



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

April 4, 2015

Honourable António Guterres
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
94, rue de Montbrillant
1202 Geneva
Switzerland

Via Email & Fax

Dear Hon. Guterres:

Re: Unlawful detention of Camp Liberty resident, Safar Zakeri, and breach of international law

We are writing to you to bring urgently to your attention the case of Mr. Safar Zakeri, a Camp Liberty resident, who has been unlawfully detained for the past 19 days on a dubious car accident in which both the Iraqi traffic police and a policeman accompanying Mr. Zakeri, blamed the Humvee belonging to the Iraqi SWAT for this collision.

We are sure that your representatives in Iraq have already briefed you about the details of the incident and we are grateful that two UNHCR representatives have explained to the investigative Judge the legal status of the residents including Mr. Zakeri. However, the investigative Judge, Nasser Moussavi, has used baseless excuses to extend Mr. Zakeri's detention. The case that now the judge insists an Iraqi authority must confirm the residency status of the Liberty resident, despite UNHCR's explanation, combined with similar harassment by the same Judge in the past, is very alarming and points to a conspiracy for hostage taking and disregard for international and refugee law. Moreover, this act is a breach of the MOU signed by the Iraqi government and the US and UN representatives that facilitated the transfer of former Camp Ashraf residents to Camp Liberty.

Mr. Zakeri is scheduled to have a surgery on April 5, 2015 after waiting for more than three years due to medical restrictions imposed on Camp Liberty. His unjustifiable detention may very well jeopardize his health.

Having followed the situation of Camp Ashraf and Liberty for past few years, we have come to the conclusion that until officials responsible for Ashraf dossier are changed and until perpetrators of crimes against humanity and previous attacks on Ashraf are brought to justice and held accountable, the safety and security of Camp Liberty residents are at risk on a daily basis and incidents like this only highlight this fact.

Email: CFDIran@gmail.com

However, this does not exempt the UN and its agencies, notably UNHCR, from fulfilling their duties and responsibilities and upholding four-lateral agreement that UN was a party of, signed in December 2011.

We urge you to use your authority to press the Iraqi government to immediately release Mr. Zakeri and to make sure the Iraqi government understands in no uncertain term the obligations it has under the international law.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Kilgour". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

Hon. David Kilgour, JD
Co-Chair, Ottawa

CC:

H.E. Ban Ki-moon, the UN Secretary General
Hon. Haider Al-Abadi, Prime Minister of Iraq
Hon. John Kerry, the US Secretary of State
Hon. Stuart Jones, the US Ambassador to Iraq
Ambassador Bret McGurk