



# IRAN LIBERATION

No. 345

News Bulletin of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Council of Resistance of Iran

13 February 2012

Gathering of thousands of Iranians and Prominent American and European Dignitaries in Paris:

## Without minimum assurances Camp Liberty is a prison

### Iraqi armed forces must be moved outside Camp Liberty

Basic rights for freedom of movement, access to lawyers, family visits,  
and free access to medical care must be respected



#### Maryam Rajavi

President-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran

*“Anyone who is sincere about wanting to prevent the failure of the peaceful solution and to avoid another massacre at Ashraf or Liberty, must advocate for minimum assurances. This responsibility lies with the UN, the EU and the US. They must respond to it.”*

#### Dr. Philippe Douste-Blazy

Foreign Minister of France (2005-2007)

*“As long as Ashraf residents have not received detailed written guarantees by the Iraqi government with the preamble of the UN officials and the guarantees of the United States they have the right to reject this relocation.”*

#### Governor Ed Rendell

Governor of Pennsylvania (2002-2011)

*“It is time for the UN and the US to show some backbone or else the international community, the UN and the United States are going to have to face the responsibility for the slaughter of decent, honorable human beings.”*

#### Secretary Spencer Abraham

US Secretary of Energy under President George W. Bush

*“The place where the Iraqis want to move the Camp Ashraf residents is not another camp as proposed. It is a virtual prison... if the United Nations believes that what they’ve entered in here is correct, they should be ashamed of themselves.”*

#### Ambassador Phillip Crowley

Assistant Secretary of State (2009 to 2011)

*“The United States has made a political, as well as a moral commitment, to help protect the residents of Camp Ashraf. And it requires doing everything possible to make sure that all aspects of this process are respected, people are secure, people are safe, their dignity and their human rights are fully respected.”*

#### Hon. Emile Blessig

Member of French National Assembly

*“We, in the French National Assembly, believe any relocation to Camp Liberty must provide the minimum required assurances for the safety and security of the residents. Without these assurances Liberty will be turned to a prison.”*

#### Hon. Jean-Pierre Brard

Member of French National Assembly

*“These men and women cannot be imprisoned in a jail... The UN should not give in to this preposterous show that will tarnish its authority and dignity.”*

Praising Syrian people’s uprising in her speech, Mrs. Maryam Rajavi expressed her abhorrence over the disgraceful participation of the Iranian regime in the savage suppression of defenseless Syrian people and underscored the need for action by international community for protection of Syrian people.

## Gathering of thousands of Iranians and Prominent American and European Dignitaries in Paris on the Anniversary of anti-Monarchial Revolution

*On Saturday, February 11, coinciding with the 33rd anniversary of the anti-Monarchial Revolution in Iran, in a great gathering in Paris, thousands of Iranians, while being supported by a number of prominent European and American dignitaries, reminded that a major development is on the way in Iran and a democratic change, as a solution to avoid an unprecedented regional and international crisis, is at hand. Participants and speakers at the conference stressed on the following points:*

To escape its demise, the Iranian regime seeks its sole option in accelerating its drive to obtain nuclear weapons, exporting fundamentalism, and terrorism. By insisting on this policy, the mullahs' have placed the region and the global community before an unprecedented crisis and confrontation. Yet this face-off is avoidable and the only reliable solution is democratic change in Iran by the people and the organized resistance. This democratic change in Iran is completely at hand and the 2009 and 2011 uprisings in Iran clearly demonstrated the Iranian society's explosive potential, especially the youth.

The participants condemned the pressuring and repressing of Ashraf residents to relocate to Camp Liberty and reiterated that the prerequisite for relocation of Ashraf residents to Camp Liberty is to provide for their minimum assurances. Freedom of transfer of the movable assets and vehicles of residents to Camp Liberty, no presence of police in Camp Liberty's small area, freedom of movement, and minimum area for the residents are the minimums that if the Government of Iraq is not willing to provide, it then shows its intent to make a prison and therefore, is no reason for the residents to relocate.

While praising Mrs. Rajavi's courageous initiative regarding that as a good will gesture 400 Ashraf residents move to Camp Liberty with their movable assets and vehicles, the conference accentuated that without the realization of the remaining conditions, the relocation of other residents would not be possible. It added that the only realistic way left is that only after the departure of the first group to third countries, the next group would move to Camp Liberty.

