



IRAN LIBERATION

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United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq



UNAMI CONTINUED

CONCERN OVER THE SITUATION AT CAMP ASHRAF

Baghdad - October 26, 2009: During his recent meeting with representatives of the diplomatic community in Baghdad, the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General-for Iraq (SRSG) Ad Melkert expressed continued concern over the humanitarian situation at Camp Ashraf. He confirmed UNAMI's commitment for the duration of this critical period to monitor the situation in the Camp on daily basis.

Over the past few years the UNAMI and the High Commissioner on Human Rights have been closely monitoring the situation in Camp Ashraf, exploring possible assistance in reaching a resolution that is consistent with Iraq's legitimate sovereignty rights, and international law.

To this end, the United Nations has engaged with all parties concerned, including the Government of Iraq which has reiterated its commitment to abide by Iraqi and international laws when dealing with Camp Ashraf and its residents. UNAMI is working with the Government through



various channels to assist in meeting this responsibility.

UNAMI's mandate includes the promotion of human rights in Iraq, and the Mission's Human Rights Office regularly assesses the situation in and around the camp. The UN continues to advocate that Camp Ashraf residents be protected from forcible deportation, expulsion or repatriation contrary to the non-refoulement principle...

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THE PLIGHT OF 36 ASHRAF HOSTAGES

pictures of 36 Ashraf hostages released in the Iraqi "hole"

Thrown into a "hole" in the early days of their captivity, these pictures were taken by hostage takers, to send to Tehran to claim their reward

The ordeal of 72 days of the 36 residents of Ashraf, members of the People's Mojahedin organization of Iran, started in a prison nicknamed "the hole", a short distance from Camp Ashraf in Diyala province in Iraq. On the request of Tehran, the Iraqi Special Forces attacked Camp Ashraf at the end of July, as a result 11 residents were killed, 500 wounded and 36 Iranian refugees were abducted.

Many of those wounded or dead were run over by Humvee military armored vehicles.

These 36 men were subjected to torture and ill-treatment, leaving them with fractures to the arm, legs, or severe injuries to the skull. One of them lost an eye due to the violent blows.

The 36 hostages went on a hunger strike for 72 days (last seven days without any liquid) in protest to their illegal arrest and detention and demanded the implementation of Iraqi court decisions which on 3 separate occasions ruled on their total innocence and ordered their immediate release.

After this long ordeal, while on the verge of death, they were released on October 7 and were immediately hospitalized at the medical center in Ashraf.

According to the medical diagnoses twelve of them were only hours away from death when released. These photos, taken on July 29 and 30, were obtained by the Iranian Resistance from inside Iran. They were sent to Iran by hostage takers as evidence of mission accomplished in order to claim their reward money.



TOP UN ENVOY

CONCERNED OVER CONDITIONS IN IRAQI CAMP



October 26, 2009 – The top United Nations envoy to Iraq has expressed his concerns over the humanitarian situation in a camp north of Baghdad, housing thousands of Iranian dissidents.

Some 3,400 members of the People's Mojahadeen Organization of Iran (PMOI), also known as Mujahedin-e Khalq, live in Camp Ashraf in Iraq's Diyala province.

During talks with diplomats the Iraqi capital, Ad Melkert, the Secretary-General's Special Representative, confirmed the commitment of the UN Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI) to monitor the situation in the camp on a daily basis.

Earlier this month, UN human rights officials welcomed the Government's decision to

release 36 members of the PMOI who had been detained since July when security personnel used force to take control of the camp where they had been staying.

In a two-day operation in late July, Iraqi security personnel took control of Camp Ashraf. Eleven people were killed and dozens more were wounded in that operation.

In recent years, both the mission and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights have been exploring how to reach a resolution consistent with Iraq's legitimate sovereignty and international law.

"The UN continues to advocate that Camp Ashraf residents be protected from forcible deportation, expulsion or repatriation

contrary to the non-refoulement principle," according to a UNAMI press release issued today.

At the same time, the camp's leaders have also been urged to cooperate with Iraqi authorities regarding the future of the site's residents, and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other agencies are ready to provide the necessary legal and social counseling.

"Efforts are now needed on all sides to reduce tensions and look for solutions," UNAMI stressed. "The UN calls on the international community to provide all possible assistance in this regard, including resettlement to third countries of those that want to leave the camp."



