



***Canadian Friends of a Democratic Iran
Amis Canadiens d'un Iran Démocratique***

November 25, 2012

His Excellency Ban Ki Moon
United Nations Secretary General
United Nations Plaza
New York, NY

Via: Fax & Email

Dear Secretary General:

Re: Ashraf and your Special Representative Martin Kobler reneging on earlier promises concerning the property rights of residents

We are again writing to you on the eve of a scheduled Security Council meeting on Iraq to bring to your attention another possibly catastrophic development with respect to the property rights of Iranian dissidents in Iraq, who have been moved from Camp Ashraf to Camp Liberty. On a number of occasions, we have written to you about unacceptable behavior by your Special Representative Kobler. Most recently, on October 24 and 31, we raised Kobler's meeting with the Iranian regime's Ambassador in Iraq and discussing the fate of Ashraf residents with their malefactors.

Based on information we have received, including correspondence about harassment of a British firm that had entered in an agreement with the residents to buy their property, our earlier call to you to appoint an impartial official to deal with Ashraf and Liberty issues has become even more urgent.

Our original understanding about the time Ashraf residents would be required to remain in Liberty has shifted significantly, given the pace of the interviews with asylum seekers and their potential relocation to outside Iraq. With the UNHCR assessment that by the end of 2013, about half of Liberty residents would still be in Iraq, the Temporary Transit Location (TTL) designation of Liberty can no longer be maintained. The Iraqi government's ongoing use of the designation to deny residents' rights and to trample upon these rights can no longer be accepted by any person of good will.

As stressed in previous letters, including that of October 24, 2012, "By considering former UN official.. Boumedra's testimony in the US Congress, we can only suggest to your Excellency to appoint an impartial representative to deal with Ashraf and Liberty issues going forward. The consequences of UN failure to act or negligence can be catastrophic."

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To ensure that these Iranian dissidents in Iraq are treated fairly and humanely, and to ensure that the rights of these refugees under international humanitarian law become non-negotiable, the UNHCR should designate camp Liberty as a refugee camp immediately. By doing so, the TTL designation, which has in fact lost its meaning in the particular context, can no longer be used by Iraq's government as an pretense to violate the basic rights of these refugees.

Sincerely,

Hon. David Kilgour, JD
Co-Chair, Ottawa

cc:
Representatives of the permanent missions to the UN of the Security Council members