



Canadian Friends of a Democratic Iran Amis Canadiens d'un Iran Démocratique

September 2, 2013

Statement on Weekend Massacre at Camp Ashraf

A massacre at Camp Ashraf, Iraq, was carried out in the late hours of Saturday August 31, extending well into Sunday. Iraq's al-Maliki government soldiers slaughtered a reported 52 of the 100 unarmed men and women refugees from Iran residing in the camp. The condition and location of the remaining 48 is unknown because electricity, water and other means of contact with Ashraf have been severed for two weeks by Iraq's government.

The U.N. and U.S. failure to protect the residents, earlier declared "protected persons" by the U.N. under the Fourth Geneva Convention, has done serious damage to international humanitarian law. The Geneva Conventions and principle of Responsibility to Protect, adopted unanimously by the U.N. General Assembly in 2005, have both been ignored. Countless warnings by international human rights organizations, parliamentarians, jurists, and former American officials and military commanders with first-hand experience in Iraq with Ashraf were also systematically ignored.

The pictures of the victims are heartbreaking. Undoubtedly, Khamenei and the mullahs in Iran saw the inaction of the international community to protect civilians in Syria from chemicals as a sign of weakness and a timely moment to carry out such crimes through their al-Maliki surrogate. The refugees who had remained in Ashraf did so based on an agreement among the U.N., U.S. and Iraqi governments and refugees to finalize the sale of movable and immovable Ashraf properties. Now many of their lives have been taken by one of the very governments signing the agreement.

Approximately 3000 residents who were earlier forced by the UN and Iraqi government to leave Ashraf now languish in a prison-like situation in Camp Liberty, which has already been attacked three times by rockets and mortars, killing dozens and injuring hundreds.

The U.N. and U.S. must immediately deploy forces to Camp Liberty and send observers to Ashraf to witness the full dimensions of what occurred. The U.N. and U.S. bear the direct responsibility of failing to protect the men and women who died in the massacre. The international community cannot allow the remaining residents in Ashraf and Liberty to be slaughtered. This remains a clear and present danger.

Hon. David Kilgour, JD.
Co-Chair, Ottawa
(david.w.kilgour@gmail.com)

See also statements by Mrs. Rajavi and MEP Struan Stevenson of Scotland at
<http://www.ncr-iran.org/en/ncr-statements/ashraf-liberty/14496-maryam-rajavi-calls-on-un-us-for-action-to-protect-iranians-in-camp-ashraf-liberty>

Email: CFDIran@gmail.com