



## A MOMENTOUS VICTORY! A BIG THANK YOU!

### *The last residents of Camp Liberty have been transferred to Albania*

**C**amp Liberty is empty now as the last group of residents, 280 of them, were transferred to Albania in two charter planes on Friday 9 September. The US Secretary of State, John Kerry, called it “a very important humanitarian accomplishment” and thanked the Albanian government for its role and said: “Albania has a proud tradition of protecting vulnerable communities, as it did during the Kosovo conflict, and in sheltering large numbers of Jews during World War Two. I am very grateful that in this case too Albania was willing to play an important humanitarian role.”

**Dr Alejo Vidal-Quadras** who attended a meeting for celebration of the news on Saturday 10 September said: “Today when I came here once again to Auvers-sur-Oise, everyone of you I met congratulated me, “Congratulations”,

and I said, “No, I congratulate you,” and then he or she said “No, I congratulate you,” and then it reminded me of the



Iranian New Year or the Christian Christmas when we congratulate each other all the time. And we have good reasons to congratulate each other today, so my first words to you all are: Congratulations!

“During these last sixteen years that I’ve had the privilege and the honour to work with you, to collaborate with you, under the banner of our President

Maryam Rajavi, I have lived with you days of joy and days of sorrow. And today is indeed a day of joy, of great happiness. Something that we have been working for, for a very long time, has happened at the end. All of our friends in Liberty are now safe, and this is for us the best news we could get today. The way to freedom, to justice, to peace, to dignity, is not a flat easy way. It’s a way that is steep, difficult and tiring. And believe me if I say to you that the

most rewarding thing I’ve done in my long political career and in my already long life, has been to walk this way with you.

“What has happened yesterday with the arrival of the last group of Liberty residents to Europe, to safety, has an extremely deep significance, because one of the main objectives of the regime

... continued on p.2

### Editorial

We are delighted to tell you that from this edition the content of our newsletter will be very different from what you have been reading for the last far too many years.

The reason: the very last men and women of Ashraf being safely relocated from Camp Liberty to Albania on 9 September 2016!

Words alone cannot convey our enduring sense of gratitude to all of you who have stood by us and helped us along the path to freedom, especially in the often very dark days since the first attack on Ashraf in July 2009.

... continued on p.2

### UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

#### *Representation by Women’s Human Rights International Association*

**D**r Hanifeh Khayeri representing WHRIA addressed the 33rd session of the UNHRC in Geneva and said: In the summer of 1988, a terrible crime occurred against the Iranian people when more than 30,000 political prisoners, the majority of them members and supporters of the PMOI, were executed in a matter of a few months. Amnesty International, FIDH and Human Rights Watch have all called this massacre a crime against humanity. However, there has been



no investigation of this crime to bring the perpetrators to justice. In fact, the current Iranian Minister of Justice, Mostafa Pour-Mohammadi, himself

... continued on p.3



**A Momentous Victory!** *continued from p.1*

in these years has been to exterminate Liberty people. And they wanted to do it because they know, and they are right, that people in Liberty are the core, are the energy, are the hope of Iran, and they wanted at all means to finish it, to kill all of them, to murder all of them, and they have not succeeded. Thanks to the endurance, the braveness, the steadfastness of the residents, thanks to the work of all of you, thanks to the wonderful work of so many friends you have all over the world, the predator has not got the prey. The prey is today free and ready to go on the fight for freedom and democracy in Iran. And let me say to you one last thing which I consider



meaningful: since I have the privilege to work with you for a free democratic Iran, sixteen years already in my case, I have always lived in a defensive mode. First it was the black list, then it was Liberty. Always defending, always resisting, always under the pain of the loss of lives, of injustice, of the lies, of the fabrications, always defending the position.

