



Massacre of Camp Ashraf residents

Carried out at the behest of the Iranian regime

by Iraqi armed forces under the command of Nouri al-Maliki on April 8, 2011



Murdered Iranian exiles at Ashraf

- 34 unarmed defenceless residents of Ashraf killed and 350 wounded
- Most of the victims were shot dead, a number were crushed to death by Humvees
- 2500 armed Iraqi forces with 140 armoured vehicles continue to remain in the camp

The Washington Post, April 9, 2011:

***"Iran praises Iraq for deadly raid
on exile group"***

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Maryam Rajavi calls for appointment of a representative by the UNSC to carry out a full, independent, transparent and impartial investigation of the massacre at Camp Ashraf

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Images taken from videos show Iraqi forces attack unarmed defenseless residents of Ashraf



Iraqi forces target defenceless Ashraf residents, April 8, 2011



A resident of camp Ashraf is crushed by Iraqi Army's US made Humvees

Chronology of Massacre in Camp Ashraf

Background:

- On April 2, 2011, at midnight, the suppressive Iraqi forces entered Camp Ashraf with at-least 30 armored vehicles including Humvees and BMP-1 armored personnel carriers.

Warnings ignored:

- Based on specific information obtained from inside the Iranian regime, the Iranian Resistance declared that Nouri al-Maliki plans for a new round of killings in Camp Ashraf on the demands from Ali Khamenie, Iranian regime's Supreme Leader and they did.
- In numerous letters to American and European officials and the United Nations, Ashraf residents and the National Council of Resistance of Iran warned about an imminent massacre of the camp residents. Unfortunately, none of them paid any attention to the threat.

No actions were taken:

- On Wednesday, April 6, 2011, 36 hours prior to the catastrophe, as the representatives of UNAMI entered Ashraf, the residents once again warned them that an attack on the residents was imminent, but again there was no action taken. Ashraf residents urged them to strengthen their presence in the camp.
- On Thursday, April 7, 2011, after the U.S. Defense Secretary Gates met with Nouri al-Maliki, while it was expected that U.S. forces reinforce their positions in Ashraf, surprisingly the limited U.S. forces that had a presence in the camp since April 3, left the camp.
- Immediately after al-Maliki's meeting with U.S. Defense Secretary, some 1500 suppressive Iraqi forces entered Camp Ashraf between noon to late night on Thursday, raising to 2500. By Iraqi standards, the speed for such deployment is remarkable.
- On the same day, in several letters to President Obama, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and United Nations' Secretary General, Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, the President-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran warned about the imminent crime at Camp Ashraf. But unfortunately, this was to no avail.

Attack begins:

- On April 8, at 4:45 am (local time) eight battalions of Iraqi Army's Ninth and Fifth Divisions began the attack on the defenseless residents. The massive fir by armored vehicles' heavy machine guns and snipers continued for six hours in various parts of Camp Ashraf. In a short time, numerous residents were killed.
- By the afternoon, the total number of Ashraf residents killed during the attack reached 33. Ten of them had died from the critical injuries they had received during the attack.
- Over 300 residents injured with a number of them were in highly critical conditions. Since the early hours of Thursday morning, the Iranian Resistance repeatedly called on U.S. to evacuate the wounded residents. But until the following midnight no actions were taken in this regard and more lives were at risk.

2500 Iraqi forces involved in the attack:

- The attack by some 2500 suppressive Iraqi forces which began approximately 4:45 a.m. (local time) on April 8, continued until 10:45 a.m. (local time). The Iraqi forces occupied more than one third of Camp Ashraf. Eyewitnesses reported the presence of a number of Persian speaking individuals among the attackers.

Another attack looms:

- At present, the attacking forces are still in Camp Ashraf and the possibility of another attack and killing of residents looms. About 1,500 of the suppressive forces are stationed inside the camp while some 1,000 are outside the camp. About fifty armored vehicles are in the camp and equal numbers are outside.

