

ParsBrief

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Official American version of events at Camp Ashraf

US State Department - April 22, 2010
2009 Human Rights Report: Iraq
Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor
2009 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices
(...)

a. Arbitrary or Unlawful Deprivation of Life

...

On July 28, clashes erupted at Ashraf in Diyala Province when the ISF attempted to establish a police presence inside the more than 3,400-person compound of the terrorist Iranian dissident group Mujahedin-e Khalq (MEK). The clashes resulted in the deaths of 11 MEK members and injuries to 30 ISF officers. The government credibly claimed the MEK provoked the clashes by staging a violent demonstration to block the ISF from entering the compound.

(...)

d. Freedom of Movement, Internally Displaced Persons, Protection of Refugees, and Stateless Persons

...

There were allegations during the year that some of the 3,400 members of the MEK terrorist organization located at Ashraf were denied the right to leave under threat of reprisal from MEK leaders. These allegations were corroborated by several former Ashraf residents who had fled the camp. Individuals claimed to have been subjected to psychological and physical abuse, including threats of reprisal against family members and solitary confinement in Ashraf to discourage defections. ...

[Link to the full report](#)

British Minister of State: It is in the interest of Ashraf residents to cooperate with Iraq

House of Commons, British Parliament, March 16, 2010

...

David Drew (Stroud, Labour)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the government of Iraq on the situation in Camp Ashraf; and if he will take steps to ensure that residents of Camp Ashraf are not driven from Iraq.

Ivan Lewis (Minister of State (Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs), Foreign and Commonwealth Office; Bury South, Labour)

We have discussed the situation at Camp Ashraf with the Iraqi Prime Minister, the Foreign Minister, the Human Rights Minister, the Minister of Internal Affairs and the Iraqi Government's Ashraf Committee. I met the Iraqi Foreign Minister in Baghdad in December 2009 and underlined the need for the Iraqi authorities to deal with the residents of Camp Ashraf in a way that meets international humanitarian standards. In addition we discuss the issue with the UN, US, and the EU.

The Iraqi authorities have told the residents that they can no longer stay at Camp Ashraf but has given assurances that no residents will be forcibly transferred to a country where they have reason to fear persecution, or where substantial grounds exist to believe they would be tortured. The Iraqi Human Rights Minister confirmed to our ambassador on 27 January 2010 that the Government of Iraq would deal with the residents of the camp with respect for their human rights in co-operation with the UN and the International Committee of the Red Cross. We believe it is in the interests of the residents to respect and accept the decision made by the Government of Iraq, and to cooperate peacefully with the Iraqi authorities.

MKO terrorists tried and appealed in France

AFP – April 7, 2010

Mahmood Aemi (with two false identities of Mahmoud Alami and Mohsen Abbasi) and Hossein Amini Gholipour were brought to trial for cheating their friends to set themselves on fire.

Two notorious MKO elements appeared before the Court of Appeal of Paris on Friday for "incitement to suicide" after the death of one of their compatriots who had immolated by fire in June 2003 in Paris during a demonstration against the arrest of Maryam Rajavi (one of MKO cult leaders).

On November 21, 2007, the Paris Criminal Court had acquitted Mahmood Aemi and Hossein Amini Gholipour, both members of the MKO terrorist group.

The court held that there was "no doubt" the fact that both defendant had "directly and personally delivered the victim the gas can she was sent to death with.

The prosecution, which called for a two-year suspended sentence against the two men, had appealed. Friday at the hearing, the Crown has tightened his submissions, asking the court to impose sentences of three years' imprisonment.

M. Aemi and H.Gholipour were referred to court in 2006 on suspicion of inciting Sedighe Modjaveri, another MKO member living in Europe, to commit suicide by giving her a gas can at an event June 18, 2003.

It is worth mentioning that Mahmoud Aemi (member of MKO central cadres) is known as the Rajavi's army commander in the massacre of Iraqi Kurds and has been a commander of MKO death squads against the MKO dissociated members in the Europe.

