



International Liberty Association Newsletter

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Editorial

As the door of 2015 closes behind us and we stand on the threshold of a brand New Year we look back and once more give heartfelt thanks to all those who have shared the joys and sorrows of these challenging times with us.

Despite the many horrors that we have had to contend with, we find as we review the past year, many reasons to be cheerful and to bolster our optimism for the future.

As we continue our efforts for upholding human rights in Iran and the region, we see ever more clearly that it is all the steps, big and small, taken by men and women of dedication and commitment all over the world that little by little creates our desired future.

Here at the ILA, we are very pleased to have during 2015 achieved Charity status for our organisation.

As a result of all our efforts and the continuing warm hearted hospitality of Albania, another 600 men and women were safely transferred there from Liberty during this year.

It was US Colonel Wes Martin who coined the term "Defenders of Liberty" this year, a perfect way to describe all those striving not just for the safety of the people in the Camp in Iraq of that name, but also supporting the aims of the Iranian people for freedom and democracy, those within Iran, ever more openly expressing their opposition to the Mullah's, the true patriots of Iraq and Syria and all who strive for freedom from the oppression and machinations of the Iranian regime.

In Camp Liberty itself, 2015 saw millions of hours of patient resistance blossom into a flourishing scene of natural beauty to replace what had been a blighted wasteland.

And this was the year we established direct communication with Camp Liberty at many of our

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Camp Liberty endures a rain of missiles



Camp Liberty went under a brutal missile attack by the Ayatollahs' mercenaries on 29 October 2015; a massacre which led to 24 dead and hundreds of wounded.

The day after, the Iranian artists and musicians living in the camp responded to this attack in a way that amazed and galvanised the world. On the third day they performed the song with their damaged instruments in the epicentre of the smouldering ruins of the camp and passionately exclaimed:

The torch of struggle for democracy and freedom flares out more than ever, even if the tyrants like the Ayatollahs of Iran and Bashar Assad of Syria and their alliances try to smother it under the silence and inaction of the UN and the so called 'world leaders'.

During the memorial ceremony for the martyrs in the Auvers-sur-Oise suburb of Paris, looking at the photos of martyrs, Ingrid Betancourt said:

"When I look at the faces of these men and this woman, I see the face of



the Iranian nation that has been tortured, smashed, lashed and stoned. At the same time, I see a nation in Iran that is struggling and fighting; a

nation with the courage to stand up to the dragon and demon of religious tyranny; a ghastly dictatorship that has now turned into a darkness and frightful night in the Middle East. A night not just for Iran, but for the whole Middle East and all of us. We know that the tentacles of the Iranian regime's evil octopus have been extended to the whole world; even here in France and everywhere.

"By looking at these martyrs, I see people that defend our values, and it is to pay tribute to them that we are gathered here.

"I say to the survivors in Camp Liberty that we praise you for your steadfastness and perseverance."

A brief message from Camp Liberty

Dear Friends, Happy New Year!

We are very proud and encouraged to know that you are our voice, suffer with our pains and smile with our joys. Without you we would not have survived the agony and the pressures but with you we feel we have everything. We make one promise to you all, we remain steadfast in our quest for freedom,

justice and peace. Humanity deserves a much better world than we are living in and only with our collective effort we can make this dusty earth of ours a true heaven. All it takes is that the good people, much larger in numbers, do what is right and what is just. Hope to see you all in a free Iran in 2016.

Behzad, on behalf of all at 'Liberty'



The Bar Human Rights Committee condemns missile attack on Camp Liberty

The Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales (BHRC) condemns the recent missile attack upon Camp Liberty, a camp of Iranian exiles in north-east Baghdad and calls for immediate assistance, protection and investigation.

The government of Iraq has repeatedly failed to meet its obligations to respect and protect the humanitarian and human rights of these Iranian people who are refugees.

In February 2015, BHRC wrote an open letter, addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations detailing how the government of Iraq has consistently failed to meet its obligations to respect the humanitarian and human rights of the refugees at the camp and to provide them with security and protection as agreed in the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2011 with the UN United Assistance Mission for Iraq. The refugees have been targeted by numerous deadly



missile attacks and the current attack appears to be part of a pattern, which is widespread and systematic.