Iraqi forces loot and destroy:

- Based on the instructions by their commands, the Iraqi forces loot properties and assets of Ashraf residents while destroying anything that they are unable to take away.

International observers & journalists barred:

- The Iraqi forces deny UNAMI monitoring team entry into the camp. Mr. Taher Boudra, the Assistant on Camp Ashraf issues to Mr. Ad Melkert, the Special Representative of the United Nations' Secretary General in Iraq, has been trying to enter the camp since Thursday morning but he is denied entry by the Iraqi forces.
- A number of journalists have gone to Ashraf, but Iraqi forces prevent them from entering the camp.

34 innocent unarmed civilians killed by Iraqi armed forces



Saba Haftbaradaran
29
Shot in leg



Faezeh Rajabi
19
Shot in neck



Saeid Chavooshi
49
Shot in chest



Marzieh Naghizadeh
48
Shot in heart



Naztaran Azimi-dezfouli
24
Shot in lung



Asieh Rakhshani
28
Shot in abdomen



Fatemeh Massih
55
Shot in heart



Hanif Kafaee
29
Shot in abdomen



Shahnaz Pahlavani
49
Shot in head



Ahmad Aghaee
47
Shot in chest



Amir Masoud Fazlollahy
50
Shot in abdomen



Mahdiah Mehdizadeh Gorgory
32
Shot in legs and back



Jafar Bareji
46
Shot in neck



Mehdi Barzagar
45
Shot in chest



Aliakbar Mehdizadeh Gorgory
39
Run over by HUMVEE



Mohammad Reza Pirzadi
46
Shot in right lung



Saeid Reza Pourhasemi
44
Shot in heart



Hassan Avani
46
Killed by bullet



Behrouz Sabet Khasmakhi
44
Shot in leg



Majid Ebadian
50
Multiple shots



Zia Poornader
54
Shot in left leg



Massoud Hajilouee Mobtaker
30
Shot in head



Zoheir Zakeri
35
Shot in head



Gholam Talghori
42
Shot in chest



Morteza Beheshti
34
Shot in head & abdomen



Vargha Sullimani
45
Shot in leg



Seyyed Hossein Ahmadi Djehon-abadi
55
Killed by bullet



Feriydoun Ainy Farkosh
52
Shot in heart



Mohammad Ghayoumi
44
Shot in abdomen



Alireza Taherloo
50
Burning



Ghasem Etemadi
53
Run over by HUMVEE



Khalil Kabi
48
Shot in chest



Naser Sepahpour
47
Run over by HUMVEE



Mohammad Reza Yazdandoust
54
Shot in abdomen

Al-Maliki's crime against humanity in Camp Ashraf



Young journalist, Asieh Rakhshani, 28, targeted and killed by Iraqi forces while she was filming the April 8th deadly attack against Camp Ashraf.



Saba Haftbaradaran, 29, shot in the leg. Died of extensive bleeding and lack of surgical facilities due to Iraqi government's medical blockade of Ashraf



350 Ashraf residents wounded in deadly attack



Global Condemnation of Camp Ashraf Massacre

U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations Chairman Kerry on the violence at Camp Ashraf in Iraq



Washington, DC – Last Friday, Iraqi Security Forces forcefully entered Camp Ashraf in Eastern Iraq. Members of the Mujahedin-e Khalq or MEK are housed at the camp. Earlier today, United Nations officials confirmed that the incursion by Iraqi Security Forces had resulted in scores of dead and injured MEK members. Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman John Kerry (D-MA) issued the following statement:

“United Nations confirmation of the scope of last week’s tragedy at Camp Ashraf is deeply disturbing and the Iraqi military action is simply unacceptable. Corrective action is imperative. First, the Iraqis must stop the bleeding and refrain from any further military action against Camp Ashraf. Second, the Iraqi government has announced a full investigation into the massacre and it must be thorough and serious. The investigation must hold accountable the responsible parties and ensure that there will be no sequel to these horrific events. Third, the current situation at the camp is untenable. The United States must redouble efforts with all the relevant parties – including the Iraqi government, the United Nations, the European Union, and the Mujahedin-e Khalq itself – to seek a peaceful and durable solution, and to find permanent homes for the residents of Camp Ashraf.”

