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July 11, 2012

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Madam Secretary:

As I have written to you in the past, the orderly, voluntary relocation of residents of Camp Ashraf to Camp Liberty, and their eventual voluntary resettlement in third countries, is in the interests of the United States. Given the U.S. role in providing guarantees for the protection of the camp's residents and in helping to facilitate the conclusion of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the United Nations and the Government of Iraq regarding Camp Ashraf in December of 2011, the U.S. is responsible for—and must ensure—that humanitarian protections for the residents of Camp Ashraf and Camp Liberty are upheld.

Therefore, I respectfully request that the Department of State seek the Iraqi government's agreement to and implementation of a number of humanitarian measures. Until these measures are implemented, further voluntary relocation of Camp Ashraf residents would only exacerbate the current dreadful living conditions in Camp Liberty. The measures that could improve the humanitarian conditions in Camp Liberty include: connection of the Camp to Baghdad's water network or other measures to ensure satisfactory access to water at Camp Liberty; transfer of air conditioners, power generators, automobiles (including specially-designed vehicles and trailers for persons with physical disabilities), trucks, and forklifts from Camp Ashraf to Camp Liberty; authorization for construction of needed infrastructure at Camp Liberty; unrestricted access to Ashraf for individuals seeking to purchase movable properties from residents; and the commencement of negotiations between Ashraf residents and the Iraqi government on the sale of immovable assets and property. In addition, as I wrote to you on May 18, I continue to believe that it is essential for the Administration to inspect Camp Ashraf to determine whether or not the residents of the camp have been fully disarmed. This would contribute to the resettlement process of the residents outside Iraq.

Thank you for your consideration of my urgent request.

Sincerely,

  
ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN  
Chairman