

Nejat Newsletter

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November 2011



Letter from Sahar Family Foundation to the UN Secretary General

<http://www.saharngo.com/en/story/1441>

Dear Mr. Secretary General

We wish hereby to apprise you of some information and suggestions as follows:



According to information received from inside Ashraf cultic garrison in Iraq about the April 8, 2011 incident (documents and testimonies are attached), Ms. Sediqeh Hosseini, then Secretary General of the MKO, gives instructions to Ms. Fereshteh Shoja, one of commanders of the NLA based in Ashraf garrison in Iraq, as follows: cont.p2

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Open Letter to Catherine Ashton on behalf of the families of Rajavi's hostages in Camp Ashraf in Iraq

Middle East Strategy Consultants, October 25 2011

<http://mesconsult.com>
<http://iran-interlink.org/?mod=view&id=10981>



Dear Mrs Ashton,

It is interesting and entirely predictable that at the same time you replied to Iran that the six major powers - the United States, Britain, France, Germany, China and Russia - are willing to meet within weeks if Iran is prepared to "engage seriously in meaningful discussions" over concerns about its nuclear programme, we have seen a flurry of activity by the Mojahedin-e Khalq (MEK) to skew perceptions of the issue with misinformation and self-aggrandising propaganda. Paid MEK activists held yet another demonstration in front of the White House on Saturday with the irrelevant demand that the US government remove the MEK from its terrorism list. Cont.p4

Letter from Sahar Family Foundation to the UN Secretary General

Cont.p1

"... The Iraqis have informed us that on April 8 they want to take back some parts of the north of Ashraf and return it to the farmers in the nearby village, which were confiscated in the time of Saddam Hussein and given to the MKO to expand Ashraf garrison. They have told us that they are informing us in advance to show that they have no other aim and they want to prevent any violent action and bloodshed on that day. But in this regard we have to arrange things in such a manner that we have some casualties. Also, there should be cameras ready to produce photos and films to record that day. The leader has instructed us that we must take political advantage as much as possible on that day. He has said that this is very important for our survival."

Fereshteh Shoja calls her personnel and without informing them of the Iraqi's ultimatum and their plans that they only want to peacefully take back some farm land back based on Iraqi court verdicts, and tells them:

"... There have been instructions from higher levels for a state of alert since the Iraqis are moving a unit and adding to their forces and information we received indicates that the Iranian regime's elements are along the Iraqi forces which aim to attack our base and capture some people and take them to Iran where they would be tortured and executed.

Therefore we all have to be on alert and do not let the Iraqi forces get into the garrison and fulfill their goal." On the day of incident (April 8, 2011), the Iraqi forces moved into the garrison from the northern part in order to divide the farmers' lands which ended in conflict and 36 people were killed and some wounded. Beforehand Fereshteh Shoja had said to her combatants that: "The Iraqis are using gas cartridges just to frighten you and capture you therefore you should not be afraid of anything. Move forward and stop them by any means you can even using stone and wood, and do not let them enter the garrison and arrest you and hand you over to the elements of the Iranian regime who are with them under any circumstances."

The inhabitants of Ashraf garrison did not know that the Iraqis merely want to take a part on the north of the garrison according to the Iraqi court verdicts and return them to their rightful owners. They also did not know that the leaders were informed beforehand. The leaders of the garrison had deceived the inhabitants and let them believe that the Iraqis intended to arrest some and send them to Iranto be tortured and executed. Apparently the Iraqis' policy to give the leaders prior knowledge of their intention in order to stop violence and bloodshed worked to the opposite and they let the leaders of the MKO arrange things for more casualties and they managed to



film the incident and take pictures for their political and propaganda interests.

Accurate assessments made about the atmosphere inside Ashraf garrison show that at least 80% of the inhabitants are there against their own will and if the situation is ready and they have the freedom to make an independent decision they would definitely leave the organization. These people have no motivation to resist against the Iraqi authorities and not to disobey the verdicts of the Iraqi courts. They have been deceived and forced to do so and some have lost their lives in this way for nothing.

cont.p3

Letter from Sahar Family Foundation to the UN Secretary General

Cont.p2

It is worth mentioning that the MKO did not send its higher level members for this conflict and tried to send discontented and lower level members through deception and giving false information and by using the phobia of being arrested and sent to Iran. The MKO leaders wanted to get rid of the opposing members and also to use their blood for propaganda. Of course it must be said that the majority of the members did not accept to counter the Iraqi forces entering the base.