Declaration by EU High Representative, Catherine Ashton, on behalf of the European Union on camp Ashraf



The EU is deeply disturbed at reports of the use of force against Camp Ashraf residents in Iraq, resulting in casualties. The EU deplores the loss of life. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq has been monitoring the situation there closely, and alongside the UN, the EU has continuously and repeatedly called on the Iraqi government to refrain from the use of violence and to respect the human rights of the Camp’s residents. This message was reiterated by EU representatives on Monday at a meeting with Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki himself. The EU calls upon the Iraqi government to grant access to Camp Ashraf to independent international observers in order that they can provide a comprehensive picture of the situation.

The situation in Camp Ashraf poses complex challenges with no easy answers. The EU agrees that Iraq’s sovereignty should be respected over all the Iraqi territory including in Camp Ashraf, but force is not the answer. It is the Government’s responsibility to respect the human rights of its residents.

Senator Carl Levin, U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman expresses concern



US calls for ‘negotiated’ plan for Iranian camp in Iraq

Chairman of US Senate Armed Services Committee, in a letter to US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, wrote on April 15: “I am writing to express my concern about reports that Iraqi security forces killed and injured a number of residents of Camp Ashraf during a violent clash on April 8.

These reports are extremely troubling and would directly contradict the Government of Iraq’s commitment to protect Camp Ashraf residents according to our agreement with them and in accord with its international obligations.

I commend the State Department’s immediate efforts to urge the Government of Iraq to conduct an investigation into the incident and to show restraint and avoid violence when dealing with residents of Camp Ashraf. I request that Ambassador Jeffrey continue to engage with Iraqi officials and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq to ensure that the residents of Camp Ashraf have access to humanitarian assistance and essential medical care.

I would like the State Department to keep me informed of the steps it plans to take to ensure that the Government of Iraq upholds its obligation to provide protection for Camp Ashraf residents in the near term. Also, what is the State Department’s long-term strategy for achieving a resolution of the Camp Ashraf situation that is acceptable to all parties? In addition, I request that the State Department accelerate its review of the Mujahadeen-e-Khalq’s designation under section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

WASHINGTON, April 12, 2011 (AFP) - The United States said Tuesday it is ready to help Iraq find a negotiated plan for an Iranian opposition camp in which the dissidents there could “conceivably” end up in a third country.

“We’re prepared to help the government of Iraq develop and execute a negotiated plan -- and the emphasis on ‘negotiated’ -- that addresses the future of Camp Ashraf,” State Department spokesman Mark Toner said.

When asked whether the plan could include having the camp’s members transferred to a third country where they would not be tortured or abused, Toner replied: “Conceivably, yeah.”

Toner also said Washington is urging the authorities in Baghdad to allow UN officials to visit Camp Ashraf to determine what happened during the assault and how many people were killed.

WASHINGTON, April 8, 2011 (AFP) - “The US government is deeply troubled by reports of deaths and injuries resulting from this morning’s clash at Camp Ashraf,” State Department spokesman Mark Toner said in a statement.

He said the Iraqi government and military “initiated” what he called the crisis and loss of life, even if he conceded US officials lacked a full picture of what happened at the site.

Ros-Lehtinen, Berman condemn violence against Camp Ashraf

U.S. Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and U.S. Rep. Howard L. Berman (D-CA), Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, issued the following joint statement condemning reports of violence against residents of Camp Ashraf in Iraq:

“In light of new reports of violence perpetrated against the residents of Ashraf, we are deeply concerned that the government of Iraq appears to have disregarded its commitments to proactively ensure the safety and well-being of those living in Ashraf, to refrain from harming the human rights of the residents, and to prevent the involuntary return of the residents to Iran. “We condemn all acts of violence perpetrated against the residents of Ashraf, and call on the government of Iraq to immediately reaffirm and meet its obligations to ensure their safety and well-being.”