“What has happened today is absolutely a game changer. We have passed from defensive mode to offensive mode. Today our hands are free, and there is no weight on our shoulders that prevents us from moving. I know that you are a people that are so fond of symbols, and you are – Iranian people is a people of poets. They like symbols. They read what they see in terms of poetry, and today, when I was here in the front row, neighbour to my admired Ingrid Betancourt, Mrs Rajavi arrived and gave us two flowers, one red flower, one white flower. Immediately, I thought: red as the blood of our martyrs, white as the purity of your hearts. And



then I noticed Mrs Rajavi’s dress today was green. Green is the colour of hope; the hope we all share of a future and democratic Iran.”

In that meeting Mrs Maryam Rajavi also congratulated fellow Iranians as well as activists and supporters around the world for “the triumphant and safe relocation of all Camp Liberty residents.”

She highlighted the failure of Iranian regime’s plans to annihilate the residents of Camp Liberty and stressed:

“Fourteen years of bombardment, disarmament, house arrest, blockade, attacks by armoured vehicles and missiles, accompanied by psychological torture through the use of 320 megaphones proved to be ineffective.

“If we take a look back at these 14 years, if we revisit the people who were slain, those who were injured or disabled, and those who supported the cause, we can clearly see that the relocation process that was completed yesterday marked a strategic defeat for the regime.”



**Dr Tahar Boumedra**, former Chief of the Human Rights Office of the UN Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI) said: “This is indeed an immense joy for me to be here today to share with you this triumphant exit of the Ashrafis from Liberty to Albania. I was one of those who was extremely worried about their safety, and my feelings were justified. And when I heard that they were out safely it’s real joy, deep joy. And also I would like to say that time and events have vindicated me, because when I said to the United Nations, ‘what you are doing is wrong,’ they told me to put up or shut up. But time has proven that what they did was wrong. They could have saved life. They could have saved the life of 177 Ashrafis, but they didn’t do it. And believe me, the whole effort, the effort of the so-called United Nations to find an exit, was not to find an exit to the Ashrafis, it was to disband the PMOI, and I was absolutely opposing this. I told my superiors in the United Nations that this is not my job; I am a human rights officer, I am not here to disband an organisation fighting for its rights. So the reality is that the real objective of closure of Camp Ashraf and transfer of the residents of Ashraf to Liberty, was not to protect and save

... continued on p.3

**EDITORIAL** *continued from p.1*

We are sure you will feel the sense of jubilation and relief tumbling through the words of this our celebratory edition and echo them in your own thoughts and feelings!!

It is inspiring to realise that in 2016 the spirit of Ashraf is rooted so firmly throughout the world – in people’s hearts, in small groups of Ashrafis settled in many countries, including here in the UK, and, of course, with enormous thanks and gratitude, in the new bastion in Albania – that there was in the end no sense of loss, or setback, simply of progress and victory.

In the words of Alejo Vidal-Quadras “Today our hands are free, and there is no weight on our shoulders that prevents us from moving”.

And so, along with the celebration, we have been able to focus in this newsletter on the moving forward to bring an end to human rights abuses in Iran, especially the abhorrent executions.

The initiative that is now gathering pace and momentum, to bring to justice the perpetrators of the 1988 massacre, is a major step towards this end, as so many of them still hold high office in Iran from where they direct the current atrocities.

There is still much to do, but we feel so positive that, with the help of all our friends, we have now turned a corner in history.

We look forward to the future with trust and optimism as we continue to walk with you by our sides on a clearer and surer path to a free Iran, and a better, more humane world.



## A Momentous Victory! *continued from p.2*



lives, it was to disband the PMOI. But I'm glad to tell you that this has failed badly. And those at the United Nations, that I would like, if they could hear me today, to remind them of the challenge we had, and I told them: 'You are wrong,' and that 'your job is to protect, not to persecute'. And so what a failure to those who hear me now among the United Nations staff who used to challenge me because I told them 'this is not our job'. But yes, the whole thing cost a lot of life among Ashrafis. It's a very dear victory, triumph.

"But we should not stop there, because those who contributed to committing crimes against humanity must be held accountable for their crimes. Yes, crimes have taken place in Iraq, but certain crimes, including the lives of 177 Ashrafis, there are people who must be held accountable for them. And if you allow me I name a few, Al-Maliki, Faleh Fayyad, Martin Kobler. These people must be held accountable for the absolutely unnecessary loss of life. They planned and gave the orders to execute this plan.

