



## Press Release

### **With the end of 2011 approaching, 94 leading Iraqi luminaries including state leaders, MPs and party officials call for a humane solution for camp Ashraf and condemn the use of violence against its residents**

As we approach the final months of 2011, how Iraq deals with the situation in camp Ashraf has become an important factor with which the international community measures Iraq's obligation to international law and human rights. Various international organizations, including the UN and UNHCR, have called for extension of the deadline to close camp Ashraf and have recognized the residents of the camp as protected persons under international law. Additionally, many Iraqi MPs and luminaries have added their voices to the campaign calling for the basic human rights of camp residents to be respected as asylum seekers protected by the 4<sup>th</sup> Geneva Convention; expressing their opposition to any attempt to bend to foreign pressures which are aimed at harassing the residents as well as any aggression, use of force or massacre, under any pretext, against them; similar to what happened in July of 2009 and April of 2011.

In a separate initiative, 85 Iraqi MPs wrote a letter to the High Commissioner for refugees urging him to intervene in extending the government set deadline, as well as for UN protection of camp Ashraf.

Fearing the negative implications of this policy on our country's reputation and to stop Iraq from being hauled into another crises; once again, we insist that the UN should assume responsibility for protection of camp Ashraf and the work initiated by UNHCR - to process the status of residents - should be expedited.

Statements by Iraqi figures who've called for respecting the rights of camp Ashraf are as follows:

- In an open letter to Maliki, Dr. Ayad Alawi, head of the Al Iraqia bloc stressed; you could have asked for the UN to intervene and provide an alternate solution. I say for Iraq's sake; what was perpetrated against Ashraf residents; the way they were killed, was neither righteous nor fair (Al Iraqia Web Site)
- Dr. Saleh Mutlak, Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister: their (camp Ashraf residents) presence in Iraq is in accordance with the law. They are asylum seekers and are protected by the 4<sup>th</sup> Geneva Convention. Any attempt to relocate them against their will is against international law and tantamount to succumbing to foreign pressure. By setting a deadline and saying either leave by this date or we'll spill your blood, we're only drag the country into another conflict with the international community and this is not right. I believe that this decision should not be in the hands of one single person; it should rather be a collective Iraqi decision and anyone wanting to make a decision regarding this matter, must consider Iraq's reputation first. Seeing that they are our guests and we should not treat them as they've been treated. (Babelia TV- NINA)
- Tareq al-Hashemi, Iraqi Vice President: MEK's presence in Iraq is a legal presence. We condemn the government's way of handling this issue. Their presence in Iraqi territories is in accordance



with international law and as such, this crisis can only be resolved by the international community. (Al Sharghia TV)

- Dr. Zafir al-Ani, a leading figure from Al Iraqia and Secretary General of Iraq's National Future Assembly: The illegal deadline to close camp Ashraf at the end of 2011 must be cancelled. And as per demands by the UNHCR, the government of Iraq, by annulling its deadline, must do all necessary cooperation with the UN, EU and other international organizations in order to find a fair and legal solution. (AL Malaf)
- Salman al-Jumaili, head of Al-Iraqia's parliamentary bloc: We believe the issue of Ashraf residents has to be resolved consistent with international laws. These refugees have to be treated according to international laws and this case should not be exploited as a pressure point in our relations with Iran. (Al Sharghia TV)
- Maison al-Damlougi, Spokeswoman for al-Iraqiya: Forcible relocation of Ashraf residents, which the Iraqi government seeks to carry out by year's end, is inconsistent with the concepts of human rights and has been condemned. (AL Zaman Daily)
- Dr. Salim Abdullah al-Jabouri, head of the parliament's human rights commission: Time should not be used as an additional factor for exerting pressure with regard to the case of camp Ashraf. It also requires adherence to international standards and respect for human rights in dealing with this case. (AKA News)
- Dr. Ahmad al-Awani, head of the parliament's commerce commission: Relocation of Ashraf residents, who are members of the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran, is a calculated foreign plot. (NINA)
- Mahmood Osman, independent MP from Kurdish bloc called for showing respect to the residents of Ashraf, refrain from attacks against them and protection of their properties. (INA)
- Dr. Abdunnasser al-Mahdawi, governor of Diyala province called for implementation of the initiative offered by the European Parliament with regard to the case of camp Ashraf. He also emphasized the necessity to protect Ashraf residents and refrain from violating their rights. (Governor's Web Site- NINA)
- Falah al-Naqib, MP and former Minister of Interior stressed that the issue of camp Ashraf a humanitarian issue and we should help and protect these refugees because they are our guests and the pressures exerted upon them is not just. (Al Zaman Daily)
- Adil Barwari, advisor to the Prime Minister in Kurdish affairs expressed hopes that the Iraqi government will consider the humanitarian aspects in dealing with the case of camp Ashraf. (NINA)
- Dr. Ala'a Maki, MP: As we all know, the residents of Ashraf are protected under international laws and all decisions by international organizations regarding their case must be carried out. (Al Malaf)
- Alia Nusayif, Member of Parliament: the government's failure to react to international calls regarding extension of Ashraf residents' presence in Iraq beyond the year's end is regrettable. She also explained that a concrete solution does not have to be within a specific timeframe. It rather needs an extended period for the involved parties to achieve positive and suitable results. (INA)
- Mohsen Saadoun, deputy chairman of the Kurdish parliamentary bloc: The solution for the situation in camp Ashraf is through negotiations under the supervision of UN; and the right of political asylum has been guaranteed for everyone. He added that the presence of such great