US Defence Secretary urges Iraq to live up to commitments

The Guardian, 8 April 2011-The US defence secretary, Robert Gates, who is visiting US troops in northern Iraq, said US forces were maintaining a “nearby presence” but did not give details, although he said the military was providing some medical assistance.

“I urge the Iraqi government to show restraint and live up to their commitments to treat Ashraf residents in accordance with Iraqi law and international obligations,” Gates told reporters travelling with him in Mosul, 225 miles north-west of Baghdad.

Global Condemnation of Camp Ashraf Massacre

UK Foreign Office Minister deplores the loss of life and injury at Camp Ashraf in Iraq



8 April 2011 - Speaking today the Foreign Office Minister said:

"The UK Government is deeply disturbed to read reports that a number of civilian residents have been killed and many more wounded at Camp Ashraf today. We absolutely deplore such loss of life and injury. At present the exact circumstances are unclear, and we are pressing the UN and the Iraqi Government for more information.

"The Iraqi Government has provided us with assurances on several occasions that it will treat individual residents of Camp Ashraf in a humane manner, act in accordance with Iraqi law, the Iraqi Constitution and its international obligations. We urge the Iraqi Government to uphold this commitment.

"Our Ambassador in Baghdad has been expressing our concerns to the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the highest levels. We call on the Iraqi Government to cease violent operations in Camp Ashraf immediately and particularly to ensure that the residents have full access to medical care. ... We are aware of a request by the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) to send a humanitarian monitoring mission to Camp Ashraf as soon as possible. We fully support this request and therefore urge the Iraqi Government to quickly grant permission..."

Norway condemns violence against Ashraf



The Norwegian government has strongly condemned Friday's perpetration of violence by the Iraqi government against unarmed residents in Camp Ashraf, Norwegian Foreign Minister Jonas Gahr Støre said in a statement.

Arab League urges Iraq to handle Camp Ashraf residents humanely

Kuwaiti News Agency, April 11, 2011 - The Arab League on Saturday urged the Iraqi government to handle in a humane manner the residents of Camp Ashraf, who are Iranian Mujahid-e-Khalq refugees housed in the camp since the Iran-Iraq war.

The Arab League had held lengthy talks with Iraqi officials, requesting them not to resort to the military option on handling the matter, Deputy Secretary-General, Ahmad bin Helli said in a statement.

Al-Iraqia condemns attack on Camp Ashraf

With grave concern, Al-Iraqia, monitors the military operation of government against Camp Ashraf which holds three thousand unarmed Iranian refugees. Our concerns grow with continuation of news of 35 deaths, over 250 injuries, and the arrest of over 20 wounded with dangerous injuries.



Al-Iraqia views this action in contradiction with all international and human rights laws that have stressed on protection of unarmed refugees. This action is in contradiction with all human values and ethics and popular culture in paying respect to a guest and protecting him and preventing any aggression against him.

This method of treating Mujahedin Khalq's case is a behavior that can be considered a genocide and crime against humanity and defaces Iraq in presence of the advanced world and it will bring disrespect to it as a government that does not understand any behavior outside the framework of viciousness and brutality.

Iraq: Restraint urged at Camp Ashraf as government forces mass Iraqi security forces are reportedly surrounding Camp Ashraf



April 15, 2011- Amnesty International has warned Iraqi authorities against taking any unnecessary military action that would put civilian lives in danger, amid reports of a military build-up inside a camp for Iranian exiles north of Baghdad.

Amnesty International has received reports that new troop movements and military construction are taking place inside the camp, only days after an assault on the camp by Iraqi security forces on 8 April left over 30 camp residents dead and many others wounded.

"Camp Ashraf's residents are looking on in fear and trepidation as Iraqi troops appear to be preparing for a new assault on them and their homes," said Malcolm Smart, Director of Amnesty International's Middle East and North Africa Programme.

"The Iraqi government must not allow a repeat of last week's deadly attacks and ensure that Iraqi forces refrain from taking any military action that would further endanger civilian lives."