"So now that Ashrafis are safe and enjoying their liberty, it's really time for

us to focus on reminding those people who committed the crimes that they should come and be accountable for those crimes, and also as Alejo said, "le camp de la peur doit changer". The fear has changed sides. The mullahs now, and those who committed crimes against humanity, will no longer travel peacefully. They will have to negotiate their immunity well in advance. They will not travel in total impunity. We will fight them, we will fight them with the rule of law and we will fight them before the courts."

### Excerpts from statement by Senator John McCain on successful relocation of Iranian dissidents from Camp Liberty:

"I extend my deepest thanks to the Government of Albania for its hospitality and courage in its efforts

to resolve this humanitarian crisis. Albania's willingness to provide refuge to the residents of Camp Liberty is a true testament to the spirit and values of the Albanian people.

"Given the history of the Iranian regime's brutal crackdown on these residents and the subsequent violence directed against them during their stay in Iraq, I believe it is imperative that the residents continue to be recognized as people of concern and entitled to international protections underscored in the 1951 Geneva Convention."



### Excerpts from statement by Congressmen Ed Royce [below left] and Eliot Engel [below right], leaders of the US Congress Foreign Affairs Committee, about the resettlement of Camp Liberty residents:



House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce (R-CA) and Ranking Member Eliot Engel (D-NY) issued a statement on 9 September on completion of the resettlement of Iranian dissidents previously living at Camp Liberty in Iraq. In the statement they said:

"We are glad the evacuation and resettlement of the residents of Camp Liberty from Iraq to Albania has been successfully concluded. The safety and security of the residents has always been our primary concern, and they have now been effectively placed beyond the immediate reach of Iran and its terrorist proxies operating in Iraq. While the completion of this resettlement is good news, we know that attacks on Camp Liberty as well as Camp Ashraf cost far too many lives.

"We also thank the Government of Albania for its generosity and compassion. They have opened the doors to the people of Camp Liberty and have allowed this process to move forward."

## UN Human Rights Council *continued from p.1*

was one of the people organising this wave of mass executions. In response to a recently revealed audio recording that conclusively proves the extent of this crime, Pour-Mohammadi says, quote: "We are proud to have carried out God's commandment with regard to the PMOI, and to have stood with strength and fought against the enemies of God and the people" (end of quote). The new incontestable evidence confirms that the sitting Iranian officials have been directly and personally involved in a crime against humanity. We note that the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights states that all



persons whose rights have been violated should have an effective remedy, notwithstanding that the violations have been committed by persons acting in an official capacity. Special courts have previously been formed to investigate the massacres at Srebrenica and Rwanda, because they were deemed

necessary to prevent similar crimes taking place. Mr President, considering the extensive indisputable evidence on the political motivation of the crime, victims of the crime, the known perpetrators of the crime who are senior governmental officials of Iran and the rapidly increasing rate of executions of political prisoners today, we urge the Council to launch an investigatory committee to investigate the 1988 massacre as a crime against humanity. The heinous mass execution of 1988 is the worst since the Second World War. The perpetrators must be brought to justice. Thank you.



# CONFERENCE ON IRAN'S HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE 1988 MASSACRE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS

**GENEVA (21 September 2016)**

In a meeting in the European Headquarters of the United Nations a group of prominent figures, lawyers, human rights advocates, and NGO representatives discussed the initiation of an international campaign to seek justice for the victims of the 1988 prison massacre in Iran.

**DR ALEJO VIDAL-QUADRAS**

Former Vice-President of the European Parliament and the President of ISJ (In Search of Justice) said:



“It’s a great pleasure to participate in this meeting. I was in fact Vice-President of the European Parliament since 1999 till 2014, so 15 years in total. During my years in the European Parliament, together with other colleagues, we formed an international platform that we called In Search of Justice – International Committee. This international platform, that was supported by thousands of parliamentarians from both sides of the Atlantic, today is an NGO, a think tank, based in Brussels.