BHRC reiterates its request to the UN that Camp Liberty be recognised as a refugee camp under the supervision of the UN High Commission for Refugees. The UN Human Rights Council already considers these refugees “persons of concern”. Urgent practical steps must now be taken by the UN and by the Iraqi government to protect these vulnerable people. As a permanent member of the UN Security

Council and member of the Human Rights Council, the UK must act to hold the Iraqi authorities to account over this latest massacre.

Kirsty Brimelow QC, Chair of the Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales, said:

“The carnage inflicted by the missile attack upon Camp Liberty, reported at 7.40pm local time on 29/10/15, should be condemned by the Iraqi authorities. Protection for the residents in the camp and an investigation into these crimes and others committed must be commenced immediately. The Iraqi authorities are failing in their duty under international law to protect the men, women and children in the camp. Their current silence on the killing of 23* people is deafening.”

Kirsty Brimelow QC

30 October 2015

* One of the injured residents died a few days after the attack raising the total dead to 24.

Commemoration of martyrs of missile attack on Camp Liberty – Paris, Auvers-sur-Oise

On Sunday, 1 November 2015, a memorial ceremony for the martyrs of the criminal missile attack on Camp Liberty was held at the headquarters of the National Council of Resistance of Iran in Auvers-sur-Oise.

The Iranian Resistance’s President-elect Maryam Rajavi declared in this meeting: “The post-nuclear-deal era is the time for the people of Iran to bring up their most basic demands, on the top of which is freedom. The Iranian nation demands freedom and is crying out loud that it does not want this regime. Khamenei massacres the residents of Camp Liberty with the barrage of

missiles, and by committing such a crime against humanity he attempts in vain to save his regime from certain downfall.”

Stressing that this crime could have been avoided, if the US and UN fulfilled their commitments to Camp Liberty residents’ safety and security, Mrs Rajavi called on them to end such an irresponsible approach, particularly that, despite numerous warnings, Camp Liberty is still being run by murderers of Ashraf residents and agents associated with the Iranian regime

Other speakers included Sid Ahmed Ghozali, former Prime Minister of Algeria; Ingrid Betancourt, former Presidential Candidate in Colombia; Alejo Vidal-Quadras, former Vice-President of the European Parliament and President of the International Committee In Search of Justice (ISJ); Peter Mathews TD, lawmaker from Ireland; Haitham Maleh, Head of the Syrian Coalition Legal Commission;

Michel Kilo, Syrian opposition personality; Mayor Jean Pierre Muller, member of Val d’Oise General Council; Sylvie Fassier, Mayor of Le Pin; Anissa Boumediene, jurist and expert on Islam, former First Lady of Algeria; Dr Manouchehr Hezarkhani, Chair of the NCRI Culture Committee; and Mehdi Abrishamchi, Chair of the NCRI Peace Committee and brother of Hossein Abrishamchi who was killed in the October 29 missile attack on Camp Liberty.

The programme ended by participants laying flowers on a memorial monument to the martyrs.





“United Against Fundamentalism”

Conference in Paris organised by Union of Iranian Associations in Europe

On Tuesday 8 December 2015, just before International Human Rights Day, the Union of Iranian Associations in Europe sponsored a meeting in the presence of Mrs Maryam Rajavi, Senator Joseph Lieberman, and Professor Alejo Vidal Quadras, former Vice President of the European Parliament. In the meeting entitled, “United Against Fundamentalism”, Mrs Rajavi drew attention to and warned against the efforts of the Iranian regime and its allies to save the Assad regime.

She said Daesh has found the opportunity to grow and expand with the support of Bashar Assad, and it will not be destroyed with Assad in power.

She added: This calls for Western governments to adopt a policy that supports the desires of the innocent people of Syria for a speedy overthrow of Bashar Assad, gives substantial backing to the Free Army of Syria in its struggle against the regime, and insists on the eviction of foreign troops, specifically the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) from Syria and Iraq.