"Iraqi forces are supposed to be stationed at the Camp to protect the residents, not to assault or intimidate them and restrict their movement."

Camp Ashraf, located in Diyala province around 60 km north of Baghdad, is home to some 3,400 Iranian exiles and refugees, many of them members and supporters of the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI), an Iranian opposition group outlawed in Iran. According to PMOI spokespeople, on 14 April, several Iraqi engineering battalions completed a 6-kilometre-long embankment on the northern edge of Camp Ashraf's main road.

The embankment cuts across the camp from east to west and is

reportedly wide enough for military vehicles to patrol along its length. Control towers have also been set up along the embankment.

"Given the nature and scope of these new military installations, we're very concerned what Iraqi security forces may be planning," said Malcolm Smart.

"Excessive force must not be used against Camp Ashraf's residents, who are unarmed and include many women and children."

On 8 April, 34 camp residents were killed when Iraqi security forces attempted to take greater control of the camp. Many of the dead, six women and 28 men, died of gunshot wounds inflicted by Iraqi security forces using live ammunition. Others appear to have been deliberately run over by military vehicles.

Iraqi officials maintain that their forces took action to put down a "riot" in the camp and deny that their troops opened fire despite the strong evidence to the contrary.

On 14 April, the Iraqi authorities released six men who they had detained during the 8 April military operation. Shortly after their release, the men told Amnesty International that they had been beaten and threatened with deportation to Iran during the course of their detention. Talking to Amnesty International from the camp on 14 April, one of the men said that Iraqi soldiers were then in the process of surrounding the camp.

Amnesty International has repeatedly called on Iraqi authorities not to forcibly evict or repatriate Camp Ashraf's residents, some of whom are refugees who would be at grave risk of torture and other serious human rights violations, including execution, if they were to be forcibly returned to Iran.

Iranian group seeks U.S. shield after Iraqi raid

PARIS -13 April- Members of a blacklisted Iranian dissident group were joined by former U.S. officials on Wednesday in calling on the United States to protect them after a raid on their camp by Iraqi government forces last week that the dissidents say left 34 people dead and 318 people wounded.

"The massacre in Ashraf plainly puts into perspective the conclusion that the prudent and, in fact, the only solution is for the U.S. to reassume the camp's protection," Maryam Rajavi, a leader of the dissidents, said at a news conference.

Details of the incident at Camp Ashraf, which houses members of the People's Mujahedeen Organization of Iran, remain somewhat obscure. Enough is known that officials from the United States and European Union, as well as human rights groups, have urged the government of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki to show restraint.

Sean McCormack, a U.S. State Department spokesman, said Wednesday that Washington had called on the Iraqi government to conduct an investigation and to guarantee the humane treatment of the residents of the camp.

The group's members say that despite their having warned U.S. and U.N. officials that an attack was imminent, Iraqi Army soldiers equipped with armored vehicles and Humvees began an assault on the 3,400 people living in the camp, north of Baghdad, at 4:45 a.m. Friday.

The Iraqi Defense Ministry said Tuesday that it would investigate the claim that 34 people had died in the raid, Reuters reported. The authorities have said that three people were killed resisting an

The New York Times

operation to return land from the camp to farmers.

On Monday, a spokesman for the Iraqi government said the Iranians would have to leave Iraq by the end of the year.

A video shown at the news conference, filmed and edited by members of the group, showed soldiers in desert camouflage uniforms firing on unarmed civilians and armored vehicles and trucks being used to herd crowds of people, running some down. The authenticity of the video could not immediately be verified.

Ms. Rajavi, an Iranian exile who describes herself as the president-elect of the country's resistance, cited the example of a notorious July 1995 massacre of the Yugoslavian war, saying: "With the threat of another Srebrenica looming in Ashraf, intervention is absolutely essential."

The people of Camp Ashraf were disarmed by U.S. forces in 2009, agreeing to lay down their weapons and renounce violence in return for U.S. protection.