“On the 16th of August we, the ISJ International Committee, produced a comprehensive report on the audio file that records a conversation that the late Ayatollah Montazeri had with some members of the so-called Death Committee that was in charge of executing, of the massacre of 30,000 political prisoners, supporters of PMOI.

“The conversation is very dramatic. Ayatollah Montazeri expresses his reject of, his horror for, this massacre, for this crime, and he asks the executioners to stop the killings. He says, in a certain moment of the conversation, ‘This is the biggest crime that we have seen in contemporary history of Iran.’ It must be said that Ayatollah Montazeri had no sympathy for the PMOI. He was part of the regime, he was number two of Khomeini. So his testimony is really



meaningful. Let me emphasise, very briefly, a few points.

“The first point is that Khomeini’s fatwa of killing members and supporters of PMOI, when I said killing I should say exterminating, then, leaves no doubt that he ordered a crime against humanity. Therefore all the people who had a role in implementing this decree, this fatwa, were also involved in a crime against humanity.

“The second point is that this massacre, this genocide, did not stop in 1988. In fact, it continues until today. Very recently, on the 22nd of August, 25 Sunni political prisoners were hanged; so this killing machine that is the Iranian regime is still working.

The third point is that the same officials in charge of the 1988 massacre are still at the top of the Islamic Republic. They are involved in the suppression and destruction of all opposition, all democratic, peaceful opposition inside the Iranian society. These people include Pour-Mohammadi, that is now the Minister of Justice, but it must be said that Mr Pour-Mohammadi, who is the Minister of Justice, has stated these days, he’s very proud of having organised and executed the massacre of 30,000 defenceless people that were arrested prisoners in that time. He’s proud of it. So a moderate government where sit criminals against humanity is a strange concept of moderation, at least under my point of view.

“We urge Western governments to condition their relations with Iran to a suspension and halt of executions.”

**INGRID BETANCOURT**

Former Colombian Senator and Presidential Candidate:



I would like first to thank you all for joining us. We are a group of people from many perspectives and experiences of

life, people from NGOs, victims and survivors of this massacre, lawyers, members of human rights defending NGOs, and as myself, a victim and also I would say, survivor from terrorist events and crimes. And it is as such that it has become for us absolutely relevant to end impunity and to make sure that the people that were responsible for these crimes are brought to justice. In this house, some years ago, there was a testimony from – very relevant to this case. It was an Iranian man that was working in a cemetery in Iran, and he was visual witness of how in the month of August 1988 trucks that came from the Government of Iran arrived to his cemetery loaded with hundreds of bodies, corpses, of people that were then dumped into mass graves. This is a picture that you can access. They put so many dead people into these mass graves that the dirt they poured in to try to cover the bodies was not enough; sticking out from the dirt, as a vivid proof of the brutality and the absolute inhumanity of what was happening at that moment. But the fact is that these people were executed after having been tried and sentenced to sentences that

... continued on p.5



## MY VISIT TO TIRANA

### EXCERPTS FROM A REPORT BY WILLIAM HUGHES

was delighted to be invited around the beginning of this month (September 2016) to visit Tirana and to be able to see and meet the newly arrived Camp Liberty residents who had been flown in from Baghdad as well as to greet another 250 of them who flew in late one evening while I was still there.

As you probably all know the very last 280 were flown in shortly after this so that now they are all safe and away from the dangers which had been ever-present for so long in Camp Liberty. It is a truly wonderful achievement for ILA and all the many supporters worldwide who have been tirelessly lobbying for this very outcome. There is no doubt that it had been vitally necessary to get the Camp Liberty residents out very quickly as the Mullah regime had definite plans to mount another attack which was set up and in place and would have been imminent had the Mullahs known about the timing of the intended departure of the Camp Liberty residents.

I was honoured to meet Dr Vahid who had dealt with all kinds of serious wounds sustained during the attack on Camp Ashraf by the assassination forces who murdered the 52 Ashrafis who had remained with others in Camp Ashraf to look after the equipment belonging to Ashrafis. Subsequently Dr Vahid had had the responsibility for the difficult task of treating medical cases in Camp Liberty once they had been unnecessarily driven into the wholly unsuitable camp Liberty.

