iran off the State Department's list of foreign terrorist organizations.

"The U.S. terror label ... and unlawful transfer of Ashraf protection to Iraqi forces both constitute participation in suppression of Iranian opposition and obstruct the way for change in Iran," Maryam Rajavi, president-elect of the leading opposition group National Council of Resistance of Iran, said in a statement.

Bloomberg

### EU Lawmakers Urge U.S. to Remove Iranian Group From Terror List

November 25, 2010 -- The European Union's parliament said the U.S. should remove a prominent Iranian anti-government group from its list of terrorist organizations. The EU's foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton should lobby the Obama administration to change the status of the People's Mujahideen of Iran, the parliament said in a declaration approved by a majority vote in Brussels today. In January 2009, the EU allowed the group to operate freely throughout the 27-nation bloc, ending restrictions imposed in 2002.

Ashton should also push the United Nations to provide "urgent protection" for the residents of Camp Ashraf in Iraq, which has been a base for the group's members since 1986, lawmakers said in the statement.

AP Associated Press

November 25, 2010

Protesters gather in front of the European Parliament building in Brussels, Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2010. Iranian exiles from various countries urge the United Nations to take into consideration the European Parliament's resolution and implement necessary measures to protect residents of Ashraf, Iraq, where some 3,400 members of the Iranian opposition currently live, in Iraq



### les eurodéputés pour la fin du blocus du camp d'Achraf



STRASBOURG (Parlement européen), 25 nov 2010 (AFP) - Le Parlement européen a lancé jeudi un appel pour la fin du blocus du camp d'Achraf, en Irak, où sont rassemblés quelque 3.500 sympathisants des Moudjahidine du Peuple, groupe d'opposition en exil au régime de Téhéran.



### **Mayam Rajavi arrives for a meeting at EU headquarters in Brussels**

AFP - The president-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), Maryam Rajavi (L), arrives on December 1, 2010 for a meeting at EU headquarters in Brussels. Rajavi met with European Parliament members, who proposed specific and practical steps to prevent humanitarian crises at Camp Ashraf in Iraq, the headquarters of the People's Mujahedeen of Iran (PMOI).



Protesters gather in front of the European Parliament building in Brussels, Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2010. Iranian exiles from various countries urge the United Nations to take into consideration the European Parliament's resolution and implement necessary measures to protect residents of Ashraf, where some 3,400 members of the Iranian opposition live, in Iraq. The portrait shown top right, is Maryam Rajavi, leader of the Iranian opposition.

## UN Secretary General's Special Representative deplures ...

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### **Landsbergis questions the way UN plans to deal with threats to Ashraf**

Mr. Vytautas Landsbergis MEP, former President of Lithuania, told Mr. Melkert about adoption of the written declaration on Ashraf and said that Ashraf residents, "despite being recognised as 'protected persons' undergo consistent and long-lasting intimidation from outside including psychological terror with those loudspeakers that were already mentioned, while physical attacks, kidnappings and killings do occur as well." He regretted that "The Americans left Ashraf despite the previous agreement to protect them. The Iraqis are against them, playing in the hands of Tehran via the infamous Revolutionary Guards which is ready for a new assault." On the role of UN he asked, "The UN stays as 'protector' but in what way does the UN intend to avoid a new Srebrenica or Darfur tragedy with an eventual gross humiliation for the UN itself? It is only monitoring today, with no stronger request to the Iraqi government with a warning about the consequences in case of a bloody hypocrisy."

## **Ad Melkert reporting on Iraq**

### **Political process in Iraq**

On the political process that has dominated the year that we are about to conclude, starting actually one year ago with the adoption of the electoral law which was extremely important moments, as it basically constituted for the first time to organise the transition from one elected government to the next one and different to four years ago without direct involvement from particularly the American sides. So it was truly the first stage of a sovereign political process in Iraq.

Subsequently we have seen an election, a campaign that was more open than ever before and there were certainly also many incidents that had to be noted that however did not affect the turnout on the election day which was 62-63% remarkably high with many Iraqis celebrating the opportunity to be able to vote and afterwards the counts of the votes took considerable time but was based on a proper process with an incredible outcome although the outcome was appealed and recounts had to take place, which explains why only at the end of May the final results could be quoted.

As from that moment a long process has started of government formation which in the history of Iraq is without precedence, fully sovereign process again organised by the two major blocks that were elected in parliament and as we speak the process has not yet been finalised although it seems very close.

Obviously against the back ground of enormous impact in everything that happens since 2003, Iraq is confronted with great needs in terms of its economical growth, foreign investments, domestic investments and combating poverty which affect around 25% of its population.

The hope is with the improved security situation and with the more stable political situation and a government that can lead its agenda. The year 2011 will be more productive to that end.