What was mentioned above is not a secret to the American forces and the international authorities and they all know the situation well, but some international political interests are at stake which want the garrison to stay intact at any cost and for many to stay in captivity and isolation for many more years. Those who do not fulfill their international duty in this regards are surely responsible toward the confined inhabitants of the garrison and their suffering families. Sooner or later Ashraf garrison will be dissolved and the cult members will be freed and then those who kept silent against Rajavi's crimes and supported him openly and covertly, and still consider him, despite many documents that he has held the members as hostages inside the garrison, as the representative of the captives will be ashamed of themselves. Anyway, what we think is



essential to be said in order to save the lives of the inhabitants of Ashraf inhabitants and to stop more people being sacrificed by Rajavi and to prevent a human catastrophe are mentioned briefly below:

- An overall assessment must be made of the internal situation of the garrison by making thorough interviews by international authorities of those who recently managed to escape from the garrison taking grave risks. It must be made clear whether the inhabitants of Ashraf are there voluntarily or whether Ashraf is a huge confinement camp that the individuals have to escape from at any cost.

- The asylum procedure of Ashraf inhabitants must be conducted individually and without the presence of any MKO officials. The main reason for the present deadlock is that during the past 8 years both the American forces and the international authorities and organizations, in order to keep the MKO intact, have had their contacts with the leaders and they did not approach the rank and file members at all. The MKO members based in Ashraf have no idea of the outside world and what is happening there.

- Any misleading with the cost of the blood of the hostages held by Rajavi inside the garrison must be prevented. Also Rajavi and his deeds must not be justified by treating him as the representative of the hostages inside the garrison.

- The deeds of Rajavi and other leaders of the MKO as hostage takers and those who still, after their sponsor Saddam Hussein has fallen, do not open the gates of the garrison and do not let the captives have access to the outside world must be revealed. They did not hesitate to kill and let die and put members in solitary confinement and under torture.

- In a realistic approach and solution seeking, the sovereignty of Iraq and its nation and government must be recognized. Accepting the natural right and demand of the government and parliament of Iraq and respect for the deadline which is quite seriously followed is part of the responsibility of the international community. Naturally disregarding and challenging this just and lawful demand would put the Iraqi government in a situation that has to decide exclusively and the international organizations who did not intervene and did not give assistance will bear the responsibility.

We are looking forward to your reply.

**Sahar Family Foundation
Baghdad, 8 November,
2011**

Open Letter to Catherine Ashton on behalf of the families of Rajavi's hostages in Camp Ashraf in Iraq

Cont.p1

In Brussels Maryam Rajavi, wife of the MEK's leader, was given a platform to promote terrorism in the European Parliament. Conflating the totally irrelevant issue of Camp Ashraf in Iraq with the problems posed by Iran's nuclear programme and the MEK's terrorist listing in the US, she was given a platform to verbally attack and insult Iraqis and their elected government from a parliamentary building.

The MEK is certainly highly proficient in advertising itself as a tool for anti-Iran elements to use and it is unfortunate that Europe's corridors of power are being so casually exploited to promote Washington's favourite terrorists. The intended signal is that Europe will brandish a stick to open negotiations with Iran over the nuclear issue. Does the European Commission represent European interests in this respect or do you represent the agenda of only the extreme right wings of USA and Israeli politics?

But as much as we believe this is against your interests, these are political issues and we do not wish to take any position in this respect. Our first and foremost concern is that you do not allow the issue of Camp Ashraf and its sick and aging population to be used as a political football for everyone to kick around for their own game.

It has been reported that Mrs Rajavi conveyed her

thanks to you for taking the side of the MEK against the government of Iraq. If this is true it is highly unfortunate that your office has been manipulated to look as though you are taking a position of backing the head of a terrorist cult instead of the victims.

Mrs Rajavi like her fugitive husband Massoud Rajavi does not represent the individuals trapped inside Camp Ashraf. The Rajavis do not represent anybody's interests but their own.

The Government of Iraq has frequently advised representatives of the European Union not to use the MEK to push their agendas in Iraq, to the point of issuing written and verbal complaints against interference in the internal affairs of their country, including their elections, and have warned against using elements of terrorism to push their agendas. However, these political issues must be addressed in another arena by other parties. We are specifically interested that you have now taken responsibility for dealing with Camp Ashraf.

