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July 11, 2012

The Honorable Hillary Clinton  
Secretary of State  
United State Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton,

We, the co-chairs of the Congressional Iran Human Rights and Democracy Caucus (IHRDC) are very concerned about the continued and systematic denial of the basic humanitarian needs of the Iranian dissidents currently in Camp Liberty by the Iraqi Government, and the potential for further violence by the Iraqis, if the United States fails to use its leverage.

Two-thirds of the residents, nearly 2,000, have already moved from their home for 25 years in Camp Ashraf, Iraq to a prison-like condition in Camp Liberty. The extreme heat in summer which reaches 120 to 130 degrees makes it absolutely crucial that these men, women, and children have the humanitarian essentials of water and energy to survive. Otherwise we, the United States, is an accomplice to sending these innocent people to what will be a death camp. And in such heat a denial of a reliable source of power needed for cooling is a death sentence for the weakest of the lot, the elderly and the children.

We are seriously concerned that Iraq may be exerting pressure on Liberty residents to make life miserable at the behest of Tehran in order to force them to submit to Tehran or abandon their opposition to the Iranian regime. America has a moral obligation to ensure that the safety and security of all the residents of Camp Ashraf and Camp Liberty. Without due diligence, the current condition could be a prelude to a large scale human tragedy.

We, therefore ask for your immediate and active intervention to compel the Iraqi Government to meet its commitments and provide the minimum requirements asked by the residents before any additional relocation of Ashraf residents to Camp Liberty.

Our failure to use our leverage in this case would only embolden the Iraqi Government to continue its oppression and imprisonment of Liberty residents at the behest of the Iranian regime. In addition, it is crucial for the United States to inspect Camp Ashraf before any other residents leave the Camp, as offered by the residents, to ensure that Iranian proxies would not plant weapons, once the residents leave Ashraf.

We would like to remind you that U.S. House, passed H.R.1905 in December 2011, and called on the United States “to urge the Government of Iraq not to close Camp Ashraf until the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has completed its process of recognizing as political refugees the residents of Camp Ashraf who do not wish to go back to Iran, and resettling them in third countries.”

We would appreciate if you would keep us abreast of your efforts to compel Iraq to meet its commitments before any other residents would move from Ashraf to Liberty.

Sincerely,



Dana Rohrabacher  
Member of Congress



Bob Filner  
Member of Congress