The Iranian group has been branded a terrorist group by the United States, Iraq and Iran, though not the European Union or the United Nations. The dissidents claim that Mr. Maliki's government is making use of the terrorist designation to justify the attacks, all the while carrying out the bidding of the Iranian government, which sees them as a threat to its hold on power. All the speakers at the news conference called on Washington to remove the terrorist label.

Two of them, Hugh Shelton, former chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, and John R. Bolton, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations under President George W. Bush, praised the group as having provided the United States with valuable intelligence about Iran.

US 'may have broken international law' over Iraqi attack on Iranian camp



8 April 2011- Iraqi forces have stormed a camp of Iranian dissidents in north-eastern Iraq amid warnings that the US government may have broken international law by failing to protect the camp.

The raid was the latest in a series of interventions at the camp since jurisdiction was passed from the US to the Iraqi government in 2009.

A WikiLeaks cable uncovered by the Bureau of Investigative Journalism at City University in London showed the US was aware the Iraqi government planned to crack down on the MEK, with potentially grave humanitarian consequences.

"If the government of Iraq acts harshly against the MEK and provokes a reaction," warned the US deputy chief of mission in Iraq, Patricia Butenis, in a cable in March 2009, "the USG faces a challenging dilemma: we either protect members of a foreign terrorist organisation against actions of the Iraqi security forces and risk violating the US-Iraq security agreement, or we decline to protect the MEK in the face of a humanitarian crisis, thus leading to international condemnation of both the US government and the government of Iraq."

Massacre proves the dangers of Iran's influence in Iraq



April 16, 2011 - As the United States prepares to withdraw most, if not all, of its troops from Iraq by year's end, Iran's pervasive influence in that country becomes an ever more worrisome concern. And now a deadly assault by Iraqi security forces on an Iranian opposition group living inside Iraq - an attack that Senator John Kerry rightly termed a massacre - ought to set off alarms in Washington about the subservience of Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki to the regime in Tehran.

Confirming PMOI claims that 34 people were killed, including 7 women, and more than 200 wounded, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, said Friday, "There is no possible excuse for this number of casualties."

The Obama administration will look feckless if it does not back her call for "a full, independent and transparent inquiry" and for the prosecution of those found responsible.

Washington has a special obligation to demand accountability because Defense Secretary Robert Gates arrived in Baghdad the day before the attack, met with Maliki, and warned of Iran's dangerous influence in the region. As if to crow over Tehran's predominance in Baghdad, the Iranian foreign minister declared a day after the killings, "We appreciate the move by the Iraqi government."

The United States and its allies must act quickly to relocate abroad some 3,000 PMOI members still in Camp Ashraf. Toward this end, the State Department needs to remove the group from its terrorist list; it was placed there in 1997 as a goodwill gesture to facilitate dialogue with Iran. That didn't work, and it has been many years since the PMOI did anything that could be construed as terrorist. The regime in Tehran, however, is more terrorist than ever. And more influential in Iraq.

Iran praises Iraq for deadly raid on Camp Ashraf



The Associated Press - 9 April 2011, BAGHDAD - Iran's top diplomat on Saturday praised Iraqi authorities for launching a deadly raid on a camp of Iranian exiles considered terrorists by Tehran.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi said the Iraqi army was right to storm Camp Ashraf. Tehran. "Under the Iraqi constitution, no terrorist group can use the Iraqi soil as a base to operate against neighboring countries," Salehi told a press conference in Tehran. Therefore, he said the raid was legally necessary, and "needs to be praised."

Maryam Rajavi calls for an appointment of a representative by the UNSC to investigate the massacre at Camp Ashraf

Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, President-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, welcomed the international community's emphasis on the need for full, independent and transparent investigations into the bloodbath at Ashraf at a time when the attacking forces and their armored units are still in the Camp and continue their repressive actions.



She added, it is quite obvious that the Iraqi government is itself responsible for this heinous massacre and as such is in no way qualified to carry out an investigation. The results of such an inquiry would be a foregone conclusion.