The participants called on the UN and especially Mr. Kobler, to take on an impartial conduct and courageously defend the minimum rights of Ashraf residents; by setting aside political considerations, he could undoubtedly achieve these minimums. It was emphasized that while Camp Liberty does not conform to international human rights and humanitarian standards, an Executive Document for the Arrangements of Transfer needs to be signed by the Special Representative and the representative of the Iraqi government so that Iraq could not violate its oral commitments as in other cases.

The meeting called on the international community, especially the U.S., to use the extensive political and economic leverages at their disposal not to allow Maliki's government - who came to power and remains in power only with U.S. assistance - to again suppress and massacre defenseless Ashraf residents who in 2003, U.S. had officially and legally assumed the responsibility for their protection. The meeting called on the U.S. and the EU to guide and support the UN, especially Mr. Kobler, in line with the abovementioned commitments, and to allocate the essential resources to the UNHCR and immediately begin accepting Ashraf residents, especially the ailing and the wounded. The meeting called on the U.S. government to specifically revoke the illegitimate and illegal terrorist tag on the PMOI so that the main obstacle on the way for relocation of the residents, and the main pretext for Maliki to suppress them would be pushed aside.

*Without assurances Liberty will be turned to a prison*

**Hon. Emile Blessig**

Member of French National Assembly



"I speak on behalf of many of my colleagues in the French National Assembly. We condemn pressures on Camp Ashraf residents for a forcible relocation to Camp Liberty which lacks the international norms for refugees. We believe any relocation to Camp Liberty must provide the minimum required assurances for the safety and security of the residents. Without these assurances Liberty will be turned

to a prison."

*Conditions at Liberty are unacceptable*

**Hon. Lars Rise**

Member of Norwegian Parliament (2001-2005)



"Relocation of Ashraf residents can only be accepted if minimum assurances for safety and security of the residents is provided. Camp Liberty under present condition is not acceptable. Relocation can only be accepted with respect for the dignity of the residents. Ambassador Kobler should preserve the rights of the residents and not give in to demands of the Iraqi government."

*Agony imposed on Ashraf residents contradicts our values*

**Mayor Jean-François Legaret**

Mayor of Paris First District



"We, the French elected officials --and there are many of us-- regardless of our political positions, carry France's values: liberty, equality, fraternity, and defense of human rights. For this reason, the torment and agony imposed on Ashraf residents contradicts the French values, and we are here to say that."

*It is time to delist MEK*



**John Sano**

CIA National Clandestine Service's Deputy Director (2005)

"These 3,400 people who have already been attacked by Iraqi military forces with the full knowledge and the direction of the Iraqi leadership are facing yet an even greater threat as the Iraqi government under the direction of Iran forces them into an unbearable and clearly life-threatening situation as they are being forced into what is by any standard an uninhabitable and hostile environment at Camp Liberty. As the chairwoman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Representative Ros-Lehtinen has already stated, international humanitarian standards must be upheld. Human rights must be respected."

## ***Demands of Ashraf residents must be met by UN and US***

### **Dr. Philippe Douste-Blazy**

Foreign Minister of France (2005-2007)



"As long as Ashraf residents have not received detailed written guarantees by the Iraqi government with the preamble of the UN officials and the guarantees of the United States, as long as they have not received acceptable

answers to their demands --I don't mean the minimum demands, but the maximum guarantees because their lives are at stake-- then yes, they have the right to reject this relocation to a place which is a prison and violates human rights and all relevant international conventions. The United Nations should not defend such an aggression and if another collective catastrophe occurs, let there be no mistake, we are all collectively responsible. All of us."

## ***Many guarantees are needed***

### **Governor Bill Richardson**

U.S. Secretary of Energy in Clinton Administration



"We need to protect the residents and the human beings who have suffered enough at Camp Ashraf. Protect them from attacks, protect them to make sure they keep their human rights, if they move to Camp Liberty that this be an adequate

facility, that it be a protected facility. There are so many guarantees that are needed. For that to happen, and for this movement to be strengthened, my hope is that the United States government delists the MEK. That is critically important."

## ***Live up to our promise, protect people of Camp Ashraf***

### **Brig. Gen. David Phillips**



Commander, responsible for the safety and security of MEK members at Camp Ashraf (2004-2005)

"We need to live up to our promise to protect the people at Camp Ashraf. Now is the time to delist the

MEK and free them from their binds and let them make a difference in Iran."