The Ministry of HR and UN ask for families' access to MKO victims

Al-bayyana Al-Jadida - Zuhair Fatlawi - March 18, 2010

In the new Iraq there is an atmosphere of freedom and institutional work and respect for human rights in various fields, particularly for detainees and prisoners. There are field visits by civic and human rights organisations as well as international and local advocates of those in prisons and detention centres across Iraq .

But a collection of humanitarian organizations and media, tribal leaders, who organized a field trip to Camp New Iraq (formerly Ashraf) in Diyala province, found dozens of families from Iran sitting at the gates of the camp demanding that the MKO leaders allow them access to their children inside the camp .

They say, "We came from Iran to meet with our children, but members of the MKO refuse to allow our entry into the camp to meet sons and daughters who came here twenty years ago. We have picketed here for thirty days ."

Al-bayyana Al-Jadida met some of the families. Mrs Fatima Babai , 45, said, “We have stayed in these tents for more than a month and the MKO does not allow us to meet our sons who have been detained for more than 20 years”. She added that, “despite the efforts made by the Iraqi government and the Ministry of Human Rights as well as United Nations delegates, the MKO leaders will not let us enter into the camp and meet our children. We do not have any news about them except their names and pictures are at the UN mission . Inside the camp they are not allowed any media or communication like radio, television, or computer or telephones. They are not even allowed to mix freely with each other .

Mahmoud Piroozi said, “I came from Iran to meet my brother who has been detained in the camp for more than 22 years. I found his name and photograph at the Human Rights Commission of Iraq which is responsible for the camp. But I am denied entry to the camp with ridiculous reasons. I appeal through your newspaper to all humanitarian organizations and the Iraqi government to allow me to see my brother in the presence of officials of the Ministry of Human Rights and the United Nations and with respected elders of the Diyala province .“

The refusal of the MKO to allow family interviews between those who came from Iran to Iraq to meet with their children is a violation of divine laws and international laws recognized all over the world .

Iraq’s Senate confirmed that the MKO organization is not welcome in Iraq, especially because terrorist acts were taking place in areas adjacent to the camp and conferences and forums have been held there which are suspicious and violate the customs and laws on refugees. The MKO continued to host gatherings of notables and tribal leaders .

The families have come to Iraq with the support of the Iraqi government which is encouraging their children to return to Iran or any other country of their choice under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross and Iraq’s Ministry of Human Rights .

The visit surprised MKO leaders who refuse to allow their members to meet with their families for fear they will leave the organization and Camp Ashraf and return to their homeland and their families. The MKO has thrown up excuses such as lack of names required for the interview with members of the organization, or that the children themselves do not desire an interview with their families or that they refuse to communicate with their families and their relatives .

The families are demanding interviews arranged and supervised with the presence of the media and civil society organizations and for the United Nations to follow-up the issue.

Report on the MKO attack on the families on Thursday night

Iran Interlink, at the gates of camp New Iraq (Ashraf) - April 19, 2010

Report on the Mojahedin Khalq (MKO, MEK) attack on the families on Thursday night 14th April, 2010 in front of camp New Iraq (formerly Ashraf)

This report is a short, logical addition to the mountain of statements which the MEK have issued in recent days. It has been published to further apprise those interested in this issue of what has taken place.

What was it that the MEK was after when they attacked the families?

One basic fact shouts louder than all others and that is, that for 66 days the MEK leaders have refused all access to the victims inside the camp. The MEK leaders did not let the families see their children even for a minute. It is also clear that the MEK began the attack and that they had planned and coordinated it with all the MEK's systems ready to play their parts, in particular the MEK's relentless propaganda system – resulting in the mountain of statements.

The families have been waiting for many weeks in front of the gates of the camp to see their children. The MEK leaders have obdurately refused them access. The families became so desperate to make contact that they started speaking over loud speakers so they would be noticed by the people inside. Their motivation has been to try to let their children know that they are there.

