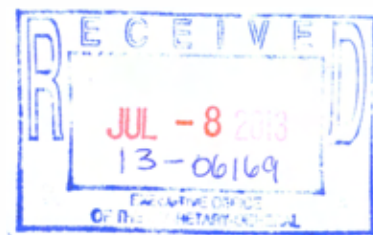




Hon. Ban Ki-moon
UN Secretary General
United Nations
New York, NY 10017

ACTION Fertman, HR
COPY ISG
AK



6 July 2013

Dear Secretary General,

We write to alert you to the possibility of your SRSG for Iraq misusing the upcoming Security Council session regarding the situation in that country to spread false allegations paving the way for further deadly attacks on the Iranian refugee population in Camp Liberty.

The International Parliamentary Campaign in Defence of Ashraf has repeatedly warned SRSG Martin Kobler that Camp Liberty does not meet the security standards required of the residents.

Mr. Kobler has failed to address the immediate issue of residents' security in the light of repeated rocket attacks in recent months which have left 10 residents killed and 170 injured. Furthermore he gives no convincing answer as to why Iraq continues to deny the residents the right to transfer their protective clothing from Camp Ashraf, an important requirement when one considers the removal by Iraq of all the protective T-walls around the trailers in which camp residents are living.

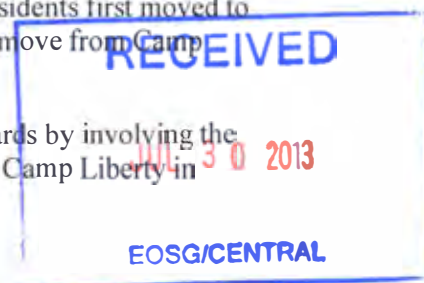
You will be aware that the defenceless camp residents are, "protected persons" under the Fourth Geneva Convention, and the UNHCR has recognised the entire camp population as asylum seekers.

Any assurances that the outgoing SRSG now wishes to make to the Security Council do not instill confidence. He has proven himself incapable of giving the residents the protection they require which the UN is duty bound to provide. He has falsely claimed that the camp meets UN humanitarian standards when it does not. In addition, you will be aware that the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detentions issued two reports in 2012 describing Camp Liberty as a prison.

Mr. Kobler told the European Parliament on 29th May that the camp leadership had prevented residents from speaking with UN monitors and was refusing to cooperate with the UN. These untruths were met with fierce condemnation from MEPs at the meeting, with calls for Mr. Kobler to be removed from his position. Furthermore 2,000 residents have been interviewed by the UNHCR, however, fewer than 3 percent have been relocated to third countries since the residents first moved to the camp in February 2012 contrary to the assertions tendered as an incentive to move from Camp Ashraf.

To add fuel to the fire Mr Kobler has repeatedly breached the UN's ethics standards by involving the Iranian regime in discussions over the plight of the Iranian refugee population at Camp Liberty in direct contravention of their wishes.

president@ashrafcampaign.org



We are glad that you took the decision to remove Mr. Kobler from office and that this will be effected shortly. However Mr. Kobler has hinted that he hopes to speak again in his final appearance at the Security Council as SRSG for Iraq. We seek your personal assurance that he won't misuse his position at the eleventh hour to spread misinformation which could be used to justify further deadly attacks on the residents by their so called protectors, for surely the UN, under your leadership, will be seriously tarnished should it fail in its international obligations to protect them.

The residents of Camp Liberty, on the basis of the dangers they face, should now be immediately returned to Camp Ashraf, their original home for the past 26 years, which is 80 times larger than the over-crowded Liberty prison camp and provides them with a safer haven. Moreover, UNHCR must without delay recognise the status of the residents as refugees and grant them asylum in safe third party countries.

I look forward to your early positive response.

Yours Sincerely



Brian Binley MP
President
International Parliamentary Campaign in Defence of Ashraf

CC:

Ambassadors of UN Security Council Member States

10

CONFIDENTIAL