Referring to the terrorist attacks in Europe and US, Mrs Rajavi emphasized: “Islam is shocked by such barbarism. There is no dispute between Shiites and Sunnis, Muslims and Christians, or nations of the Middle East and West or their cultures. The dispute, however, is between ruling dictatorships and nations who seek freedom.”

She asserted: “Anyone who claims to be Muslim must stand up to Bashar Assad and Khamenei, and not kill innocent people. I must reiterate that the solution to this paradox is at the hands of the people of the region to struggle against extremists by relying on genuine Islam that espouses democracy and tolerance.”

Mrs Rajavi also paid tribute to the memory of 120,000 martyrs of Iranian regime’s systematic repression, victims of execution under religious fascism, including 30,000 prisoners massacred in 1988 and the political prisoners executed in recent years, as well as those slain in camps Ashraf and Liberty with special mention of the 24 freedom lovers who lost their

lives on October 29th.

She criticised Western governments’ overlooking of flagrant human rights violations in Iran including the 2,000 people executed under Rouhani, as well as the adverse consequences of the Iranian regime’s warmongering and bloodshed throughout the region.

She called on Western governments to revise their policy and make their relations with the Iranian regime contingent on an end to executions and torture, and freedom of political prisoners.

Citing Khamenei’s criminal record, Maryam Rajavi urged the UN Security Council to make the necessary arrangements for prosecution of the leaders of the Iranian regime in an international court.

Former political prisoner Farzad Madadzadeh who has recently fled Iran, as well as Shaqayeq Azimi whose parents are presently held as political prisoners in jail, spoke on the abysmal state of human rights in Iran and poor conditions in the medieval prisons of the clerical regime.

Specialists and professionals, teachers, nurses, students and other representatives of Iranian communities took part in this important conference and quite a few of them addressed the assembly.



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social events, especially wonderful when we were able to share first hand continuing high spirits days after the devastating 29 October missile attack on Liberty.

This attack was a desperate attempt by the Iranian regime, beleaguered at home and suffering significant losses in their efforts to extend their influence in Syria and Iraq. The ferocity of the attack showed a desire to deal a death blow to Camp Liberty and crush the hopes of those who stand between the Iranian regime and its increasingly naked ambitions.

The magnificent response of the people of Liberty, bursting into the song called, “Day of Reckoning” from among the ruins, the condemnation of the attack and support for Liberty, spoken openly in Tehran by Dr Maleki, former head of the Tehran University, and open letters of condemnation of the attack from inside Iranian jails, all proved that courage and perseverance is contagious and Camp Liberty is the main source of it.

With terror attacks and refugees fleeing from terror spreading into Europe during this year, clearly the future for world peace relies in large part

on stopping extremism and religious fundamentalism from scattering its deadly influence. In this, more and more are opening their eyes to the reality that Iran is the epicentre of such destructive force while the people in Camp Liberty hold the key to salvation.

And so we start 2016 with a renewal of commitment that with an ever growing and unified band of defenders gathering momentum, the sails are set fair for Liberty to come to Iran in the near future and trustfully peace to the Middle East. Thank you for standing with us on this heartening journey in search of peace and justice.



ON INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

British MPs demand sanctions against human rights abusers in Iran

On the occasion of International Human Rights Day, December 10, cross-party MPs from both Houses of Parliament held a conference in the House of Commons discussing the state of human rights in Iran and the current political situation in the region as well as the recent terrorist attack on Camp Liberty.

Speakers at the conference that was chaired by co-Chairman of the British Parliamentary Committee for Iran Freedom (BPCIF), Lord Carlile of Berriew QC, included: Rt Hon. David Jones MP; Steve McCabe MP; Bob Blackman MP; Jim Shannon MP; Rt Hon. Lord Dholakia; Lord Clarke of Hampstead CBE; Lord Maginnis of Drumglass; Lord Cotter; Lord Judd; Peter Carter QC, Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales; Peter Mathews TD, Independent member of the Irish Parliament; Paulo

Casaca, former MEP; Mrs Dowlat Nowrouzi, NCRI UK Representative and Linda Lee, former President of the Law Society of England and Wales.

