

**IRAN/IRAQ/ASHRAF**  
**Notes for Remarks (English version) by Hon. David Kilgour**  
**Parc des Expositions, Paris North**  
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Thank you, President Rajavi, for your inspiring speech.

Greetings from the hundreds of us in this vast hall from Canada, including our parliamentarians present, and NGO, Canadian Friends of a Democratic Iran.

The tens of thousands of us from forty countries on every continent here today know well the importance of a democratic Iran to achieve a peaceful Middle East and world.

Here is some of what we seek:

- Khamaini's regime must cease, imprisoning, torturing and killing Iranians, including, women and children, religious minorities, and political dissidents. The perpetrators should be held responsible at the International Criminal Court.
- As Mrs. Rajavi said earlier, Khamaini's ongoing attempt to develop nuclear weapons through 37 rounds of talks is especially dangerous. When democracy replaces the clerical regime, this threat will disappear just as it did when democracy came to Argentina, South Africa and Brazil.
- Following the deeply flawed 2009 presidential election, the street protests of millions of Iranians provided the model for the Arab Spring. The escalating regime violence in Tehran since has included creating the highest rate of executions in the world (a minimum of 664 victims in 2011 and 218 so far this year).
- The UN special rapporteur, Ahmad Shaheed, has chronicled these dismaying developments. Elham Ahsani, for example, was jailed for being a "Mourning Mother" member and threatened with rape and execution for asking about the murdered and disappeared children of the 2009 protests. Human dignity should be the cornerstone of international relations by every government with Tehran.
- The Khamaini regime must end its support for the Assad regime in Syria, whose terror has already taken more than 10,000 lives.

## **Camps Ashraf and Liberty**

The 3400 residents of Camps Ashraf and Liberty, as refugees from Iran, continue to be treated inhumanly by the Khamaini-influenced al-Malaki government. They were protected by U.S. soldiers under the Fourth Geneva Convention until 2009; Iraq is required by international law to protect them now. His forces have since attacked the camp twice, killing 47 and wounding more than 1,000 unarmed men and women.

Elham Zanjani, for example, was wounded in the April 2011 attack, as she says, “when an Iraqi soldier threw a grenade at me. The day before the attack, the U.S. embassy in Baghdad told us that the Iraqi forces were going to launch an operation. Despite our pleas to the commander of U.S. forces to stay, his unit was ordered out of the camp. That left us completely defenseless in the face of a massive assault by the Iraqi forces.”

The residents who were forced to move to Liberty from Ashraf on February 17th understandably feel betrayed by the UN assistant mission head in Iraq for declaring that the camp met ‘humanitarian standards’. The UN organization as a whole has been woefully weak to date in dealing with personal safety and dignity issues involving Ashraf/Liberty residents. More ‘responsibility to protect’ and respect for the UN founding purposes are clearly required by the UN, its Security Council and the international community as a whole if the Malaki government’s worst instincts are to be contained successfully.

What we heard earlier today from Alejo Vidal Quadras, vice-president of the European Parliament, and Struan Stevenson, head of its delegation for relations with Iraq, is instructive about al-Malaki’s continuing attitude. Colonel Sadiq Kazem was among an Iraqi delegation visiting the Parliament recently when his pass was withdrawn over his involvement with the two attacks on Ashraf. He was later arrested in France on a warrant issued by a Spanish judge.

Closely-related is the continuing listing of the PMOI/MEK by the Canadian and American governments as a terrorist organization. This gives Malaki an excuse for his ongoing mistreatment and much worse of the residents of Ashraf/Liberty.

## **Conclusion**

Finally, let the world hear the voices of all of us here today. If this movement, with its people power, organization and leadership, does not represent the democratic aspirations of the Iranian people, who does? The time has come for free peoples everywhere to recognize the democratic and human dignity aspirations of Mrs. Rajavi for Iran.

Thank you.