number of refugees has to be in accordance with Iraq's constitution, which underlines the necessity to respect human rights. He urged for an appropriate solution regarding their departure from Iraq.(INA- NINA)

- Latif Mustafa, MP from the Progress parliamentary bloc: The government of Iraq has to consider them (residents of Ashraf) as asylum seekers who have political aspirations. International laws compel Iraq to respect political refugees for as long as they remain committed to international covenants. According to Iraq's constitution and international laws, none of the refugees should be forcibly expelled to another country or extradited.(INA-NINA)
- Arkan Zebari, MP, foreign affairs commission: The residents of Ashraf enjoy the status of "international protection" for they are refugees and have the right to benefit from human rights.(Al Malaf)
- Dr. Bakhari Abdullah noted that the international community will not tolerate the compulsory evacuation of camp Ashraf by the government of Iraq at the end of the year.( Al Zaman Daily)
- Shwan Mohamad Taha, MP from the Kurdish bloc: A raid on Ashraf residents, aimed to forcibly relocate them by the end of the year, would be unacceptable in the new democratic Iraq.(Baghdad Daily)
- Mesal al-Osi, former MP and head of Iraq's Peoples Party: residents of camp Ashraf have political asylum and our government should honor its obligations.(INA)
- Sheikh Abdullah Ojail al-Yavar, Head of the Front for Justice & Reform in Iraq: residents of camp Ashraf are in Iraq based on international conventions and they should not be harmed .(Al Malaf)
- Ala Talebani, MP from the Kurdish bloc: Our government is now dealing with a group of asylum seekers who are on Iraqi soil based on international conventions and in light of the political difficulties Iran is causing; we should support them.(Baghdad Daily)
- Majed Ismael Mohammed, MP from the Kurdish bloc, urged the Iraqi government should not resort to force in dealing with the refugees, irrespective of their political tendencies.(Al Malaf)
- Haider Mullah, Rapporteur for the Iraqi parliament's Human Rights Commission: we consider any attempt at putting an end to the presence of camp Ashraf residents in Iraq by year's end as meddling into Iraq's internal affairs and we condemn it; as this case is an Iraqi case in addition to having an international dimension and it must be resolved accordingly. As such, we warn that no decision should be made without coordination with UNAMI and UNHCR.( Al Zaman Daily)

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| - Dr. Ayad Alawi, Head of Al Iraqia                              | - Ayatallah Ayad Jamal a'din, former MP                          |
| - Dr. Osama Al Nagafee, Speaker of parliament                    | - Dr. Abdul Nasser al-Mahdawi, governor of Diyala                |
| - Dr. Saleh Al Mutlak, Deputy Prime Minister                     | - Adil Barwari, advisor to the Prime Minister in Kurdish affairs |
| - Tareq al-Hashemi, Iraqi Vice President                         | - Sardar Abdullah, MP from the Kurdish Progressive Bloc          |
| - Dr. Salman al-Jumaili, head of al-Iraqiya's parliamentary bloc | - Azhar Sheikhli, Al Iraqia MP                                   |
| - Dr. Jamal Al Karbuli, Head of Parliamentary Group              | - Taha Al Luhayby, Former MP                                     |
| - Dr. Zafir Al-Ani, a leading figure from al-Iraqiya             | - Akram Naqib, Al Iraqia legal advisor                           |
| - Mahmood Osman, independent MP from Kurdish bloc                | - Ms. Karima al-Javari, Al Iraqia MP                             |
|  | - Ibrahim al- Mutlak, Al Iraqia MP                               |
|  | - Mohammed Eqbal, Al Iraqia MP                                   |
|  | - Mohammed Karboli, Al Iraqia MP                                 |