In their remarks, MPs warned that the human rights situation in Iran is worsening with a shocking increase in executions, especially in the months following the nuclear deal, contrary

to Rouhani’s rhetoric. They also raised serious concerns over the recent wave of arrests of journalists and students and heavy crackdown on media, describing it as a coordinated campaign to silence popular dissent and consolidate the regime’s grip on power.

MPs also condemned the seventh deadly attack on Camp Liberty.



MEPs demand International Protection for the residents of Camp Liberty

Early in December the Office of Gérard Deprez MEP, Chairman of Friends of a Free Iran at the European Parliament, published a statement signed by 170 Members of the European Parliament representing all political groups in the Parliament. The EU lawmakers condemned the brutal attack of 29 October 2015 on defenceless Iranian dissidents in Camp Liberty in Iraq and called for international protection for these refugees.

The statement reiterates that residents of this camp have been repeatedly attacked and killed by Iraqi forces and the Iranian regime’s militias. Despite an international outrage and repeated calls, no one has ever been arrested for these atrocities.

MEPs called for replacement of Iraqi security advisor Faleh Fayyadh, known for his close links with Iran, who is responsible for harassing the residents on a routine and humiliating basis.

The lawmakers urged the international coalition to put Camp Liberty, which is situated close to Baghdad airport, under its aerial protection.

The statement also called for an UN-led investigation into this massacre.

MEP Gérard Deprez, chair of the Friends of a Free Iran

in the European Parliament, congratulated his colleagues for this overwhelming support. Speaking from Brussels, Mr Deprez said “It is time the European Union takes serious measures to hold Iraq responsible for repeatedly failing to uphold its commitments to protect the refugees in Camp Liberty.

“We cannot just stand and watch defenceless refugees being repeatedly targeted in this way and nobody is held responsible.”

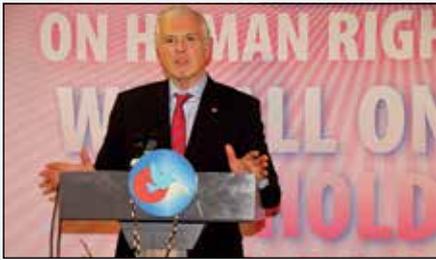
Signatories of the statement include two vice presidents of the parliament as well as 13 Committee and Delegation Chairs.





ILA'S HUMAN RIGHTS DAY EVENT

Our event for the occasion of International Human Rights Day on 10 December was well attended. Our guest speakers included Peter Mathews TD, member of the Irish Parliament, and former MEP from Portugal, Paolo Casaca. Mr Casaca had travelled to Iraq and visited Camp Ashraf 5 times during his term as an MEP between 1999 and 2009.



PETER MATHEWS: It makes my heart feel bigger and stronger when I see a group of people like yourselves who are part of the support body, the support engine for these hugely courageous Iranian people, part of the very worthy and valid opposition to a tyrannical regime that is really crushing the life out of its own people. That's terribly sad. It's really grotesque when people are so addicted to power that their toxicity, you know, takes literally the air out of the lungs of the people of their country.

Today is International Human Rights Day, the day to remind ourselves that... it doesn't matter where we are in the world, we've got to act, and no matter how small our actions are, they all add up. The butterfly's wings do make an impression.

Keep up the support, do everything you can to energise your relations who may be holding influential positions, to do, to act.



PAOLO CASACA: Right now, looking at you, speaking to you, I think you are wonderful people. You are fantastic,

fantastic hearts that are here because you cannot stand injustice. You cannot tolerate the fact that innocent, courageous people now in Camp Liberty, people that were promised so much, that had cards signed by American authorities saying they were under the protection of the United States, and then being attacked so viciously, and still being dragged out of Ashraf to Camp Liberty after so many other promises.

And there were at least seven big attacks, three in Ashraf, four in Camp Liberty, attacks that are absolutely clear who committed them. Actually the last ones, they were publicly recognised to have been done by one of the Iranian-backed militias that is running Iraq. And our authorities, they just looked the other side. This does not show in the Press.

To Camp Liberty



JENNY: Hello to all of you at Camp Liberty.