UNITED NATIONS
RADIO

UN mission in Iraq is concerned about humanitarian situation at Camp Ashraf



October 26, 2009

The United Nations mission in Iraq (UNAMI) says it continues to be concerned about the humanitarian situation at Camp Ashraf which is housing members of an Iranian opposition group.

The camp, located in Diyala

province, north of Baghdad, was established in the 1980s and hosts members of the People's Mojahadeen Organization of Iran.

The UN top envoy in Iraq, Ad Melkert, says he has conveyed his concern during his recent meetings with representatives of the diplomatic community in Baghdad and confirmed the mission's commitment to monitor the situation at the camp.

Iraqi authorities have indicated their intention to close the camp but there is concern about the fate of the Iranians sheltering there.

The UN continues to advocate that Camp Ashraf residents be protected from forcible deportation, expulsion or repatriation contrary to the non-refoulement principle.

UNAMI

CONTINUED CONCERN OVER THE SITUATION AT CAMP ASHRAF



United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq

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At the same time the Camp Ashraf leadership has been urged to meet the requirement by individual inhabitants of the Camp to cooperate with Iraqi authorities on the basis of their

voluntary expression of preference concerning their options for the future. UNHCR and other relevant UN agencies stand ready to provide any legal and social counseling in this regard in a fair and neutral environment.

Efforts are now needed on all sides to reduce tension and look for solutions. The UN calls on the international community to provide all possible assistance in this regard, including resettlement to third countries of those that want to leave the camp.

Nuclear talks fail

Maryam Rajavi

calls for comprehensive UN sanctions against Iranian regime



Talks will not prevent mullahs from developing nuclear weapons

Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, President-elect of the Iranian Resistance, commenting on the Iranian regime's negative response to the International Atomic Energy Agency's proposal, said that it was fully anticipated as the Iranian Resistance had repeatedly declared in the past.

She said that Khamenei and Ahmadinejad, faced with increasing public dissent and nationwide uprising and the regime's inability to overcome the internal rift and crisis, consider the nuclear bomb as the only means for the regime's survival. To this end, the mullahs will never give up the nuclear project as it will expedite disintegration and downfall of the regime.

"The recent developments do not leave any doubts that the Iranian regime's nuclear projects are only intended for developing nuclear weapons and the claims about their peaceful use in areas of technology and medicine are only pretexts for achieving that goal," She added.

Mrs. Rajavi called on the United Nations Security Council to implement comprehensive

diplomatic, technological, arms and oil sanctions on the Iranian regime. She said that such sanctions should be imposed as the first step in the course of preventing the terrorist mullahs from acquiring nuclear weapons.

For more than two decades the Iranian regime has kept secret its nuclear projects and deceived the international community. Pinning hopes on negotiations with this regime is part of the despicable policy of appeasement which has brought the terrorists ruling Iran closer to nuclear bomb and the Middle East region as well as the whole world to the brink of war. Waiting for mullahs' written response is like chasing a mirage.

For this regime, which has until now been rewarded by the international community with increasing concessions for its barbaric suppression, systematic violations of human rights, export of terrorism and unlawful nuclear projects, negotiations would only help it to buy more time to complete its nuclear weapons program.

Iran won't retreat on nuclear rights: Ahmadinejad

October 17, 2009

TEHRAN (Reuters) – Iran will not retreat “one iota” on its nuclear rights, but it is ready to cooperate on issues regarding atomic fuel, power plants and nuclear technology, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said on Thursday.

He said the provision of nuclear fuel for a Tehran research reactor was an opportunity for Iran to evaluate the “honesty” of world powers and the U.N. nuclear agency.



Senate Panel Approves Iranian Petroleum Investment Sanctions

Oct. 29 (Bloomberg) – The Senate Banking Committee voted today to further restrict trade with Iran and impose sanctions on companies that help the country acquire refined petroleum products.

Iran fails to accept UN uranium enrichment plan

10/23/2009

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) - Iran on Friday failed to accept a U.N.-drafted plan that would ship most of the country's uranium abroad for enrichment, saying instead it would prefer to buy the nuclear fuel it needs for a reactor that makes medical isotopes.

The response will come as a disappointment to the U.S., Russia and France, which endorsed the U.N. plan Friday they drafted in discussions with Iran earlier in the week. The agreement was meant to ease Western fears about Iran's potential to make a nuclear weapon.

