



# IRAN LIBERATION

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## Transatlantic call to remove Iraqi deadline for closure of Ashraf

Al-Maliki's illegal deadline is a pretext for more violence, forcible displacement of the residents and their massacre

### *International Conference at the European Parliament Brussels, 19 October 2011*



From Left: Tunne Kelam, Søren Søndergaard, Alejo Vidal-Quadras, Jim Higgins, Maryam Rajavi, Michael Mukasey, Günter Verheugen, Louis Freeh, Edit Bauer



**Maryam Rajavi, President-elect of NCRI:**

The Iraqi government wants to disrupt the UNHCR work to confirm refugee status of the residents in a bid to use lack of progress as a pretext for another deadly attack at the end of December.

**Alejo Vidal-Quadras, Vice-president of the European Parliament:**

We call on EU, the European Council, and Member States to publicly condemn the deadline.

**Günter Verheugen, Former European Commissioner:**

if you don't take action against it, if you let it expire, we give them, a licence to kill.

**Edit Bauer, MEP from Slovakia:**

We shall continue our activities until the protection of Ashraf residents is secured and insured.

**Colonel Wesley Martin, Former U.S. Commander of Ashraf:**

The United States, the European Union, and the United Nations must take action to prevent third massacre.

**Jim Higgins, Member of Bureau of the European Parliament:**

We are calling on the EU and Member States, to take decisive action, to highlight the fact that we need to extend the deadline.

**Michael Mukasey, Former U.S. Attorney General:**

I urge you, to urge your government to act, to put in place a mechanism for extracting the residents of Ashraf, for removing the deadline.

**Louis Freeh, Former Director of FBI:**

U.S. has moral and written legal obligations to each of Ashraf residents to protect them.

**Søren Søndergaard, MEP from Denmark:**

All of this is about to help to come to a situation where we have a free Iran.

**Tunne Kelam, MEP from Estonia:**

This [the repeat of April massacre] could happen at any moment.

In an international conference at the European Parliament in Brussels on Wednesday, 19 October 2011, prominent international figures from the United States and Europe expressed their concern about the ominous intents of the Iranian regime and the Iraqi government against Ashraf residents. They called for the annulment of the illegal end-of-2011 deadline for closure of Camp Ashraf and prevention of another massacre.

The conference called on the United Nations Secretary-General, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and western governments to adopt urgent measures to ensure protection of Ashraf and prevent a humanitarian catastrophe and to obligate the Iraqi government to remove its deadline until the resettlement of all residents to third countries.

The conference in particular blamed the United States for its failure to abide by its responsibility to protect the residents. The conference emphasized that the U.S. would be fully responsible for another bloodbath in Ashraf. The conference also called on the U.S. President and the State Department to remove the PMOI from the FTO list as a first essential step to ensure protection of Ashraf.

### Jim Higgins



The deadline of 31 December is not a realistic deadline, and that is why we are calling on, first of all, on the European Union as a whole collectively, and secondly, the member states, because at the end of the day, the people that really have the power are the member states, the Council, the heads of states and the foreign ministers, to take decisive action, to

highlight the fact that we need to extend the deadline for the evacuation of Camp Ashraf for at least another 12 months.

The clock is ticking, and there is absolutely no doubt that if the 31st of December, is going to be the deadline, we are going to have another humanitarian disaster. We have already had two massacres.

One of the most positive developments was the step taken by Baroness Catherine Ashton: her initiative to appoint a Special Envoy for Ashraf. One of the things I discussed in my meeting with him, was that we should be pushing very strongly for a UN resolution. If we get a UN resolution, then we have a positive mandate in relation to what we can do to held off a humanitarian disaster.

### Dr. Alejo Vidal-Quadras



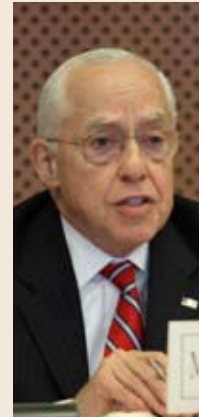
The appointment of a special advisor envoy for Ashraf by Lady Ashton has also been a significant step that we acknowledge very sincerely. But both the Iranian regime, and the fraction of the Iraqi government that works under their influence, try vigorously to create obstacles against the United Nations plans and actions, and against the good work of Mrs. Ashton's special advisor.

As Mrs. Rajavi pointed out, I reiterate that now is the turn for European member states to strongly support the European Union special advisor envoy and the plans of United Nations. For fulfilment of these plans, political and material support is needed. Member states must force Iraq to annul its deadline. This is absolutely crucial.

The deadline is hanging on Ashraf, as a Damocles sword that at any moment can create a humanitarian disaster.

So, the United Nations High Commissioners, both for Human Rights and Refugees, must finish their missions in Ashraf for the affirmation of Ashraf residents' asylum status, and provide arrangements for the special advisor of Mrs. Ashton to visit Ashraf.