Many Ashrafis at Camp Liberty had suffered injuries and have medical conditions which need proper treatment in Albania which only now can come about and be properly dealt with. They remain undaunted by these issues and bravely continue the



struggle to ensure that the world understands the Iran issue and all the dangers of fundamentalism originating in Iran and spreading all over the Middle East. What is happening in Syria shows very clearly the price which the world has to pay for not solving the Iran question. Ashrafi 3 members still go on being pioneers to ensure that democratic change, pluralism and respect for women's rights can come to Iran.

Many of the ladies now safe in Albania had been tortured and have painful memories of the cruelty of the regime of the Mullahs especially towards women prisoners. And all this is undoubtedly ongoing in those prisons in Iran. I met a lady there called Mahin who had just finished writing an account of her experiences in Evin which is just now being published and will add new information about what has been happening.

I also visited the Bakery where large amounts of bread was being baked, a computer room where ladies were compiling text and pictures on the present situation and a garment-making section where clothing was being made with industrial

sewing machines. Also I visited a film studio where news, documentaries and films are being prepared giving accounts of the present situation.

The kitchen is a very busy place with an enormous number of meals constantly being prepared to cater for the camp residents.

It surprised me that Tirana (the capital of Albania) was such a bustling city.

The Museum was fascinating to visit to get an idea of Albanian history in ancient times and to see an account there of the many trials and tribulations of the modern period which took place there. I was pleased to acquire in the museum shop the book "The Illyrians to the Albanians" by Neritan Ceka, which is full of colour illustrations of the many ancient statues and artefacts displayed on the ground floor.

Finally after dusk we visited the UNHCR holding establishment which was temporarily accommodating the 250 camp liberty residents who had flown in the night before.

During this trip Shaho and Hanif from London ILA were able to meet their relatives from Liberty which was a joy indeed for them.

For me one of the most impressive things about the Camp Liberty residents is that despite the very many psychological and physical hardships they have had to endure over all these years they have managed not to become overwhelmed by the negative forces with which the Mullahs have sought to break their spirit. It needs great strength of character to be this resilient in the face of those who are determined to silence any form of free speech and ultimately kill those they think to be their opponents. All this hate has to be replaced by love. To be loving is sometimes the hardest thing and yet the most necessary.

#### **Conference on Iran's Human Rights and the 1988 Massacre of Political Prisoners** *continued from p.4*

they were paying at that moment in jail. So it's not only the injustice of the system, it's also the sheer brutality and absence of humanity of what went on in those very few months.

"These people were picked up because, not only their political stance but also because of their faith. These people were Muslim, but they were Muslims of another genre. They thought that you could be Muslim being a democrat, that you could be Muslim respecting gender equalities, that you could be Muslim rejecting death penalty, that you could be Muslim respecting the

rights of people to think in politics as they wished.

"I want you to think, just for a second, what would be of the world today if this hadn't happened. What would be of the reflection we have today on the problem of terrorism linked to religious fundamentalism if these 30,000 people would have been allowed to expose and defend their view of another type of way of being Muslim. And of course for me it is so obvious that what has happened in Iran is happening today, not only in Iran, but has been exported to the world and especially to our

neighbourhood. And it's because I make the link with the massacre in 1988 and the bombs in Paris, in Nice, in Brussels, the attacks, the terrorist attacks all over the world, in the States too, that I have to be very firm in asking all of you to help us in order that we can make sure that what happened in 1988 doesn't continue happening today and that we can prevent our children and our grandchildren being subject to the same brutality, and it's because of this thought that I have accepted to be part of this Committee, because I really think that it's about all of us."