As you are aware, around 3400 Iranian individuals remain trapped in a dangerous, destructive mind control cult, the Mojahedin-e Khalq, by its leader Massoud Rajavi inside Camp Ashraf in Diyala province of Iraq. Since the MEK was confined to and protected in the camp by the US military in 2003, Rajavi has resisted all

efforts to allow any external agencies to free these individuals in a peaceful and humane manner. Rajavi is holding the residents as hostages to guarantee his safe future, to avoid prosecution for war crimes and crimes against humanity brought against him by the government of Iraq and the international community.

You are also aware that since February 2009, many of the families of these hostages have taken turns to stay just outside the camp in an effort to find and meet their loved ones and to prevent the MEK from further harming them. Now, as a new contingent of families from Gilan province in Iran have arrived at the camp, we are writing to you on behalf of the families of the captives of the MEK and its Western backers in Washington, London and Brussels. (Such ordinary Iranians find themselves voiceless in Western political and media circles due to the virulently anti-Iranian attitude which prevails in these circles.) They wish first and foremost to remind you that they are part of the solution, not the problem. You have demonstrated your particular interest in this issue by appointing Mr Jean De Ruyt, a former Belgian ambassador to the EU, as your advisor on Camp Ashraf. He will no doubt be investigating and examining whatever approaches are available to resolve the situation. By situation I refer to the standoff between the constitutional cont.p5

Open Letter to Catherine Ashton on behalf of the families of Rajavi's hostages in Camp Ashraf in Iraq

Cont.p4

and legal demand of the elected government of the sovereign nation of Iraq, and the illegal and irrational demands of a cult leader as the hostage taker who represents nobody but his own interests and who is prepared to kill others to this end.

The government of Iraq demands that the MEK leave Iraq before the end of the year, certainly before American troops are withdrawn. For this reason, there is an urgent need to find an effective solution. On two occasions, August 2009 and April 2011, when Iraqi security forces have attempted to enter the camp to impose the rule of law on the camp, Massoud Rajavi ordered his special forces, his fedayeen, to force the brainwashed residents to confront these efforts with a suicidal resistance which led to the deaths and injuries of many rank and file members as well as injuries to Iraqi security forces. Iraq is working hard to avoid a similar confrontation in future and is expecting cooperation from the international community in this respect. Soon after the second of these incidents I visited the camp and interviewed the responsible authorities and gathered enough evidence which is available for any party who would like to know. Since 2008 three reports have described the situation of the camp and two books have been written on the subject.

Mr Jean De Ruyt, who will liaise



with EU states and organizations including the United Nations, says that a peaceful and realistic solution and the security and safety of residents are his priority. For this reason the families are very optimistic now that you have taken over responsibility from the Americans. With the appointment of this advisor the families now believe your office has a mandate to help Iraq, the UN and ICRC to resolve the situation as soon as possible.

The families are asking that you coordinate with the Iraqi authorities to help them to protect their relatives when the leaders are finally forced to open the gate of the camp and allow external agencies in. This is the first step before the UNHCR can take the residents out of the garrison and interview them individually without MEK minders present. It is at

this time of maximum confrontation that they fear Massoud Rajavi will order the deaths of the residents.

Once the gates of the camp are finally opened safely, the residents will of course be able to access the facts and information which have been denied them for decades about their true situation and the possibilities for their future. Whatever their choices, their families are on hand to offer them protection and support. Of course, not all the families can be in Iraq at the same time, but all are willing to travel there to help their loved ones when their individual circumstances demand.

The MEK is designated as a terrorist organisation by Iraq based on its activities in their country against their citizens – the MEK has killed 25,000 Iraqi civilians over two decades. In contrast,

cont.p12

Mr. Rostami, MKO defector shares his experiences

By: Sahar Family Foundation

My name is Mahmoud Rostami. I was born in 1966. I joined the Mujahedin Khalq in 1988. I escaped camp Ashraf on September 17, 2011. I mean I was imprisoned in Ashraf for twenty-two years.

Whether intentionally or unintentionally I wasted the best and the most sensitive part of my life in the MKO but I'm very happy that I could finally find the free will and the power to make decision. I owe my freedom to many people especially my Mom who came to Ashraf gates, behind the fences and I had the chance to hear her voice and recognize her.

