

Permanent Mission of Canada
to the United Nations



Mission permanente du Canada
auprès de l'Organisation des Nations Unies

ACTION *Fertman / Refugees*
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Human Rights
AG

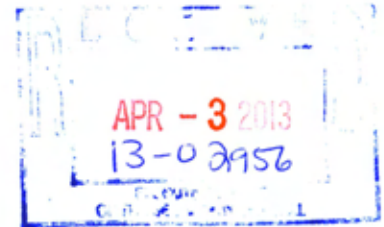
885 Second Avenue, 14th Floor
New York, NY 10017

April 2, 2013

His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations
38th Floor, Secretariat Building
New York, NY 10017

Excellency,

Dear Secretary-General



I wish to thank you for your letter of 25 February, 2013, regarding residents of Camp Liberty in Iraq.

Canada has followed the developments in Camp Ashraf and Camp Liberty closely. Staff from Canada's Embassy in Jordan have made numerous visits to Camp Ashraf to monitor the living conditions, listen to concerns expressed by residents, and report on key events. Canadian officials have used opportunities to raise concerns about the safety and well-being of camp residents at the United Nations, as well as with the Government of the United States, various European nations, and governments in the region. Canada also maintains regular bilateral contact with the Government of Iraq on this issue.

I have taken note of your concerns related to the importance of finding durable solutions for the residents of Camp Liberty and recognize the United Nations' efforts in this regard. Canada has a proud tradition of welcoming newcomers from around the world. There are sizable well established communities originating from Iraq and Iran in Canada. Residents of Camp Liberty were members of the People's Mujahedin of Iran and unfortunately, as individuals associated with a previously listed terrorist entity in Canada, non-Canadian members of this group are inadmissible to Canada. ✓✓

The Honourable Jason Kenney, Minister for Citizenship and Immigration, has communicated Canada's position to the Government of Iraq at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Ministerial Conference on December 7-8, 2011 in Geneva. More recently, on March 6, 2013, Minister Kenney traveled to Baghdad to meet with senior officials of the Iraqi government, including with Vice-President Kudhair al-Khuzai where Minister Kenney thanked the Government of Iraq for humanely dealing with the camp population while advocating for their continued safety and well-being.

Canada believes that the establishment of a stable and democratic Iraq is in the interest of global peace and prosperity and we deplore the use of violence, such as the recent mortar attack on Camp Liberty. We continue to emphasize the importance of protecting the security and humanitarian needs of Camp Liberty residents in accordance with Iraq's laws and constitution, and international obligations.

We are hopeful that the Memorandum of Understanding with the UN will enable a peaceful and durable solution to this matter, and encourage the Government of Iraq to continue its demonstrated flexibility. ✓

Canada

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In closing, let me reassure you that the Government of Canada attaches great importance to freedom, human rights and democracy globally and continues to promote these values in support of threatened groups around the world, including those in Iraq. We will continue to monitor the situation and press the Government of Iraq to ensure humanitarian needs of camp residents are met and that their safety and well-being is assured. ✓

Please accept, Excellency, the expression of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Guillermo E. Rishchynski
Ambassador and
Permanent Representative