## ILA EVENTS IN TWICKENHAM AND LONDON

Our events in Twickenham and North London on 15 and 29 September were well received and the news of relocation of all Camp Liberty residents brought a festive mood to the events. Professor Sarah Chandler, Vice President of the Federation of European Bar Associations congratulated everyone on this great achievement and explained how she, as a member of The Law Society Council, has worked with her colleagues on this issue to make



sure all the remaining residents are safe and secure. David Wood and Liz Carter hosted the events in London and Twickenham respectively and we enjoyed the talks by Stephen Goodwin and William Hughes, as well as excellent performances by Susannah Dyde (harp) and Martin Todd (tenor saxophone). Added to all this was a live video link with Ashrafris in Tirana.

We received a lot of comments after the events and here is what Rosalind Topping wrote after the Twickenham event:

From entering the venue I was made aware of a changed atmosphere, the first social event post Camp Liberty. The relief and jubilation at the successful relocation of the last Ashrafris to Albania was clearly apparent in the poster display. No more Liberty!

The programme was very well constructed, leading through various phases.

I was particularly impressed by the film which I believe we saw first 'They thought they had buried us, they didn't realise we were seeds'. This was inspiring, it gave such a clear message and I hope it will be shown to all the supporters around the country.

The video clips were very rewarding. I particularly remember Tahar Boumedra's contribution, referring to the fact that he was vindicated by the outcome. He has been a hero.

The section on the 1988 massacre and continuing executions was very strong and focused. It set out the clear way



forward that we are now in a position to pursue with all determination now that the Ashrafris are safe.

The live link with Tirana was such a surprise and hugely enjoyable. There's nothing so effective as communicating directly with the Ashrafris.

Good idea to finish with the delightful Albanian musical performance.

The food was delicious as ever.

Congratulations on a splendid evening.





## NEWS FROM IRAN

### Environmental activists imprisoned in Iran

A group of environmental activists who have been imprisoned under severe pressure have not been allowed to have a lawyer. They were arrested in Shiraz more than 2 months ago when meeting in a friend's house to talk about environmental issues.



### Mother of executed Reyhaneh calls for abolishment of the death penalty

Mother of Reyhaneh Jabbari who was hanged in October 2014 for defending herself against assault by an intelligence officer, has pledged to fight for abolishment of the death penalty in Iran.

In a letter to the news outlets, Mrs Sholeh Pakravan wrote: "It's now two years full of ups and downs since Reyhaneh was executed. Today, I hate the death penalty even more.

"Two years ago, I was totally focusing on preventing Reyhaneh from being executed. Today, however, I am living with the hope for an Iran without the death sentence. I am not afraid of anything for taking this path. I am looking the demon right in the eye, waiting for the right time to deliver it the final blow, so that all the gallows be relegated to the museums."



### Iranian Mullah: Presence of unveiled woman in the street is presence of enemy's infantry

According to state-run Fars news agency on October 6, mullah Alam al-Hoda, Friday prayer preacher in Mashhad called for more aggression against women and told a group of State Security Forces that "the presence of an unveiled or improperly veiled woman on the streets should be viewed as enemy's infantry and a subject of your operations."



### Human Rights Defender remains steadfast after unjust sentence

Narges Mohammadi whose 16 year prison term was confirmed by the appeals 'court', sent a memo from Evin Prison and stressed that she will tolerate the ordeal but will never believe that her being in prison even for a day is "legal, ethical or humane". She said: "I don't regret my beliefs, thoughts, and deeds and I insist on the realisation of human rights". She concluded her letter by highlighting that "the Judiciary of Iran has switched the place of the defendant and the plaintiff. The perpetrators of the economic, cultural and social problems are exempted from any interrogations or inquiries whereas the critics and the real



**FORCED VEILING = VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

victims are sentenced to imprisonment and punishment."

### Long jail term for writing a story which was never published!

Iranian writer and human rights activist, Golrokh Ebrahimi Iraee, has been sentenced to six years imprisonment for writing a story about the emotional reaction of a young woman who watches the film 'The Stoning of Soraya M', the true story of a young woman stoned to death.

Her writing has never been published. Iranian authorities found the piece when Golrokh and her activist husband Arash Sadeghi were arrested in 2014. She was found guilty of "insulting Islamic sanctities" and "spreading propaganda against the system". Amnesty International called the verdict "ludicrous" and the trial "farcical".