In fact, the fate of Ashraf residents includes a very bitter part of Iranian history. From the bottom of my heart, I wish the release of all individuals who are mentally and physically imprisoned by the organization. I hope that they find a way to get rid of this dirty, superstitious and poisonous propaganda they're stuck in.

This is not our fatal destination to be a toy in hands of a capricious person who ruins all human values. There should be an ending point for Rajavi's and his supporters' dirty game. They should be brought to justice before Iranian nation.

I really wish that any Ashraf residents in any rank or position would have the free will to think freely and choose for his fate.

End of 2011

After I left Camp Ashraf, I thought that I should leave

everything behind me and think of a new life in the free world. But I was wrong. I left Ashraf 41 days ago. I can swear that I almost all the time think of the fate the rest in the camp. I am concerned about their situation in the early January 2012.

As it was proved by experience, it can be imagined what will happen by the end of 2011. Again, the same as it happened in June 2009 and April 2011, a number of residents (of course more than the previous times) will be left dead. Then photos of dead and injured ones will be published on TV and newspapers accompanied with protests by personalities from all over the world as well as judicial and human rights interpretations that are nonsense.

They always delay the solution until after the problem gets crucial. Why, these incidents are inevitable? Is it really impossible to stop such incidents occurring again? Why the case of Ashraf has got so complicated?

I'd like to tell you a story of what happened this year in April 2011:

Among residents who were killed in Ashraf, in April, there was a young man named Morteza Beheshti.

He was so good that once you got acquainted with him you would never like to stop the relationship. He was a noble, modest and really good-tempered guy. He always used to smile and talk very sociably.

Morteza had a brother named Milad who is also an



Ashraf resident. Following the killings on April 17, as usual Maryam and Massoud Rajavi would praise the dead and injured members. This way they tried to motivate other members who were still alive.

Morteza had a heart-breaking death. Everyone was moved by his death. No one cared what Rajavi said. But Rajavi is skilled in abusing people's emotions. A few months after that date, I was standing guard in western side of the camp. I saw a young girl among the families who were picketing behind the fences (who were usually insulted and stoned by residents according to what they were ordered by commandants). She was carrying photos of Milad and Morteza. She looked so distressed and sad. She said, "for god's sake, call me any name you like, call me "Criminal", "Henchman", "Intelligence Agent", "Mercenary"... just let me see my brother Milad for 5 minutes."

Looking at such a scene would make any dignified human being upset. I myself automatically thought of my own sisters. After that, I would think about that woman for hours so I deeply doubted what Massoud Rajavi claimed as humanity.

Cont.p9

Iraqis want Camp Ashraf closed

[Press TV, Camp Ashraf, Iraq, November 18 2011](#)

Iraqis have staged a protest rally in the eastern province of Diyala to urge the authorities to close down Camp Ashraf, which hosts members of the terrorist Mujahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO).

Protesters demand the expulsion of MKO members from Iraq and that the camp be dismantled, a Press TV correspondent reported on Friday.

The relatives of some MKO members also joined the gathering near Camp Ashraf, calling on their loved ones to abandon the notorious group.

A number of defected MKO members, who were among the protesters, described living conditions at the camp as dire, adding that those residing there are deprived of their basic rights. Iraqi government officials have repeatedly said that

Baghdad is determined to close down Camp Ashraf by the end of 2011.

"We have already made it clear about closing ... Camp Ashraf before. The decision will be implemented by the end of this year," Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari said in October.

"The government insists on



completing this mission ... There is no government that would agree to an organization staying against its (authorities') will, laws and sovereignty," he added. Meanwhile, there are reports suggesting that UN-brokered talks are underway on moving several thousand MKO members to another location in Iraq rather than expelling them from the



country.

The MKO has carried out numerous acts of terror and violence against Iranian civilians and government officials. The group fled to Iraq in 1986, where it enjoyed the support of Iraq's executed dictator Saddam Hussein, and set up Camp Ashraf in Diyala Province, near the Iranian border.

The organization is also known to have cooperated with Saddam in suppressing the 1991 uprising in southern Iraq and the massacre of Iraqi Kurds.

Iran has repeatedly called on the Iraqi government to expel the group, but the US has been blocking the expulsion by mounting pressure on the Iraqi government.

