

Rt. Hon. Lord Waddington GCVO DL QC

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE
OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Hon. Ban Ki-moon
UN Secretary General
United Nations
New York, NY 10017
USA

By email

19 January 2014

Dear Secretary General,

We know you will share our concerns regarding the safety of Iranian dissidents in Camp Liberty, Iraq, who are Protected Persons under the Fourth Geneva Convention and recognised as asylum-seekers and Persons of Concern by the UN Refugee Agency. We have repeatedly warned about plots by the Government of Iraq (GoI) under Prime Minister al-Maliki and the Iranian regime to stage deadly attacks on the residents and deprive them of their rights under international law.

These unacceptable attacks and the premeditated killings of defenceless Iranian refugees in Camp Liberty are part of the Iranian regime's plan to eliminate its major opposition as it faces mounting international pressure and domestic dissent.

The record of the GoI with respect to Camp Liberty and Ashraf should prompt decisive international action aimed at securing the security and well-being of the residents. Regretfully, 132 residents have been killed in six deadly attacks on both camps by Iraqi forces. Sixteen residents have lost their lives because of the GoI's refusal to allow them access to proper medical treatment. Thus far the UN and US have failed to honour their promises of protection to the defenceless refugees in Camp Liberty.

We hope you will share our belief that the surest way of securing a peaceful solution to this humanitarian crisis is to put in place robust international protection for the residents as the UNHCR attempts to relocate them to third countries.

Following your recent visit to Baghdad, we would like to urge you to take immediate action to secure the following demands while the UNHCR relocation process continues:

First - The UN ought to pressure the GoI to release the seven residents that were taken hostage by Iraqi Special Forces in the 1st September massacre at Camp Ashraf.

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Second - The UN ought to support the temporary relocation of all Liberty residents to the United States, which has responsibility for their well-being and security after US Forces in Iraq gave written promises in 2003 to protect the residents until their final disposition.

Third - The UN ought to pressure the GoI to enhance the security provisions at Camp Liberty so that residents are not left vulnerable to further missile attacks. These security provisions must include an increase in the living area at Camp Liberty, returning the 17,500 T-walls, the residents being allowed to carry out construction work and installing double-layered roofs on their trailers. The residents must also be permitted to transfer their protective vests and helmets and their medical equipment from Camp Ashraf.

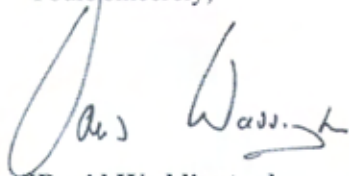
Fourth - A permanent UN monitoring team protected by UN Blue Helmets ought to be stationed at Camp Liberty.

Fifth - The UN ought to carry out a full investigation into the 1st September massacre at Camp Ashraf, the 26th December missile attack on Camp Liberty and the other four deadly attacks on these camps.

Sixth - The UN ought to guarantee that the residents are allowed to sell their property at Camp Ashraf through their legal representative Senator Robert Torricelli in order to finance their relocation to third countries.

Without these measures, there is a serious risk of further deadly attacks on the residents. We assure you, Your Excellency, of our firm commitment to securing a peaceful solution to this humanitarian crisis.

Yours sincerely,



[David Waddington]

**Former Home Secretary and Leader of the House of Lords
The British Parliamentary Committee for Iran Freedom**

Lord Carlile of Berriew QC, former independent reviewer of terrorism legislation

Lord Clarke of Hampstead, former Chairman of the Labour Party

Baroness Gould of Potternewton, Deputy Speaker of the House of Lords

Baroness Gibson of Market Rasen OBE, Deputy Speaker of the House of Lords

Baroness Harris of Richmond, Deputy Speaker of the House of Lords

Rt. Hon. Baroness Boothroyd OM, former Speaker of the House of Commons

Rt. Hon. Lord Dholakia PC OBE DL, Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrat Party

Rt. Rev. Bishop of Oxford

Rt. Rev. Lord Harries of Pentregarth FKC DD FRSL, former Bishop of Oxford

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