### **Role of UN in Iraq**

The role of UN is based on Security Council resolution particularly 1770 of 2007, with our mandate to assist up request from the government of Iraq in among other thing the promotion of human rights the political process and the humanitarian and the development policies. We do so in close contact with the government with the parliament and with the civil society, our activities in near future will be particularly focused on supporting the political process that hopefully will promote stability around the so called disputed areas that are for the time being depending on the outcome of interaction between Arabs and Kurds, also to assist in the improvement and the normalisation of relations between Iraq and Kuwait.

Also our human rights mandate provide us the opportunity to report regularly on the human rights situation including violations and addressing ways forward to address such violations.

# UN Secretary General's Special Representative deplures repressive measures against Ashraf

In a hearing at the Foreign Affairs Committee of the European Parliament on December 1, Mr. Ad Melkert, Special Representative of United Nations Secretary General for Iraq, responded to worries of Euro MPs about Ashraf.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Melkert reviewed developments in Iraq and the achievements of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) and the human rights situation.

On Ashraf, Mr. Melkert said: "We are monitoring the situation in Camp Ashraf and regularly meet with government representatives in order to help sustain the humanitarian situation there, on the basis of a number of key principles that we remind the Iraqi government times and again that they should be adhered to. We have certainly taken note of all the concerns that have been expressing, in particular on the situation in Camp Ashraf. What we are doing as UNAMI is to monitor the situation on the basis of weekly visits to the camp and relay our impressions, and also our concerns, in no uncertain terms if necessary to the Ashraf Committee which is the inter ministerial committee in Baghdad that is in charge of Ashraf file. We are also available on a 24 hours seven days a week basis to be in touch with the residents' leadership and they also make use of that when they are necessary. When challenges arise, we are informed and we in turn inform immediately the authorities and of course do not hide our concern if there is a reason to do so."

## Stevenson's plea to avert human rights catastrophe in Ashraf

Mr. Struan Stevenson, President of the European Parliament Delegation for Relations with Iraq, praised the achievements of Mr. Melkert and UNAMI in Iraq and. He mentioned about two statements adopted by the parliament, one on human rights in Iraq and the other on Ashraf and said, "We also with a huge majority of members signed a written declaration on Ashraf. We are extremely alarmed that Ashraf is under constant siege that proper medical facilities are not able to access the very sick people in the camp. They are not allowed to go to hospitals and the camp is surrounded with 140 loudspeakers blaring propaganda and threats on the 24 hour basis and that really must be seen as psychological torture and an abuse of human rights of these



From left: G. Albertini, Chair of Foreign Affairs Committee; Ad Melkert; UN official; and Struan Stevenson

people and we really would call on you to give all possible help to these people." He also raised alarmed on possible plans to attack Ashraf and said, "There are unconfirmed rumors this week Mr. President that the Iraqi army is perhaps preparing an attack on Camp Ashraf, may be in response to the sudden interest that we are taking here in the European Parliament. I hope, Mr. Melkert you can do everything possible to avert such a human rights catastrophe."

## EP Vice President call on UN to set up a permanent monitoring team in Ashraf

Dr. Alejo-Vidal Quadras, Vice President of the European Parliament, followed up the issue of Ashraf by saying: "The situation in Ashraf is of extremely serious concern. Iraqi authorities do not allow supplies and medicines to go in. They are forbidding people who are seriously ill with

cancer to be treated. There is psychological torture of the residents with over a hundred of loudspeakers around the camp with very loud volume. Family visits are not allowed nor members of Parliament. This is a complete breach of the commitment to deal with these people in a humanitarian way, a commitment entered into by the Iraqis when they took over responsibility for this camp from the Coalition Forces. We have been informed that over the next few days there could be an attack worse than the attack at the end of July last year when there were 11 killed, 36 people were taken hostage and hundreds of people were injured. If there is another attack, it will be a massacre. So I am calling upon you, Mr. Melkert, to set up a permanent team of observers in the camp immediately, because otherwise what we risk there is that there will be a slaughter, and that would remain as a weight on our consciences."

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## Ad Melkert, responds to MEPs concern on Ashraf

On measures taken by UNAMI to protect Ashraf residents, the Secretary General's Special Representative said: "We are available on a 24 hours seven days a week basis to be in touch with the residents' leadership and they also make use of that when they are necessary. When challenges arise, we are informed and we in turn inform immediately the authorities and of course do not hide our concern if there is a reason to do so."

With respect to psychological torture of the residents by means of powerful loudspeakers around Ashraf set up by the Iranian regime's agents backed by Iraqi forces, he said: "I subscribe fully to the view that those loudspeakers do not serve any reasonable purpose and we have from the very outset asked the Iraqi government to make sure that these loudspeakers would be removed. This is just one of many examples where we are trying indeed to the best of our abilities to represent views that are based on fundamental principles of human rights that should guide this situation."