I feel now part of your family here in London and therefore part of your family there.

I am in total admiration of the way you are resisting all efforts by the Iranian/Iraqi regimes to put you down. I am confident now that you will not be put down and we are standing with you. We are trying very hard to put pressure on our government to change their stance towards the Iranian regime. You have given us inspiration to keep on trying.

You and all your efforts in Camp Liberty inspire us.

We want to assure you that we will be carrying on and I would like to see you face to face here in London and maybe also one day in Iran. What a beautiful country it is and I would love to see it one day. But I would also love to entertain you here in our homes in London, just like your family and friends have been entertaining us here today and very often.

I would like to wish you all the very best on behalf of my family and all my

friends who are also supporting you. We wish you strength and all the very best particularly at this season, Christmas for Christians. My family is partly Jewish so we're celebrating Chanukah. It's a festival of light and we hope that we can see the light at the end of the tunnel when you will all be free and all the Iranians will be free. All the best.



DIANA: I was here a few weeks ago when we were able to talk to you about the terrible massacre that occurred when you were bombarded so brutally. We just cannot imagine how strong you are. We are just in total amazement at your resilience and I'd like you to know that all of us here will do everything we possibly can to make sure that your plight there and the plight of the Iranian people is brought again and again to the attention of our government and the European Parliament.

Also, I would very much like to hope that I may be able to help try to get the British press to be able to cover the true situation in Iraq, Camp Liberty and also Iran, as I have one contact, now retired, in the national press. But whatever that outcome, be assured that all of us here will do everything we possibly can to help you and your families and all the Iranian people who just want to be free and live in a democratic Iran. I would just like to wish you all a peaceful Christmastide and a peaceful New Year, and just remember we are with you and we feel you are with us as well. So take heart, love to you all.





“YOU ARE UNBELIEVABLE”



STEVE: I think you are unbelievable. Your spirit is incredible. Now you have no roofs over your head. You have nothing, and yet after three days, just three days after the missile attack, you produced a wonderful, wonderful record, wonderful music, standing in the ruins that is Camp Liberty now, completely undaunted and that is the point, that Iran [regime] never seems to get the message. And the more they try to destroy these people, the stronger and more indomitable their attitude becomes.

So, to the people of Camp Liberty, I salute you. I think you are the bravest people on the planet. You are an example to everyone and an inspiration to everyone.



LIZ: I am speaking to you today to condemn the despicable attack on the people of Camp Liberty that took place on October 29.

Although it was, as I say, despicable, it shows to me the weakness of the Iranian regime that cannot tolerate and knows nothing else but with troubles at home trying to extend its influence, it has to try and eliminate its opponents who it knows the members of the Iranian resistance stand between them and total domination of the area and the region, because they stand for truth and justice and freedom and have stood against the Mullahs from the very beginning.

It has been wonderful to actually hear from Liberty that their spirit, their courage, their bravery, their commitment, and their resilience is still absolutely incredible and as inspiring as ever.



LORRAINE: I would like to say that in many respects what has happened there, with the death of 24 people, is very much the same problem as has been happening, and we've seen it in France, we've seen it in Mali.

If we want to prevent the rise of Islamic fundamentalism, for all of us to feel safe wherever we are in the world, we really need to stand together now and to support the people who are actually fighting in the front line at Camp Liberty.

I believe it is now time for us to put pressure on the UN and the UK and the US governments in particular to stand up behind the promises that they have made so many times in the past and really support those people in Camp Liberty. We need to move them to a safe haven now. We need to get them out of there so that they can actually be a force for good. They are hugely talented, witty and intelligent people. They have built cities for themselves time and time again and it's incredibly important that those sorts of people are allowed to take their place in the world and to help us all move to a better place.

ROSA: The people of Camp Liberty are an inspiration. They have made it known that they can withstand this attack that obviously meant to harm a lot more of them than it actually did.

There are a lot of us here in London that think that the residents of Camp



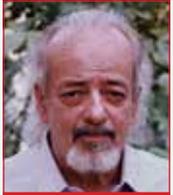
Liberty are the bravest people in the world and we will continue to spread the message to everybody so that things can change, because there is a lot that needs to change.





