

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

Hon. Ban Ki-moon Secretary General of the United Nations UN Headquarter New York United States

September 4, 2013

Dear Secretary General,

We are writing to express our urgent concern over the security of the remaining residents in Camp Ashraf and urge your immediate intervention to prevent another massacre there.

The media release of the UNAMI delegation, which visited Ashraf on September 3 said in part: "...as Camp Ashraf does not provide an adequate level of security for its residents, Mr. Busztin affirmed that until the camps residents are relocated to safety, all measures must be taken to protect their lives." The question is what measures are being taken? Without the constant presence of a UN monitoring team, the lives of those survivors of the weekend attack in Ashraf remain at great risk.

The NCRI press release warned on September 3 of: "Preparations and amassing armed forces to massacre the rest of the residents with placing full siege on the residence quarters and cutting off their electricity."

This statement stressed how forces of the Iraqi battalion "responsible for protecting" the residents were prepared to move in and attack the remaining residents. They placed a siege on all entrances and exits by Humvee armored personnel carriers and armed men. The residents told the assailants that any entrance should be with the presence of the UN and the US Embassy and thus returned them to the entrance of the residential quarter that Iraqi forces had broken its lock. However, they are still stationed outside the area while are ready to attack the residents once again.

The press release also states that the electricity of the residential quarters of Ashraf residents has been severed and the passage of the residents to the kitchen and the location for preparing food that is at the south of the residential area has been blocked.

This is an extremely alarming situation. I draw your attention to the fact that such warnings had been repeatedly given to the UNAMI in recent weeks prior to the coldblooded attack on September 1. The UNAMI was obliged to take them seriously and to deploy a monitoring team to the camp in order to ensure the security of 100 defenseless residents whose lives were at serious risk. If the UNAMI had done so, 52 innocent refugees would probably be alive today. The Iranian community and families of those massacred in this raid are shocked by the failure to act by the United Nations.

I urge you to ensure that a monitoring team of UNAMI is immediately sent to Ashraf to block the pending attack with its presence. If any further bloodshed occurs in Ashraf, UNAMI will be held accountable by the international community for not taking an immediate preventive action. The risk was clearly predicted and stated in the UNAMI press release of September 3.

Thank you.

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Hon. David Kilgour, JD., Ottawa Co-Chair of Canadian Friends of a Democratic Iran