While Iran did not reject the plan outright, state TV said that Tehran was waiting for a response to its own proposal to buy nuclear fuel rather than ship low-enriched uranium to Russia for further enrichment. Iran has often used counterproposals as a way to draw out nuclear negotiations with the West.



REUTERS- A suspected uranium-enrichment facility near Qom is seen in this September 27, 2009 satellite photograph released by DigitalGlobe on September 28, 2009. Intelligence agencies estimate that it would probably take Iran a minimum of 18 months to develop a nuclear weapon if it chose to build one.

In a Meeting in British Parliament

Lawmakers warn against forced displacement of Ashraf residents



Cross-party MPs and Peers on October 22 voiced alarm at Iranian regime's pressures on the Iraqi Government to displace Camp Ashraf residents, members of the Iranian opposition movement PMOI, from the Camp.

Lord Corbett of Castle Vale, chair of the British Parliamentary Committee for Iran Freedom, told a panel in Parliament: "The Iranian regime is determined to see Ashraf raised to the ground. We are even more determined that it won't be."

Andrew MacKinlay MP of the Foreign Affairs Committee said the UK and US should take action to stop those in the Iraqi government who are doing the Iranian regime's bidding. "If those in the Iraqi government foolishly and recklessly try to fulfil their threat, there would be a major reaction across the world."

Lord Corbett of Castle Vale:

"The Iranian regime is determined to see Ashraf raised to the ground. We are even more determined that it won't be."

Two Camp Ashraf residents, who were formerly among 36 residents held as hostages by the Iraqi government for 72 days despite three court verdicts, spoke to the Parliamentary meeting by telephone from Ashraf and expressed their appreciation for the activities of members of the all-party Parliamentary Committee for Iran Freedom for gaining their release.

Prominent human rights lawyer Sir Geoffrey Bindman said a European Parliament resolution on 24 April 2009 urged Iraq to "end its blockade of the camp and respect the legal status of the Camp Ashraf residents as 'protected persons' under the Geneva Conventions". The EP resolution called on Iraqi authorities to "protect the lives, and the physical and moral integrity of the Camp Ashraf residents and to treat them in accordance with the obligations under the Geneva Conventions, notably not to forcibly displace, deport, expel or repatriate them in

violation of the principle of non-refoulement."

"There is therefore no justification in international law for the displacement of these people, and the physical violence is an outrage and a major atrocity for which the British government has a major obligation under international law to do everything it can to bring the perpetrators to justice and to secure the safety of the residents in the future", Bindman said, adding: "Any displacement of Ashraf residents is unlawful. The US which still has troops in Iraq should give substance to its guarantee. Iraq must implement the European Parliament resolution of 24 April 2009. The UN has a major responsibility here."

Former UK solicitor-general Rt. Hon. Lord Archer of Sandwell QC, former lord advocate for Scotland Rt. Hon. Lord Fraser of Carmyllie QC, Lord Lea, Liberal Democrat Party Deputy Leader Lord Dholakia, Baroness Verma, Lord Cotter, Lord King of West Bromwich, Baroness Gibson of Market Rasen, Lord Clarke of Hampstead and Mark Williams MP announced their continued support for the rights of Ashraf residents, particularly those enshrined in the 'principle of non-refoulement' which forbids their forcible displacement within Iraq.

Sir Geoffrey Bindman:

"Any displacement of Ashraf residents is unlawful. The US should give substance to its guarantee. Iraq must implement the EP resolution of 24 April 2009"

Dowlath Nowrouzi, the representative of the National Council of Resistance of Iran in UK, said Iraqi officials had conducted private interviews with all Ashraf residents outside the camp in the presence of US officials earlier this year, and the residents had stated that they considered Ashraf to be their home and that their forcible displacement would be illegal.

Declaration by the EU Presidency concerning the human rights situation in Iran

October 23, 2009

- The European Union is closely following developments in Iran in the aftermath of the presidential elections on 12 June.
- The EU is deeply concerned about the continued imprisonment of journalists, human rights defenders and political activists in post-electoral Iran.
- The EU condemns all death sentences, not least for political offences.
- The EU is also concerned about the substantial rise in death sentences in Iran and recalls the EU's long-standing opposition, under all circumstances, to capital punishment.