From last week, the families decided to expose the activities of the MEK leaders by reading out loud the interviews of Ms. Batool Soltani (a former member of the Leadership Council). The MEK leaders objected and complained to the Iraqis that the families are insulting them over the loud speakers. As evidence they referred to the Soltani interviews. The leader of the Iraqi security forces made enquiries with the families, who then submitted a copy of the Soltani interviews to him in Arabic.

The MEK have opened a so-called hospital in front of the gates which they call "The Hospital No. 2". Only the trusted leaders and members of the cult are allowed to go in and out of this place. Even so, the reading aloud of the Soltani interviews has had some effect on them, and some have been communicating with the families with their hands and with various other signals, and in this way have actually encouraged the families to continue and not to give up.

In an inspired move, the families had the idea to broadcast the sound of laughter of a two year old child into the camp. The members have not heard such a voice for decades. It

made some of them, who were allowed to be near the gate, smile. This was also noticed by the MEK leaders and has shaken them.

Three days ago, Mr. Iman Yeganeh Khorasani from Mashad, after 22 years, drove his lorry (which he works with) up to the gates of the camp and handed himself over to the Iraqi security forces. He later came to visit the families.

Iman told Iran-Interlink, "Just before the Norooz (New Year) holidays the leader of section one started insulting the families. I asked, 'Why are you insulting the families'? He told me, 'They have been sent by the Iranian regime'. I said, 'Even if this was true, this would not give you reason to swear at these people. Would you swear at them even if my family was among them?' At that point I told them that I refuse to stay there".

(...)

Iman told Iran-Interlink, "The MEK leaders have been brainwashing the members against the Iraqis so they are really afraid of approaching the Iraqi officers. But I was even prepared to be killed by the Iraqi army rather than staying one more day in Rajavi's garrison. When I realised how kind and human the Iraqis are, I was really ashamed of myself."

Since Iman's escape, the Mojahedin no longer allow rank and file members to carry out any maintenance or service work. The leaders are now doing all the work. For example, the leaders of each section now sweep the outside pavements themselves at nights.

The MEK is facing a serious problem in keeping its members people under control. They are doing everything to stop them hearing the voices of the families, and to stop them from escaping.

After Iman's escape, the leaders increased the checkpoints inside the camp and have implemented restrictive laws to prevent people from escaping.

The leaders now know that they can no longer control every disaffected person – and there are many, many of them in the camp. And they now know that the families have no intention of moving from the gates of the camp.

It is this deadlock which forced the MEK to try to repeat the scenario of July 2009 and this time blame the families for the violence.

On Thursday morning they started clandestinely placing loud speakers about 100 meters away from the camp gates. From about 10.30 pm that day, they brought together around 200 people who started swearing at the families using the very powerful loud speakers. They then began to try to incite the families who were behind the closed gates to respond with violence.

Clearly, this kind of provocative attack aimed at the 11 family members outside the gate was intended to somehow engage the Iraqi security forces and provoke violence so that the MKO could cast itself in the role of victim – that is, 3500 people the victims of 11 families. At about 1.30 in the morning, the families, acting on the advice of the Iraqi security officers, retired to their makeshift beds. Without warning, two MEK women members appeared from out of nowhere with the intention of launching an attack on them with knives. Fortunately, they were intercepted by the Iraqis and were prevented from starting any violence or carrying out their assassination attempt.

The MKO continued to swear at the families over their loud speakers until 3.00 am. Then they broadcast an audio tape of the MEK military march ‘Victory’ on a loop, and threatened that they will do more and worse things to the families if they do not leave the gates of the camp.

On Friday morning, the families again gathered at the camp gates with good moral. That night they hung coloured bulbs and lights all over the gate of the camp celebrating the “victory” of the MEK leaders the night before. Their slogan, which they chanted that day, was, “You continue your war and victories and we will continue our persistence with singing and celebrating”.