### Judge Michael Mukasey



We keep having before us evidence, and we keep refusing to act. We have evidence of what the Iranians are up to, what the Iraqis are up to, and we have eloquent evidence here, from Mrs. Rajavi herself, of what MEK in fact is, of what MEK stands for.

Under these circumstances, I urge you, I implore you, to urge your governments to act, to put in place a mechanism for extracting the residents of Ashraf, for removing the deadline, for putting pressure on the Iraqi government, as I will inform my government to end the designation, which the Secretary of State can do with the stroke of a pen, and thereby, make it a lot easier to put an end to what promises to be a terrible humanitarian crisis, if we allow it to continue.

We have been warned. We have evidence. The only thing necessary is to bring to bear political will, and that is what you are here to do, that is what I am here to do, that is what we are all here to do.



**Maryam Rajavi with MEPs from left: Peter Stastny, Romana Jordan-Cizelj, Alejo Vidal-Quadras, Edit Bauer, Peter van Dalen, Oldrich Vlasak, Jim Higgins, Richard Falbr and Tunne Kelam; and Colonel Wesley Martin.**

## Søren Søndergaard



Despite the terrible pictures we saw on the side of this meeting, there is some positive development. It is a positive development that the UNHCR has been more involved in this case. It is positive involvement that the EU has specially involved in this case. We are in a terrible horror. This deadline for the end of the year is basically nearly impossible to keep. It would be very difficult. That would give us two things to do.

The first thing is that we have to go to our governments in each and every country, and convince them to take some refugees from Camp Ashraf. If this solution should be reached, then the people in Camp Ashraf have some place to go.

## Louis Freeh



The goals, as have been stated are immediate steps to protect and rescue and save and eliminate another holocaust from occurring at Camp Ashraf.

We need to have the United Nations' blue helmets, as we call them, on the ground at Camp Ashraf, and need a process in place immediately that goes through the interview and selection process

that will allow residents the choice to safely go where they need to be.

We have very clear notice here. The United States is not exempted from the responsibility of another Srebrenica here, because it has not made a decision on the delisting. They have a moral and written legal obligations to each of those residents to protect them.

## Edit Bauer



This is completely unacceptable that the international community would prove not be able in extending the deadline imposed by the government of Iraq for the closure of Ashraf, resulting in yet another massacre and bloodshed in Ashraf by the end of this year.

We shall continue our activities until their protection is secured and insured, the inhumane siege against them is removed, and the psychological torture is ended. We shall do our utmost to stop the threats of the Iraqi government to close down Ashraf by the end of 2011, and to help the UN flag permanently hoisted in Ashraf to ensure their protection.

## Günter Verheugen



If we accept the deadline of the government in Iraq, if you don't take action against it, if you let it expire, we give them, I am being very blunt here, we give them a licence to kill. We are not allowed to do that. I agree with my colleagues here from the European parliament, that is absolutely important to create the strongest possible international pressure.

Therefore, the members state of the EU must take action and must intervene wherever and whenever they can.

But this action must be coordinated. We have to speak with one voice. This is the responsibility of the European institutions, and in particular the responsibility of the commissioner and the council.

## Colonel Wesley Martin



The United States, the European Union, and the United Nations must take action to prevent a third massacre which I fear will be complete. Maliki must be forced to work with the rest of the world not just Iran. The UN must be involved in the protection of Camp Ashraf; I am ready to go back today as part of that force and make that happen right.

The US State Department needs to remove the PMOI from the list, and the residence of Ashraf must be brought out as soon as possible.

Treating the PMOI as a terrorist organization is a crime against democracy. Allowing Camp Ashraf to be attacked and unarmed people to be murdered is a sin against humanity.

## Tunne Kelam



I just had a thought that today there would have been no point to assemble here if these people last April would not have made something exceptional, had not made sacrifice. If they had reacted in a normal way, just retreated, they would have been captured, loaded on the trucks, and relocated. Then, they were given to the Iranian authorities.

This could happen at any moment. That was a message, not to limit ourselves with nice meetings and decorations but to act, and act immediately. It is so important. Preserving these people is so important an investment for the future of not only Iran but for the future of Europe and America. We share the same moral responsibility.

## Pierre Galand

*President of World Organisation Against Torture - Europe*



We have exactly 60 days to change a situation which is profoundly unjust for people who have been locked up in a camp somewhere in the world. Our responsibility today is involved. The responsibility of each of us, and we can all act, this is the force of public opinion, this is the force that you represent, after leaving here you are able to take initiatives with respect to your government.

It is our responsibility to simply engage in citizen-actions and also to mobilize a network of citizens all over the world who act in order that in 60 days. let's work in 60 days everybody here, with you Madam, we can enjoy that in Ashraf these people are protected.

## Paulo Casaca

*Former member of the European Parliament*



I was there in Ashraf. I could see year after year. I was with the Iraqis all the time and I could see how grateful they were because they had water in the villages in the nearby of Ashraf because the PMOI was giving them water.

They had some help for medical treatment, and some of them were coming to me, some of them that I met in the later stage, because they wanted the favors too, to get this medical treatment in Ashraf, and the PMOI was giving it to them.