Toughness is only language mullahs in Iran understand

Monday, October 26, 2009

Mr. Struan Stevenson, Scottish Euro MP condemned recent executions in Iran, criticized the EU's policy toward the Iranian regime and called for tough sanctions. Mr. Stevenson, speaking Thursday before voting on the EP resolution on the human rights situation said: "Toughness is the only language these mullahs understand."



Struan Stevenson

Polish MEP expresses concern over Iranian opposition members in Camp Ashraf in Iraq

Wednesday, October 28, 2009

- Mr. Ryszard Czarnecki, Polish Euro MP expressed concern over the situation of human rights in Iran and especially member of Iranian opposition group, the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI/MEK) in Camp Ashraf, Iraq.
- Mr. Ryszard Czarnecki, speaking on October 22 before voting on the EP resolution on the human rights situation in Iran, called on Iraq to implement the European Parliament resolution of April 24, 2009 on Camp Ashraf.



Ryszard Czarnecki

Amnesty International: Criminalizing freedom of expression in Iran



Friday, October 30, 2009

Amnesty International calls on Ali Khamenei, Iranian regime's Supreme Leader, "to immediately retract a statement he made on Wednesday calling it a crime to criticize the outcome of June's presidential election." Khamenei's statement was broadcast on state television.

"The Ayatollah's statement seeks to criminalize legitimate peaceful dissent and dissatisfaction with the political process," said Malcolm Smart, director of Amnesty International's Middle East and North Africa program.

"In dealing with the aftermath of the elections, the Iranian authorities are continuing to commit violation after violation after violation of fundamental human rights. They are trying to muzzle their own people and cow them into silence."

"Anyone held solely for the peaceful expression of their views concerning the election should be released immediately and unconditionally and all detainees should be protected from torture or other ill-treatment," said Smart.

COUNCIL OF ROME ADOPTS RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CAMP ASHRAF RESIDENTS



Thursday, October 29, 2009

Rome governing council calls on the governor to intervene with Italy's government, foreign ministry and president to secure protection and rights of Ashraf residents and prevention of their displacement from their current location

On July 28, 2009, Iraqi forces violently attacked 3500 unarmed Iranian residents of Ashraf, 1000 of whom are women. In legal terms, Ashraf residents have been described as protected persons under the

Fourth Geneva Convention. The attack left 11 people dead and more than 500 injured, many of whom are in critical condition. This was an attack ordered by the Iranian regime, which after brutally suppressing the Iranian people's uprising following the sham elections, attempted to export terrorism to Iraq and silence the Iranian Resistance with the help of the Iraqi government.

The Rome council adopts the current resolution calling on the governor of Rome to: Intervene with the Italian government, the Foreign Minister Franco Frattini, the Italian President, and the governor of Lazio, to ensure protection, security, and rights of Ashraf residents and to prevent their displacement from their current location – which would clearly violate their human rights and the Fourth Geneva Convention; Work to have a United Nations monitoring team assume protection and security of Ashraf residents. Moreover, to give a broad vision to the media to highlight the situation in Ashraf for the public opinion.

IRAQI PARTIES FORM NEW COALITION

The new group said that its aim is to create a political environment that attempts to end sectarianism, promote better state institutions and stop neighbouring countries' influence in Iraq - especially that of Iran.

Al Jazeera October 31, 2009

Two leading Iraqi secular political blocs have joined forces to run in January's general elections.

The mainly Shia National Accord Movement and the Sunni National Dialogue Front announced in a statement on Saturday that they will now form the new Iraqi National Movement.

The new group said that its aim is to create a political environment that attempts to end sectarianism, promote better state institutions and stop neighbouring countries' influence in Iraq - especially that of Iran.

They also said that the objective of the new coalition is to build the armed forces as part of a framework to impose the law.

Iyad Allawi, the former Iraqi prime minister, is the secretary general of the National Accord Movement.

Challenging al-Maliki

Jasim Azawi, who presents Al Jazeera's 'Inside Iraq' programme, said: "This is significant but it is not major news.

"Because initially the alliance that was supposed to have been launched several weeks back was supposed to have included a few other political parties.

"This is a question of a little bit too late, and I wonder whether they will be able to cut the momentum of the prime minister Nuri al-Maliki, who did very well in provincial elections earlier this year. This is meant to challenge him."

