



Statement from

the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, António Guterres, Regarding Solutions for the Residents of Camp New Iraq (Ashraf)

Press Releases, 27 December 2011

GENEVA – I want to express my deep appreciation for the tireless efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq, Mr. Martin Kobler, to reach an agreement with the Government of Iraq regarding a process for the voluntary relocation of the residents of [Camp New Iraq](#) (former [Camp Ashraf](#)).

UNHCR is fully engaged in this initiative and looks forward to the voluntary and peaceful transfer of the asylum seekers to a temporary site so that UNHCR can proceed immediately with the determination of their status in accordance with its mandate.

I wish to commend the Government of Iraq for extending the deadline for the closure of the [camp](#) and for agreeing to provide the necessary facilities with safety and security, so that the process of verification and adjudication can be conducted in a timely and appropriate manner.

I urge all sides to cooperate in good faith to ensure a peaceful process and I reiterate my appeal to the international community to contribute to the achievement of durable solutions for those recognized as refugees through offering resettlement places.

<http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/search?page=search&docid=4ef9c3b56&query=camp%20ashraf>