## ***Camp Liberty, a virtual prison***

### **Secretary Spencer Abraham**

US Secretary of Energy under President George W. Bush



"The place where the Iraqis want to move the Camp Ashraf residents is not another camp as proposed. It is a virtual prison. In the proposed new location residents will apparently be denied access to lawyers, be denied unlimited access to

health care, be denied freedom to receive family members. Be denied access to their own property and be denied the freedom to leave that camp. And yet they call this facility Camp Liberty. I'd like to know what they would term a camp that was called Camp Detention.

If the United Nations believes that what they've entered in here is correct, they should be ashamed of themselves."

## ***People of Ashraf cannot be imprisoned***

### **Hon. Jean-Pierre Brard**

Member of French National Assembly



"These men and women cannot be imprisoned in a jail. They should be able to relocate to the new place under respectful conditions. And the UN High Commissioner for Refugees should be able to discharge its duties without the presence of, or

pressures by Iraqi officials. The UN should not give in to this preposterous show that will tarnish its authority and dignity."

## ***It is unacceptable to have armed Iraqi police inside Camp Liberty***

### **Aude de Thuin**

Founder and President of Women's Forum for the Economy and Society



"It is unacceptable to have armed Iraqi police inside Camp Liberty. In that case, Ashraf residents have the right to refuse to go to Camp Liberty. I also wanted to say that the privacy, rights, and liberty of these women and men must be fully respected."

## ***People of Camp Ashraf have demonstrated their goodwill***

### **Secretary Andrew Card**

White House Chief of Staff (2001-2006)



"Defined as Camp Liberty, It is not a home at all. It looks like a detention centre for people who should not be detained. They have done nothing wrong and they have kept their word..."

Governor Rendell did a wonderful job. I

echo and compliment and celebrate what he said. I too am frustrated because I think people of Camp Ashraf have kept their word, made sacrifices, gone the extra mile to demonstrate goodwill, partnership and responsibility.

I am troubled that the United States of America gave its word, and then when it was no longer easy for them to keep it they transferred the word to a regime in Iran that is really acting through a government in Iraq."

## ***US has political and moral commitments***

### **Ambassador Phillip Crowley**

Assistant Secretary of State (2009-2011)



"The United States has made a political as well as a moral commitment, to help protect the residents of Camp Ashraf. And it requires doing everything possible to make sure that all aspects of this process are secure, people are safe, their dignity and their human rights are fully respected."

## ***Preserve the symbol of freedom***

### **Ambassador Robert Josef**

Under-Secretary of State for Arms Control & International Security until 2007



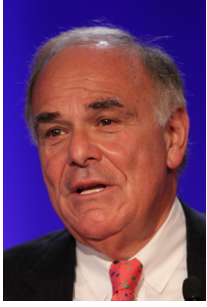
"They [the Iranian regime] know they lack legitimacy and that they rule only through the use of force and repression. That is why Camp Ashraf is such an important symbol. That is why the regime is so determined to

destroy it and its residents. That is why it is so opposed to delisting of the MEK. But that is also why we must, in addition to meeting our legal and our moral commitments, act to preserve and protect that symbol of freedom."

## UN and US must show some backbone

### Governor Ed Rendell

Governor of Pennsylvania (2002-2011)



"Madam Rajavi and the MEK have been willing to work, willing to move from their residence, despite what they have established at Camp Ashraf. Despite the fact that it would be so easy to do the emigration process there, they didn't say, 'No.' They said, 'We'll work with you. We'll try to make this work.'" But as the process has unfolded, the only people who have done the right thing are the MEK.

It is time for the talking to end. It is time for the UN and the U.S. to show some backbone or else the international community, the UN and the United States are going to have to face the responsibility for the slaughter of decent, honorable human beings."

### Support the Iranian Resistance

#### Ambassador John Bruton

Prime Minister of Ireland (1994-1997)



"There is a better way than sanctions, a better way than military force or the threat thereof. That better way is support for the democratic transformation of Iran. That means my friends, support for Madam Rajavi and her organization."

### Don't give in to oppressors

#### André Glucksmann

French author and philosopher



"We shouldn't give in and surrender to oppressors. And not giving in should be based on specific concerns. Before all, ascription of 'terrorist,' that was initiated by Khomeini, and 'terrorist organization' attribution to the opposition by the theocracy ruling Iran must be ended."