Diyala Governor: Human Rights, Deporting MEK, Imposing the Laws, non negotiable

By: [Iran Interlink](#)

A meeting was held on Monday 21 November between officials of the Diyala province and family representatives of the people trapped in Camp Ashraf.

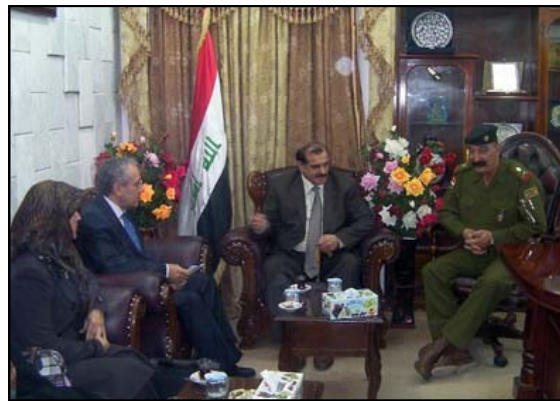
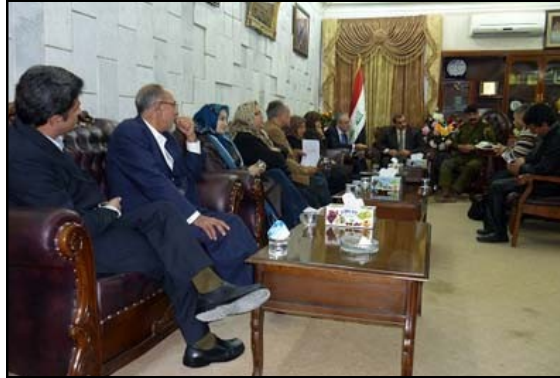
The Governor of Diyala, Dr Abdul-Nasser Al-Mahdwe stated clearly that:

1- There will be no compromise on the decision to deport the MEK.

2 - There will be no compromise on imposing national and international laws

3 - There will be no compromise on respect for human rights laws and agreements and therefore they will not be forcefully returned to Iran.

He said that the overall decisions will rest with central government but as far as Diyala is concerned there is no room for the MKO anywhere inside the province. This has been announced repeatedly by practically all the leaders of tribes and local officials. Dr Al-Mahdwe dismissed completely the MEK propaganda in which they claim they have some



support and said that to claim, after what they have done, that the MEK have even a small percentage of support in the province is simply a lie and is purely fictitious.

General Abdol Amir Al-Zeidi, is the commander of the regional army and responsible for the protection of the camp. He said that he has met many escapees from the camp. The last one was a woman who had to drag herself out and crawl for about half a kilometer before reaching the Iraqis. He said the leaders are the problem not the trapped people and if given order we

are prepared to transfer them out of the camp with the utmost dignity and care and respect for their wellbeing. He said this can be checked by reporters and human rights organisation who wish to observe the operation.

The General said that in the event they receive the order to evacuate the camp, they will try their utmost to stop the leaders killing the hostages and the disaffected members as they did before. According to the General most of the people

who were killed in April 2011 were in opposition to the leadership and had been shot in the heart or in the head. But the leaders tried to cover up such facts even though the evidence is unequivocal. He said reports will be handed over to the authorities to deal with the cases of murder of these people at the hands of the hostage takers.

Massoud Khodabandeh heading the delegation thanked the Government of Iraq and asked the Governor of Diyala and the General to help inform the people trapped inside about their rights and to counter the lies given to them by the hostage takers

cont.p9

Diyala Governor: Human Rights, Deporting MEK, Imposing the Laws, non negotiable

Cont.p8

and cult leaders.

Ms Abdollahi on behalf of the families asked for help and for care to be taken when dismantling the camp to institute particular safeguards to protect the relatives of the picketing families.

Ms Sanjabi, (formerly a member of the MEK Leadership Council), who managed to escape some months ago, explained the latest developments inside the camp and gave some ideas about how the leaders may try to plan and execute violent resistance.

Mr and Mrs Mohammady from Canada who have been trying since before 2003 to rescue their daughter from the camp, presented some documents including copies of the arrest warrants for some leading members of the MKO inside the camp which the General received and promised to follow up.