A Courageous Stance

Prominent dissident in Tehran publicly slams regime



DR MALEKI

On Thursday, 3 December 2015, Mrs Mehri Jannatpour, a long-time supporter of the Iranian opposition, passed away in Iran. She endured prison terms at Evin prison for her views on three occasions since the 1979 revolution. Although she underwent brutal torture by the clerical regime, she never submitted to the regime's pressures. One of her children is at Camp Liberty.

A funeral service was held for Mrs Jannatpour on Saturday 5 December in Tehran. Dr Mohammad Maleki, the first post-revolution Chancellor of Tehran University, spoke at the event and praised the late Mrs Jannatpour for her stance. Excerpts of Dr Maleki's remarks follow:

"What can I say about this woman, a human being who lived her life like Zeynab [*grand daughter of Prophet Mohammad who stood up to the brutal caliph of her time and became a symbol of bravery*]. She lived like Zeynab, and brought up her children and made them productive members of the society. But she did not only have her own children, she also had children among those across the border [*at Camp Liberty in Iraq*], who face missile attacks, and experience thousands of challenges and problems. But, they are persevering and

are as solid as a mountain. They are this mother's children. How fortunate she was! There are many who come into this world, 'enjoy' life and die. But the fulfilment experienced by such mothers is different.

"Mother, what can I say about your compassion, your words when you could still speak, your knowledge, your talents, your wisdom and mind which was productive until the last second.

"I can only say that there are now many who have been orphaned after your death. They say that people are orphaned when their mothers die. We are now truly orphans.

"You lived like Zeynab. You lived like her and were among the Zeynabs of the world. Agents [*of the regime*] should record my voice and my words. Yes, I am declaring loudly that you lived like Zeynab and you were a Zeynab of your time. There were thousands like you, like Mother Dashti, who passed away a few days ago. She went to Heaven to make it ready for you.

"On behalf of the family of the deceased, I want to thank all of you who have gathered here despite all the challenges to attend the funeral of this Zeynab of our time. Last night, too, I said at Mother Dashti's funeral that you should not worry. Despite all its problems, corruption and the ruling regime that breeds corruption, our society continues to give birth to many Zeynabs and Husseins. [*Zeynab's brother, 3rd Shia Imam, became a symbol of self sacrifice against tyranny.*]

"For over 50 years, both the Shah and the clerical regime tried to end this lineage. But how can they succeed?

"I am reminded of a quote by the late Grand Ayatollah Montazeri who wrote to Khomeini in a letter that 'rest assured, an idea cannot be killed through murder'. You have killed so many, you have beaten so many, you have destroyed so many.

"[*Reciting a song by the Ashrafis*]: 'You fired bullets, wielded axes, and targeted defenceless bodies', when you got nothing out of all this, you fired 80 missiles thinking that you can destroy

it all. But be sure that just a few short months from now Camp Liberty will become even more beautiful, better and more gorgeous than it has ever been. This will be so as long as there are people who care for their people, and as long as they are people who say 'seek freedom from cradle to grave'. They remove the word 'knowledge' [*from the original Persian expression*] and replace it with 'freedom', because knowledge without freedom is not knowledge.

"At a university that there are many so-called professors and scientists, they pay no attention to the disgraceful and depressing state of society, no word is said about theft and corruption, only silence. Yes, in this society, we must once again cry out: 'Seek freedom from cradle to grave'. Because without freedom in society, there can only be what you are witnessing now: theft, corruption, and prostitution.

"And, Imam Hussein and Zeynab dedicated everything they had for freedom, and declared that they will never surrender."