Of course, as expected, the MEK is claiming that the Iraqi forces and the families have attacked them. It is interesting that, while they continue to film every second, day and night, they have not presented a single clip of film to show this alleged attack. Iran-Interlink did, however, record some film that day, which will be broadcast in due course. This film will first be presented to the UN office, the Iraqi Judiciary and relevant human rights organisations.

The families report that they are very happy to have news that Mojahedin leader Maryam Rajavi has been writing to the UN, so that someone there will be forced to take notice of their problems. They are waiting eagerly to see why it is that the UN does not take any action against the MEK’s hostage-taking terrorist leaders who are backed by some murderers in America and Israel.

The families have a clear message for all: They will not leave without their children. They also warn that other families are also on their way.

The families also wish to thank all the people, across the globe, who have given them support and encouragement.

UK: No evidence of intimidation or harassment in the Camp Ashraf

UK Parliament - House of Lords - April 17 2010

Iraq: Camp Ashraf - Column 604

Asked By Lord Maginnis of Drumglass

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to defend the human rights of Iranian refugees at Camp Ashraf; and with what other countries or agencies they are involved in those efforts.

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead):
My Lords, officials at our embassy in Baghdad and at the Foreign Office follow developments at Camp Ashraf closely. We have raised Camp Ashraf with the Iraqi Prime Minister, the Human Rights Minister, the Minister of Internal Affairs and, recently, my ministerial colleague Ivan Lewis with the Foreign Minister, to remind them of the need to deal with the residents in a way which meets international humanitarian standards. We are in contact with international partners and UN agencies. Camp Ashraf is part of a sovereign and democratic Iraq and is primarily an issue for the Iraqi authorities to address.

Lord Maginnis of Drumglass: Do they care that currently Camp Ashraf residents are being denied food, medicine and winter fuel, and live under a real threat of being moved by Nouri al-Maliki's troops-

Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead: I can confirm that we consistently remind the Iraqi Government of all their international obligations on this matter. The Iraqi Ministers confirm that the Government are in discussions with the camp leadership and that they will treat the people in the camp in line with international humanitarian law. There is absolutely no evidence of the kind of intimidation and harassment which the noble Lord has described. Indeed, the access to food and medicines, to clean water and medical supplies, clearly exists. There have been some disruptions to supplies entering the camp, but I understand that all those have been resolved.

Lord Archer of Sandwell: Does my noble friend accept that to deliver the refugees into the hands of the Iranian regime would, for some of them at least, be the equivalent of a death sentence? Does she further accept that the attack on Camp Ashraf by Iraqi forces in July,

leaving 11 dead, establishes that it cannot safely be left in Iraqi hands? Is this not a matter that we should discuss with our American allies?

Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead: I can assure my noble and learned friend that these matters are regularly raised by our ambassador and others with the United Nations and with the authorities in Iraq. It is the long-stated wish of the Iraqi authorities to close the camp and transfer the residents, but they have given us clear assurances, most recently at a meeting on 27 January, that they will do that in line with international and humanitarian law and that no Ashraf residents will be forcibly transferred to a country where they have reason to fear persecution or where substantial grounds exist to believe that they could be tortured.

Lord Waddington: My Lords, does the Minister agree that it is very important that we should be clear about the responsibility for this matter? Is it not right that back on 13 April last year, our ambassador in Baghdad called on the Iraqi Minister to seek new assurances that the residents of Ashraf would be treated humanely? Was that not an acknowledgement of the British Government's responsibility for the welfare of the people of Ashraf? Indeed, how can the British Government avoid their responsibility for the welfare of the people of Ashraf when, first, they were a party to the invasion of-

Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead: I thank the noble Lord for the questions. I can assure him, as I did in my Answer to the noble Lord, Lord Maginnis, that Iraq is a sovereign and democratic state and, as such, has that responsibility. It has never been the case that the UK has responsibility for the residents in the camp. However, as I have said on a number of occasions, the UK works with the United States and the United Nations to ensure that the rights of the residents of Camp Ashraf are protected.