### Kurdish youths join the campaign to seek justice for the victims of the 1988 massacre

On 5 October, a youth group in Iran's Kurdistan province condemned the 1988 prison massacre and announced their support for the international campaign to obtain justice for the victims. They said: "The main cause of the problems in the Iranian society is nothing but the religious dictatorship. A problem which has turned into a dilemma for the Iranian people, the region and the whole world."





## UN SECRETARY GENERAL: “A NEW WAVE OF OPPRESSION” UNDER ROUHANI



The UN Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly on the human rights situation of Iran concludes that a “new wave of oppression” is taking place under the supposedly moderate President, Hassan Rouhani.

According to the report “at least 966 people

were reportedly executed,” in the past year and during the first half of 2016, “at least 200 people” were put to death by the regime. Iran has the world's highest death penalty per capita.

Moreover, the report highlights that executions “are often carried out following trials that fall short of the international fair trial standards guaranteed in article 14 of the Covenant, to which the Islamic Republic of Iran is a State party.”

The UN report concluded that the regime in Iran commonly uses public executions, flogging and mutilation of supposed offenders.

UNSG also expressed concerns in the report “about the recruitment and deployment of

Afghan refugees and migrants, including minors, by Iranian authorities to fight in the Syrian Arab Republic.”

The UN report also criticizes Iran's treatment of refugees, and calls on Iran to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and stresses that “the Islamic Republic of Iran has made little progress towards gender equality”.

According to the report the Iranian regime's treatment of religious minorities has seen “significant reversals”; and Iran has experienced “far more erosion of freedom of expression and opinion” under Hassan Rouhani.

## BRITISH MPs AND MEPs CALL FOR JUSTICE FOR MASSACRE VICTIMS

British law makers and MEPs issued a statement to support the international campaign to obtain justice for the victims of the 1988 massacre of political prisoners in Iran and called for the trial of the perpetrators of this crime against humanity.

According to the statement signed by scores of British MPs and MEPs, the 1988 massacre was carried out following a fatwa by the Supreme Leader Khomeini, who ordered all political prisoners loyal to the PMOI to be immediately executed. The statement refers to the newly released audio tape by the son of the late

Ayatollah Montazeri, the then designated successor to Khomeini, and highlights that in the audio recording Montazeri comments that these executions constitute “the biggest crime that has occurred in the Islamic Republic and that the world will not forgive us for this crime”.

The statement stresses that “human rights abuses and executions continue today in Iran because of the impunity enjoyed by authorities of the Iranian regime in the past three and half decades.”

In the statement British Parliamentarians “urge the Government to recognise and condemn

this brutal massacre as a crime against humanity and ask the UN Human Rights Commissioner, Human Rights Council, the General Assembly and the Security Council to order an investigation and bring the perpetrators to justice.”



## THANK YOU FROM ALBANIA



A letter was received from Albania signed by former Camp Liberty residents expressing their appreciation to all their friends and defenders. Following is the text of the letter:

*To all friends of Liberty residents,*

*We are a group of former Camp Liberty residents who arrived to Albania with the last group.*

*We would like to express our thanks and great appreciation to all the friends of Liberty residents in North America and Europe, whom by participating in different campaigns, helped all the residents to leave Iraq without any incidents. All your*

*measures and efforts bear fruit and we all together have achieved a joint victory.*

*Considering the news of Iranian regimes' plots, there were serious concerns that to the last minute that the last group is still in*



**The Camp Liberty devastation they have at last left behind forever.**

*Camp Liberty, Iranian regime with the help of its agents in the Iraqi government would carry out another massacre. Surely if it was not because of the international pressures exerted by the campaigns of friends of Liberty residents, Iranian regime would have managed to go forward with its criminal and cowardice plans.*

*Now we have achieved a victory over the Mullahs' regime, however the greater victory would be when the regime changes and real freedom is established in Iran. We are confident that we can rely on your support in this path.*

*Once again we express our sincere thanks to all the friends of Camp Liberty.*