Senator Tillis slams US administration over Camp Liberty

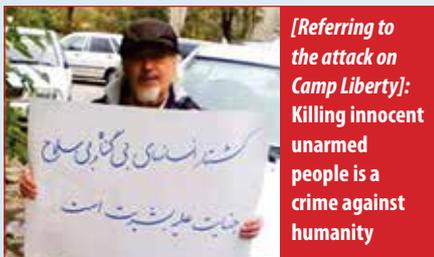
On 10 December 2015, Senator Thom Tillis took to the US Senate floor to criticize the Obama Administration's lack of support for Camp Liberty. He said:

"The men, women and children at Camp Liberty have suffered numerous attacks resulting in hundreds of casualties. Camp Liberty, which was supposed to be a temporary home before the refugees were resettled outside Iraq, has not received the most basic humanitarian needs. They lack clean water, decent food, medical supplies and decent living facilities.

"The Obama Administration pledged to protect these refugees who put their lives and their children's lives on the line for freedom, yet it has done absolutely nothing to keep America's word."



Thom Tillis took to the US Senate floor to criticize the Obama Administration's lack of support for Camp Liberty. He said:



[Referring to the attack on Camp Liberty]: Killing innocent unarmed people is a crime against humanity





UNHCR issues update on situation of Camp Liberty Residents



The United Nations Refugee Agency on Monday, 14 December 2015, published an updated statement on the situation of the residents of Camp Liberty.

The refugees in Camp Liberty have come under repeated deadly rocket attacks by agents of the Iranian regime in recent years, most recently on October 29. At the behest of the mullahs' regime in Iran, the Iraqi governmental committee tasked with suppressing the Camp Liberty residents led by National Security Advisor Faleh Fayyad has imposed a logistical and medical siege against the residents.

The following is the full text of the updated statement published on the website of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees:

Update No. 13

Update on the implementation of solutions for residents of Hurriya [Liberty] Temporary Transit Location (TTL)

► 2015 has seen the largest number of relocations out of Iraq in a calendar year since the international community and the Government of Iraq began efforts to find relocation opportunities for residents of the Hurriya Temporary Transit Location (TTL) in 2011.

► By the end of 2015, more than 1,100 residents will have been relocated to a situation of safety in third countries. This represents more than a third of the residents registered by UNHCR. By the beginning of 2016, it is expected that fewer than 1,970 residents will remain in the TTL.

► The situation with relocations is at its most buoyant since efforts began. Almost half of all relocations have taken place in the latter half of 2015. These outcomes have been achieved with the cooperation and flexibility of the

residents who have proceeded with the relocation process despite difficult circumstances, including rocket attacks on 29 October 2015 which resulted in the deaths of 24 residents and injuries to dozens of others.

► UNHCR strongly condemned the rocket attacks; the High Commissioner for Refugees, António Guterres, stating: "This is a most deplorable act, and I am greatly concerned at the harm that has been inflicted on those living at Camp Liberty. Every effort must continue to be made for the injured and to identify and bring to account those responsible."

► UNHCR deeply appreciates the measures taken by some countries to relocate residents to situations of safety and security. Albania's exceptional contribution to this humanitarian endeavour merits special note. Albania has received more than three-quarters of the residents who have been relocated. Its efforts have contributed greatly to international efforts to find solutions for this group of people.

► Central to the recent success is the residents' commitment to meeting the bulk of costs associated with relocations to Albania. This commitment to meet travel costs and living expenses is crucial to the ongoing implementation of solutions for the group.

► UNHCR urgently renews its calls upon states to find ways to offer long

term solutions for the residents who remain at the Hurriya TTL. This appeal for help should be read in light of the potential for more attacks on the Hurriya TTL. As well as the attack of October 2015, the residents have been subjected to several rocket attacks, both in the Hurriya TTL and in Camp New Iraq (the former Camp Ashraf), which also resulted in deaths and injuries. These attacks, coupled with the current conflict in Iraq, leave residents of the Hurriya TTL open to significantly heightened security risks. This emphasizes the need for quick and pragmatic action on the part of States to ensure that these people are relocated to a situation of safety and security.

► UNHCR continues to call upon the Government of Iraq to take all possible measures to ensure the safety and well-being of residents, including ensuring access to life saving medical treatment and assistance with the provision of goods and services to enable the residents to make arrangements for their own protection.

► UNHCR also recalls the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Iraq and the United Nations explicitly recognizes that residents benefit from the principle of non-refoulement.

*UNHCR, Geneva,
14 December 2015*