# Al Iraqia

العراقية



- Mohsen Saadoun, deputy chairman of the Kurdish parliamentary bloc
- Falah al-Naqib, MP and former Minister of Interior
- Maison al-Damlougi, MP and Al Iraqia Spokeswoman
- Dr. Salim Abdullah al-Jabouri, head of the parliament's human rights commission
- Dr. Ahmad al-Awani, head of the parliament's commerce commission
- Haider al-Mulla, Rapporteur for the Parliamentary council on Human Rights and official Al Iraqia spokesman
- Rasem al-Avadi, leading figure from al-Iraqiya
- Hussam al-Azawi, former MP and head of Al Iraqia in Diyala
- Arshad Arkan Zebari, member of parliament's foreign affairs commission
- Dr. Ala'a Maki, MP from Al Iraqia bloc
- Ms. Atab Jasem al-Dori, Al Iraqia MP
- Mohammed Osman al-Khaldi, Al Iraqia MP
- Alia Nusayif, Member of Parliament
- Ms. Shaza al-Abosi, former MP
- Eskandar Watwat, Al Iraqia MP
- Dr. Bokhari Abdullah, former MP from the Kurdish bloc
- Shwan Mohamad Taha, MP from the Kurdish bloc
- Dr. Mostafa al-Hitti, former MP
- Mesal al-Osi, former MP and head of Iraq's Peoples Party
- Sheikh Abdullah Ojail al-Yavar, Al head of the front for Justice & Reform in Iraq
- Omar Khalaf, Al Iraqia MP
- Vahdat al-Jomaili, Al Iraqia MP
- Qais Shazar, Al Iraqia MP
- Ojeil Al Yawar, Al Iraqia MP
- Othman Al Joheishi, Al Iraqia MP
- Ziyad Tareq Zarb, Al Iraqia MP
- Fares al-Sanjari, Al Iraqia MP
- Raad Al Dehlaki, Al Iraqia MP
- Khalil Zaidan, Al Iraqia MP
- Dr. Faezeh al-Obaidi, Al Iraqia MP
- Ms. Jale Younis, Al Iraqia MP
- Ahmad Al-Mesari, Al Iraqia MP
- Adnan al-Danbos, Al Iraqia Former MP
- Falah Hassan Zaidan, Al Iraqia MP
- Nahede al-Daeni, Al Iraqia MP
- Hani Ashur, Al Iraqia legal advisor
- Ms. Sohad al-Obaidi, Al Iraqia MP
- Hammed al-Mutlak, Al Iraqia MP
- Yasin al-Mutlak, Al Iraqia MP
- Sheikh Jamal al-Bat'tikh, former minister and MP
- Farzand Ahmed, former MP from the Kurdish bloc
- Latif Mustafa, MP from the Change parliamentary bloc
- Bayazid Hassan, MP from the Change parliamentary bloc
- Sheikh Majed Ismael, MP from the Kurdish bloc
- Sheikh Azad Abu Bakr, MP from the Kurdish bloc
- Latif Hoj Hassan, former MP from the Kurdish bloc
- Dr. Hamid Adel Bavi, MP from the Kurdish bloc
- Dr. Mohammed Ahmed, former MP from the Kurdish bloc
- Yousif Ahmed, former MP, Kurdish bloc
- Fattah Sheikh, former MP
- Dr. Mohammed Sheikhli, Director, National Justice Center
- Minas Ibrahim al-Yousifi, Secretary General of the Christian Democratic Party
- Abdullah Kazim, spokesman for the Vice President Tareq Hashemi
- Loei Saeidi, leading member National Accord Movement(NAM)
- Sheikh Khalaf al-Alyan, Secretary General of the Iraqi Reconciliation Council
- Qahtan Saeidi, leading figure from the Iraqi Liberal Movement
- Ibrahim Bajalan, former chair of Diyala Provincial Council
- In addition to 13 provincial council members and advisors to governors

# Al Iraqia

العراقية



- Dr. Neda al-Jabori, Al Iraqia MP
- Ala Talebani, MP from the Kurdish bloc
- Entesar alawi, leading member National Accord Movement(NAM)
- Ziya Shekhli, leading member NAM
- Abd Sattar Baer, leading member NAM

Haider al-Mulla  
Official Al Iraqia spokesman for the bloc  
Rapporteur for the Parliamentary Human Rights commission  
November 16, 2011