Baroness Falkner of Margravine: My Lords, will the Minister confirm that these people are not non-protected persons under the Geneva Convention? If that is correct, do the Iraqis have the right to deal with them within internal Iraqi constitutional law? Have the results of the inquiry come out yet?

Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead: The view of the UK Government is that with the formal end of hostilities and the transfer of responsibility for the camp to the Iraqi authorities, any claim to protected person status by the camp's residents under the fourth Geneva Convention has ceased to apply. That view is shared by the United Nations. The camp

leadership have been given that information. As for the inquiry into the violence that occurred in July, we asked for a review of the events that took place. The ambassador met the Minister responsible on 27 January and reminded him of the need to send a copy of the report. We are still waiting to receive it. I will urge the ambassador to press again for a response from the Government.

Lord Alton of Liverpool: My Lords, how does the Minister square her statement to the House that there is no evidence that the residents of Camp Ashraf are at risk with the statement from Amnesty International that they are at risk of, "arbitrary arrest, torture or other forms of ill-treatment, and unlawful killing"?

Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead: My Lords, I can only reiterate what my noble friend Lord Brett said in the answer that he gave to that question. We have no evidence of intimidation or harassment in the camp. I am aware of the Amnesty International report. The recent UN mission reported that the camp is calm and that the residents have access to food, water and medical supplies. We have no evidence of intimidation, harassment and the other issues raised by Amnesty International.

MKO: People's Friends or Foes

By: Nejat Bloggers - Arash Rezaiee - April 10, 2010

MKO's terrorist cult published the news of Maryam Rajavi's trip to Germany. Their website wrote:

On Tuesday, March 23rd, 2010 Maryam Rajavi, president of NCR visits German MPs in the parliament. In its news report the website said: in a meeting held by a number of German parliamentarians, Maryam Rajavi asked them to work for change in EU's policy towards Iran and to defend Ashraf ...

Maryam Rajavi's trip to Germany indicates Europeans double standards towards terrorist and violent groups. They endanger the security of their own countries by playing an illogic game with such groups. According to political principals and EU laws, any group or entity with a background of terrorist, violent acts against civilians should be boycotted for much political financial or spiritual support. However, the public opinion notice Mrs. Rajavi, the leader of one of the most horrifying violent groups, traveling in Europe, visiting politic men

of the so-called developed democratic countries, defending the activities and violent strategy of her cult of personality.

She asked German authorities to support her terrorist destructive cult and criticized them because they had already failed to support her group.

European politic men may not have enough information on the three-decade activities of MKO cult as an armed group that launched large-scale violent attacks against innocent civilians and assassinated thousands of people due to its ill-minded hatred towards humanity.

German authorities who met with Maryam Rajavi might have had no knowledge of MKO's spying and mercenary role for Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein as a strategic ally for the most inhuman regime through the history.

A question is, how can Maryam Rajavi claim to be a patriotic Iranian while she takes such a position against her own nation? While she speaks of weakening Iranian power just like the designer of Imperialism Henry Kissinger?!

Kissinger was the one who planned the massacre of people of Vietnam. According to a BBC report, he remarks on the west policy towards Iran: "You should not let Iran to fulfill its dream for the establishment of its empire in the region." He does not respond to those who asked him to apologize for the atrocities he committed in Vietnam.

Maryam Rajavi calls the world to impose more sanctions against Iran The self-assigned president of NCR encourages Western powers to stop seeking diplomatic solutions and negotiations with Iran, instead she persuades them to impose more punishments against Iran.

The experienced American politic man Henry Kissinger, in his interview with German Eshpigel news agency, confessed that "the benefits to America and the West no more necessitate them to keep Iran's sovereignty on its territory. A disintegrated Iran is better than a powerful, great Iran."

The boundaries between illusion and reality should be enlightened for Mrs. Rajavi. The leaders of Mujahedin Khalq should make it clear if they are friends or foes of Iranian people.