Moreover, the Iraqi government has refused any cooperation with Spain's National Court regarding the slaughter its forces perpetrated on July 28 and 29, 2009 in Ashraf and has defied the judgments of that court. A full, transparent, independent and impartial investigation is possible only if al-Maliki government and the Iranian regime are prevented from influencing and tainting it.

So far, 34 residents, including 8 women, have been murdered, a number of them run over by armored carriers. In addition, there are 346 wounded residents, 225 of whom have been shot, or suffer from explosive and shrapnel wounds. Therefore, the appointment of a United Nations Security Council representative is indispensable to a full, impartial, transparent and independent investigation into this tragedy, so that they can visit Ashraf and hear the residents of Ashraf and all witnesses without any restrictions and inspect the crime scene.

Mrs. Rajavi added, we have obtained the directives issued by al-Maliki and the Iraqi commanders as well as top-secret documents related to the attack on Ashraf from within the Iranian regime. This evidence will be provided to the Security Council's representative for the investigation into the bloodbath at Ashraf.

Covering up a crime only leads to further and repeated atrocities. A full, independent, transparent and impartial investigation into the bloodbath at Camp Ashraf on April 8, 2011 is called by the world community.

The long list includes: The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; The United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI); Amnesty International; John Kerry, Chairman of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee; Carl Levin, Chairman of the US Senate Armed Services Committee; the US Department of State; Catherine Ashton, EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy; EU's Vice-president of the European Commission; six Vice Presidents of the European Parliament; the chair of the EP's Foreign Affairs Committee; the President of the European Parliament's Delegation for Relations with Iraq; and the Speaker of Iraq's Council of Representatives (Iraqi Parliament)

UN rights chief condemns Iraqi operation leading to 34 deaths, calls for inquiry



Geneva, 15 April 2011 – The United Nations human rights chief today condemned a recent Iraqi military operation in a camp north of Baghdad that left 34 people dead and dozens injured, and called for an independent inquiry into the incident.

Navi Pillay, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, said full details of what actually happened on the morning of 8 April at Camp Ashraf, which houses an Iranian exile group known as the People's Mojahedeen of Iran, are only beginning to emerge.

"But it now seems certain that at least 34 people were killed in Camp Ashraf, including seven or more women. Most were shot, and some appear to have been crushed to death, presumably by vehicles," she stated in a news release.

Ms. Pillay noted that the Iraqi military was well aware of the risks attached to launching an operation like this at the camp. A similar operation by Iraqi security forces in 2009 left 11 people dead and dozens wounded at Ashraf.

"There is no possible excuse for this number of casualties," she said, referring to the latest incident.

"There must be a full, independent and transparent inquiry, and any person found responsible for use of excessive force should be prosecuted."

The High Commissioner also called on other governments to urgently consider resettlement to third countries to help provide long-term solutions for the residents of the camp.

"I am well aware that this is a contentious group, with a complicated history, but leaving them to fester in Camp Ashraf was never going to be a solution," she stated. "Clearly, since they are unable to go back to Iran, and are in danger in Iraq, the solution is most likely to involve moving them to third countries."

U.S. Congress calls on State and Defense Departments to make findings public



Text of a joint letter by 19 members of US Congress to US Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, and US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton:

On April 8, Iraqi soldiers invaded Camp Ashraf, indiscriminately killing 34 unarmed civilians, including 8 women, according to the United Nations. At least 300 more residents were reportedly wounded by the Iraqi forces as well. However, a week allied the attack, we still have no confirmation from the United States government about some of the most basic details of the attack.

It is our understanding that on Sunday, April 10 U.S. military and embassy personnel were allowed into Camp Ashraf for the first time after the attack and stayed in the Camp until Monday morning, April 11 to complete their investigation and treat a number of the wounded.

Congress, however, has not been apprised of what they found, even though a U.S. military spokesman said it would be provided to the Iraqi Government. We would like to know, as soon as possible, what they observed when they entered the Camp and if your agency plans to publicly release that information. Gross violations of human rights thrive in the darkness- we simply ask that you shed a little bit of light on this awful attack.