### Would you place your daughters or sons in that camp?

#### Dr. Nontombi Naomi Tutu

Human Rights Activist, daughter of Archbishop Desmond Tutu



"We ask those who now say the representatives of the United Nations, who say that Camp Liberty is habitable and is right for the residents, we ask

them, would you place your daughters or sons in that camp? And we say to the UN representatives, if you are not willing to live there, why should you ask the residents of Ashraf to do so?"

### The destiny of human beings is at stake

#### Dr. Otto Bernhardt

Member of Chairing Council of Konrad Adenauer Foundation in Germany



"There exists the threat of a human disaster. The United States, the United Nations, and the European Union have a major political and moral responsibility

vis-à-vis each and every one of the 3,400 residents there. What is at stake is the destiny of 3,400 human beings."

## Excerpts of speech by

### Maryam Rajavi



Before I start, I would like to salute our brother nation of Syria and the courageous and proud protesters there. I salute the heroic and bloodied city of Homs, a bastion of honor and perseverance against the murderous and cruel dictatorship in Syria.

On behalf of the Iranian people and Resistance, we condemn Khamenei's participation in crimes against humanity being committed in Syria, and underscore the need for urgent and practical measures by the international

community to protect the defenseless people of Syria. I would like to tell my sisters and brothers in Syria that we stand with you. We consider your martyrs as our own beloved martyrs. We share in your grief and suffering with every fiber of our being. Your victory would be our victory.

A review of the past three decades in Iran reveals four fundamental mistakes committed by the West:

First, it wrongly took the regime's terrorism to be a sign of the mullahs' power. Second, it was unaware of the extent of the Iranian people's hatred towards the ruling mullahs, a resentment that has erupted and has been manifested in recent times in dozens of large uprisings. Third, it failed to recognize the regime's inherent weakness and its urgent need for a nuclear weapon in order to avoid being overthrown. And fourth, it engaged in a futile search for a moderate faction among mullahs whose regime would implode without relying on Velayat-e faqih, suppression, terrorism and the nuclear program.

They have adopted an erroneous approach, so much so that they participated in the suppression of the Iranian people's resistance movement for the benefit of the mullahs' regime. It is regrettable. And how has it done so? By bombing Ashraf in 2003; by attacking the offices of the National Council of Resistance in France in the same year; by transferring the security of Ashraf to the Iraqi government, and by illegally designating the PMOI as a terrorist organization in Europe and the United States.

Therefore, allow me to stress that keeping the illegal and unjustified terrorist designation of the PMOI for the past 15 years by the US State Department has been a fundamental mistake. But its continuation in the current circumstances is a mistake which is a hundred times worse.

The transfer of the protection of Ashraf residents to the Iraqi government was a huge mistake. But failing to resist Khamenei's pressures for destroying Ashraf and its residents today is hundreds of times more dangerous.

Everyone is aware that the Iranian Resistance and the residents of Ashraf have thus far exhibited utmost flexibility to advance the peaceful solution. But, their explicit request, which is to receive the minimum assurances at the new camp, to ensure the safety and dignity of these freedom fighters, especially the women, is an imperative which must be responded to.

There should not be a police station within the camp parameters. The private sphere and property rights of Ashraf residents should be respected. And their freedom of movement should be recognized. Or at least sufficient space should be provided to them so that they can prepare the circumstances appropriately with the least and minimum requirements.

Nevertheless, 400 residents of Ashraf have upon my request accepted to be transferred to the new camp, Camp Liberty, with their vehicles and belongings, as a sign of good will. But, they have emphasized that unless the minimum assurances are given, none of the others will go to Liberty.

At the same time, the Iraqi government has repeatedly violated the terms of the MOU, seeking to convert Liberty into a prison.

Allow me to once again emphasize that anyone who is sincere about wanting to prevent the failure of the peaceful solution and to avoid another massacre at Ashraf or Liberty, must advocate for minimum assurances. This responsibility lies with the UN, the EU and the U.S. They must respond to it.

And, moreover, anyone anywhere in the world who wants to confront the immediate threat of this regime must inevitably stand on the side of the residents of Ashraf, because Ashraf is neither a challenge nor an issue; it is the only solution in these critical circumstances. This Resistance is the key to solve the Iranian crisis and it is the key to confront the fascist dictatorship. And if the world wants to reach a logical answer to this crisis, it must inevitably focus on the Iranian Resistance and Ashraf residents.