Other delegation members including Mr. Azizi a Human rights activist from Netherlands Mr Sadeghi, one of



the few people who managed to escaped from the .camp during the time of Saddam Hussein, Mr Ghashghavi who spent years in Abu Ghraib, where he was sent by Rajavi, Mr. Ferydouni who managed to escape a few weeks ago and Ms Mahdian whose husband, a registered POW, is trapped inside the camp also participated in the meeting.

Press and media were present and the Governor and the General gave a media briefing following the meeting which was broadcast live through official and national media

Mr. Rostami, MKO defector shares his experiences

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There was only barbed wire and tears of a young girl who wished to visit her brother for only five minutes.

May God, history and society judge them?

We can prevent such bitter fates from happening. This story should be ended once forever.

Our history is full of revolutions and revolutionary struggles as well as deviations and treasons. I swear to God, that the current path of Ashraf is not that of a struggle.

Such situation is not chosen by Ashraf residents at all.

This is only the result of mistakes and deviation made by a single self-contended individual who is supported by the West.

As a person who has spent 22 years of his life in Ashraf, I can assert that all Ashraf residents realize everything but they are imprisoned there

Iraqis call for expulsion of MKO

By: Press TV

The presence of the MKO/ Mojahidin Khalq Organization in Iraq and its consequences still remain among the main topics discussed in the country's political circles.

In a conference organized by the Iraqi Center for Media Development, a number of Iraqi officials and ordinary people came together in capital Baghdad to talk about the issue.

The expulsion of the MKO members as scheduled was the main point the attendees agreed on. According to the latest statement of the government, Iraq will not host them and the expulsion will be completed by the end of 2011.

The head of the Iraqi Center for Media Development said the withdrawal is a must to prevent security deterioration across the country.

In the mean time, analysts say the US is now making every effort to keep MKO in Iraq.

Many Iraqis also complain that over the past eight years, the organization has committed a range of crimes against humanity in the country.

Mojahidin Khalq Organization is especially notorious in Iran for having sided with former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war and carrying out numerous terrorist acts against both Iranians and Iraqis. It is also listed as a terrorist organization by much of the international community.



Anti-MKO protest held in Iraq



Wisam al-Bayati, Press TV, Baghdad, November 18 2011

Hundreds of Iraqis from different parts of the country held a protest to show their support for the Iranian families who have been waiting for more than six months to see their family members and relatives who reside in the camp Ashraf. Camp Ashraf, has been the principal home of the anti Iranian group known as Mujahedeen Khalgh organization or MKO since the group allied itself with Saddam Hussein in the 1980s, receiving weapons and training from his regime.



A number of Iraqi officials and tribal leaders were among those who had gathered to have their voice heard. The protesters carried banners with anti-MKO slogans on condemning the MKO presence.



A number of defected MKO members were among the Iranian families, they stated that they have been living in dire conditions and deprived of their rights.

During the protest the Iraqi officials urged the government to expel the MKO members from Iraq as scheduled, saying any delay in doing so may give members of the group enough time to launch attacks against the civilians living near their camp.

Many here are concerned about the possibility of interference by the UN to keep the MKO in the country.



The MKO is listed as a terrorist organization by much of the international community, and is responsible for numerous terrorist acts against both Iranians and Iraqis. The group is especially notorious in Iran for siding with former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war.

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**Open Letter to Catherine Ashton on behalf
of the families of Rajavi's hostages in
Camp Ashraf in Iraq**

Cont.p5

the EU does not regard the MEK as a terrorist entity. This should make it possible for residents of Camp Ashraf – in addition to those who already have citizen or residency rights – to be brought to Europe as refugees under the auspices of the UNHCR. (Due to the peculiarities of American law, delisting the MEK in the USA would play no part whatsoever in helping the people in Camp Ashraf.)

Considering that the US military has deliberately helped the MEK to keep the gates closed and the residents trapped inside, the opportunity now exists for you to act as a go-between for the US and MEK and thus ensure that the camp is opened up at the earliest opportunity so that work can start to relocate the hostages. Certainly the government of Iraq is happy to help facilitate this outcome on the understanding that if this process is not begun by the end of the year, the international community has obliged them to take unilateral decisions regarding the camp and its residents.

Above all else, the families outside have travelled from far and wide to rescue their loved ones and are more than happy to ensure a swift and peaceful outcome. There can be no possible objection or obstacles to helping them.

Anne Singleton

**(Author of Saddam's Private Army, 2003 and co-author
of The Life of Camp Ashraf, 2011)**



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