Awazi said that the coalition was appealing to Iraqi nationalism.

"They are trying to appeal to the liberals and the seculars, and more importantly the unrepresented Iraqi Ba'athists."

Iraq is scheduled to hold parliamentary elections on January 16, but there is growing fear that the vote could be delayed due to legislators' inability to pass a revised election law.



The new Iraqi National Movement wants to end sectarianism in Iraq [AFP]

Iraqi VP joins forces with ex-PM to form new bloc

BAGHDAD- (AFP) - Iraqi Vice President Tareq al-Hashemi will join forces with ex-prime minister Iyad Allawi to form a new political bloc ahead of January general elections, an aide said on Wednesday.

"Vice President Tareq al-Hashemi chose to form a coalition with Iyad Allawi and Saleh al-Mutlak," Saifaldin Abdul Rahman told AFP.

The formation of the Iraqi National Movement (INM) was confirmed by Allawi's National Accord Movement and Mutlak's National Dialogue Front.



Pope urges Iran to boost religious freedom

29 October 2009

Washington, 29 October

(WashingtonTV)—Pope Benedict XVI on Thursday called on Iran to allow greater religious freedoms for the country's small Catholic community.

In comments to Iran's new ambassador to the Vatican, Benedict also urged the Islamic Republic to improve the situation of all Christian minorities, so they are better integrated into society, reports the Associated Press.



Nationwide Uprising

AHVAZ WORKERS PROTEST CONTINUES

Workers at Ahvaz Pipe Mills Company held a gathering for the seventh day running on Monday outside the governorates office to protest against non-payment of their wages and bonuses for the past 10 months.

Protestors were chanting, "Living in Iran is our indisputable right," "Government of coup d'état, resign, resign," "Death or justice," "With God's help, victory is close, death to the deceitful government" and "We will not surrender to humiliation." Members of public joined the workers in their protest.

In fear of the spread of their protest, the suppressive agents attacked the workers and brutally beat and disperse them.

The governor of city of Ahvaz and the head of the company have refused to respond to the legitimate demands of the workers who are unable to provide the basic needs of their families.

The Iranian Resistance calls on all international trade union movements to condemn anti-labor measures in Iran under the clerical rule and support the workers just demands.

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS CHANT DEATH TO DICTATOR IN TEHRAN

Students at Khaje Nasir Toosi University of Technology in Tehran held a gathering for the second day running on Wednesday to express their solidarity with students in other universities across the country protesting the suppression of student and political activists in Iran. Students expressed their hatred and anger against the regime by chanting "Death to dictator," "Government of coup d'état, resign, resign," and "God is great" in the school's canteen.

Fifth week of students protest in Tehran's Open University

Tuesday, October 27, 2009
NCRI - Close to 2,000 students staged protest in Tehran's Open University (southern branch) today against suppressive measures and pressures by the clerical regime. This was their fifth consecutive gathering in five weeks of protest.

Students who had gathered outside the Technical Department chanted "Death to dictator" and denounced heavy disciplinary sentences on 17 student activists from the central branch of the Open University in Tehran and their expulsion from the university. In a bid to intimidate and identify the activists, the suppressive forces filmed the gathering.

Students at Tehran's Allameh University stage protests

On Sunday, October 25, 2009, hundreds of students at the Allameh Tabataba'i University in Tehran protested against the state of marked students who are expelled from the university. The protesting students chanted slogans such as, "Death to dictator" and "As long as Ahmadinejad is in power, situation will not change."



Tehran Open University-27 October 2009



People's support for Allameh students- 25 October 2009

More than 70 students started the protest, which suddenly grew as others joined in. At the same time as the students were chanting their slogans, residents of nearby houses also participated by chanting anti-regime slogans. Paramilitary Bassij Forces and agents from the Protection Office (a branch of the regime's Ministry of Intelligence and Security on campus) attacked the students and violently injured some of

them. One of the students was arrested.

Iran: Yasuj University students protest

Monday, October 26, 2009
NCRI - Some five hundred students of Yasuj University in southwestern city of Yasuj staged an anti-government protest chanting "Students will die but will not be humiliated."

The school authorities have gender-segregated the campus buses since last week. But the students have been resisting the new scheme by the regime.

Yasuj University Students-26 Oct 2009