I would just like to tell you that we shall overcome. We will not go away and we will free our friends in Ashraf.



From Left: Alejo Vidal-Quadras, Jim Higgins, Maryam Rajavi, Michael Mukasey, Günter Verheugen

*Speech by Maryam Rajavi,  
The President-elect of  
The National Council of Resistance of Iran*

## Western silence toward the deadline for closure of Ashraf is a license for next slaughter in Ashraf

I am delighted to be here again, at the seat of democracy in Europe.

The presence of personalities and elected representatives in the U.S. and Europe, with us here today to discuss a solution for protection of residents of Ashraf and to end dictatorship in Iran, symbolize the aware conscience of the world.

Six months have passed since the Iraqi forces attacked Ashraf at the behest of the Iranian regime. During this period, the mullahs have resorted to all sorts of attacks and pressures against the residents of Ashraf.

This reflects the critical situation which the regime is facing. It feels threatened by growing public discontent in Iran and the wave of revolutions in the region. To escape from danger, the mullahs are in a rush to obtain nuclear weapons. At the same time, they have resorted to more terrorism. Last week a major terrorist plot of the mullahs was foiled in Washington.

They also lose no opportunity to attack Ashraf. Two weeks ago, the NCRI revealed that at the behest of Mullahs in Tehran the Iraqi government is hindering the efforts of UN agencies. The Iraqi government wants to disrupt the UNHCR work to confirm refugee status of the residents.

The Iraqis want to make this process subject to their demands and to delay it so that they will be able to use lack of progress as a pretext for another deadly attack.

The Resistance's sources inside the mullahs' regime have informed us of a joint plot by the Iranian regime and Iraqi government to attack Ashraf which will lead to another massacre.

Four days ago, Iraqi newspapers revealed that the Iraqi government has issued orders for a vast offensive against Ashraf residents at the behest of the mullahs regime.

The Iraqi plan is to forcibly relocate the residents to an unknown place to be able to massacre them with no trouble.

Preparations are being made for this plan, such as the armament, anti-riot vehicles and a large number of buses and trucks to carry

residents, against their will.

Today we have also received information from inside Iran that confirms a plan and its preparations to attack Ashraf. Under the circumstances, the protection of the residents of Ashraf is a matter of urgency.

In this respect, the recent decision by Baroness Ashton to appoint a personal representative for Ashraf is invaluable. On behalf of the Iranian people and Resistance, I sincerely thank her. This achievement is the outcome of efforts led by Dr. Alejo Vidal Quadras, as well as Messrs. Struan Stevenson and James Higgins.

The Iraqi government, which acts at the behest of the mullahs, views the Special envoy as an obstacle to its plan to destroy Camp Ashraf. As such, it is necessary that the Special envoy speed up his efforts to protect the residents of Ashraf. Visiting Iraq is a step in this direction.

It is also expected that in addition to the European Parliament, Member States and the European Commission use their resources to assist the EU Special Envoy to protect Camp Ashraf.

Every year, Western governments, especially the European Union, are allocating enormous financial assistance to the reconstruction of Iraq as well as technical, training and military aid.

This enables the European Union as a major power to play a major role to enforce the Iraqi government to abide by its international obligations.

We also ask the United States to support the mission of the EU's Special envoy.

We ask the United Nations Secretary General and the High Commissioner for Human Rights to take steps to station UN monitors at Ashraf as soon as possible.

The presence of a team of UN monitors at Ashraf until the resettlement of the residents in third countries would provide a guarantee to avert the next humanitarian catastrophe.

Regrettably, European powers have yet to fulfill their responsibility to protect.

I ask why they have remained silent

regarding the Iraqi government's unlawful deadline to close down Camp Ashraf. Bear in mind that the Iraqi government has already committed two massacres at Ashraf.

Do EU member states want to be witness to another catastrophe about which they were warned in advance?

This deadline is intended to cause the failure of the European Parliament plan and to neutralize the efforts of the United Nations in finding a solution for Ashraf. Western powers must work to set aside this deadline so that the UNHCR can carry out its responsibilities vis-à-vis the residents of Ashraf.

I ask Baroness Ashton, the UN Secretary General and the High Commissioner for Human Rights to voice protest over this dangerous deadline.

I also ask the United States and the European Union to compel the Iraqi government to withdraw this deadline. Removing this deadline carries no cost for Western powers. They can easily do it and it is the minimum which can be done to protect the residents of Ashraf.

I warn that Western silence toward this deadline is a license for the next slaughter. I warn that time is running out. In order to avert a humanitarian catastrophe we cannot waste time.

Let us not forget that it is the mullahs regime that is hindering the progress of Arab spring. If the mullahs are not stopped, they would destroy what has already been achieved in these countries.

The only way to counter the mullahs is to rely on the Iranian people and their Resistance. The international community must side with the Iranian people by supporting this resistance and not to hinder their struggle. The people of Iran deserve a parliamentary democracy and a republic based on separation of church and state.

They deserve a society based on human rights, without executions and a society that respects gender equality where women can have equal role in the political leadership of the country.