

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 31, 2009

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
Secretary of State
United States Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Clinton and Secretary Gates:

We write to respectfully request that strong and united front to address the humanitarian crisis and recent violence in Camp Ashraf.

We have constituents who are rightfully, deeply-concerned about the safety and well-being of their family members and friends. At least one of our constituents lost her cousin to the violence, and an alleged forty more Camp Ashraf residents have been forcibly removed. Their names are attached to this letter. Although the number of casualties has yet to be verified, all accounts agree that people were beaten and, possibly shot. Accurate reporting must be permitted; the violence should be condemned. Human rights and accountability must be protected at all costs.

Most importantly, we request that you relay to the appropriate Iraqi authorities our concerns. We hope that U.S. diplomats and security forces stationed in Iraq will work with Iraqi authorities to ensure that all human rights protections for the residents of Camp Ashraf are upheld and that the alleged detained Ashraf residents are returned to the camp. It is critical that those rights guaranteed under Article 27 of the Fourth Geneva Convention are upheld. The Camp Ashraf residents should not be forcibly extradited or repatriated to face possible human rights abuses.

Last year, we asked Undersecretaries Burns and Dobriansky to do all they could to protect the rights of Iranian refugees and asylum seekers currently residing in Iraq. We believe that the recent violence in Camp Ashraf and the denial of journalists' access to the community is a troubling step backwards in basic human rights protections.

Just a month ago, Richard Verma, Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, responded to congressional concerns about the Camp Ashraf residents, stating that the Government of Iraq "has given the United States assurances that it will treat the residents of Ashraf humanely and will not transfer them to any country where there are substantial grounds for believing they would be persecuted...." Unfortunately the violence of this past week undermines that pledge.

In 2004, the United States officially recognized the inhabitants of Camp Ashraf as "protected persons" under the Fourth Geneva Convention; and coalition troops, in fact, guarded

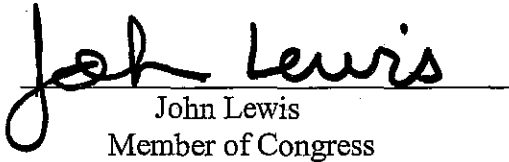
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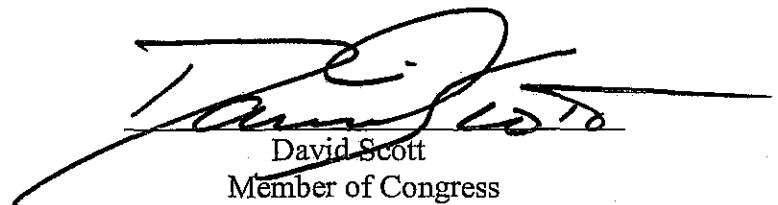
the camp until the United Nations mandate for the Multi-National Forces expired on December 31, 2008, and the Government of Iraq assumed responsibility for them.

We join with our colleagues in asking that you instruct Ambassador Christopher Hill and other appropriate U.S. officials stationed in Iraq not only engage the Iraqi government as soon as possible on arrangements for the security and well-being of these persons, but also to ensure Iraq's plans comply with international law and with the assurances Iraq gave the U.S. regarding the Ashraf residents.

We appreciate your attention to these concerns and hope that you will keep us informed on any progress you make with the Government of Iraq on this front, and any actions taken by Iraqis to address this apparent change in protocol.

Sincerely,


John Lewis
Member of Congress


David Scott
Member of Congress

LIST OF MISSING CAMP ASHRAF RESIDENTS

1. Kourosh Saeedi
2. Jalil Abedi
3. Alireza Gholami
4. Ahman Kamyab
5. Abdullah Tehrani
6. Majid Shokouhi
7. Bahram Hossein Pour
8. Mehdi Abdulrahimi
9. Manouchehr Majidi
10. Assad Shahbazi
11. Jalil Forqani
12. Javad Gougerdi
13. Homayoun Daiyhim
14. Pouya
15. Hassan Besharat
16. Ebrahim Komari
17. Mohammad-Reza Houshmand
18. Abbass Filli
19. Ebrahim Nournia
20. Iraj Ahmadi
21. Moshfeq Kangi
22. Ali Tavalomi
23. Jamshid Kargar
24. Haraz Arkani
25. Reza Danapour
26. Mohsen Shojaee
27. Hossein Pour Sharti
28. Latif Naderi
29. Jalil Gholamzadeh
30. Eiraj Ahmadjeihoon Abadi
31. Hossein Ahmadjeihooon Abadi
32. Hamid Ashtari
33. Mehraban Balaei
34. Ahmad Tajardoon
35. Ali Tolimoghadam
36. Jafar(Abdolah) Tehrani Beigi
37. Seyed Mostafa Sanaei
38. Bahram (Manoochehr) Hassanpoorshoti (Majid)
39. Rahman Heidari
40. Gholamreza Khorami
41. Homayoon Deyhim
42. Mehdi(Poya) Zarea (keshavarz)
43. Hossain Sarvazad
44. Abdollatif Sharoery