



THE HILL

With or without a deal, the US must uphold commitments to Iranian dissidents

In an article published in The Hill, US Congress Blog, on 31st July, three high ranking officers who had served at Camp Ashraf during their terms of service in Iraq, called on the US government not to forgo its written commitments towards the residents of Camp Liberty in the wake of the nuclear deal with Iran. Ashraf people were forced to go to Camp Liberty under pressure, which they accepted after the UN and the US Administration gave them written assurances for their safety and security. In their article, US Colonels Wesley Martin, Leo McCloskey and Thomas Cantwell emphasised:

“The [US] administration has been widely criticized for failing to negotiate the release of American hostages held by the regime, including an American pastor, a former Marine and a journalist. The administration has claimed that this

demand was a separate issue from the nuclear deal. Still, when it came to Iranian demands, it agreed to lift conventional weapons embargo and sanctions on Tehran’s missile program, which was also a non-nuclear issue.

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Editorial

Following the Iran nuclear deal, a number of European officials have begun making the trek to Tehran in the hope of re-establishing economic contracts with the regime. But these officials are failing to pay attention to a dramatic deterioration in the human rights situation and the rapid rise in the rate of executions in Iran.

Immediately after the nuclear deal the clerical regime embarked on a new wave of executions, including several cases of group hangings.

Ms Federica Mogherini, the European Union’s foreign policy chief, who visited Tehran on July 28 to discuss “bilateral issues” and trade opportunities, was noticeably silent on the mullahs’ egregious human rights conduct.

In the nine months that Federica Mogherini has taken office, some 1,000 prisoners have been executed in Iran, women have faced the most severe pressures, and religious and ethnic minorities have faced

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Great News: Camp Liberty Update

In the beginning of the last week of the holy month of Ramadan a total logistics blockade prevented all items, including food and fuel, from being delivered to Camp Liberty. Of no coincidence, this blockade commenced on the same day western powers and the Iranian government announced that a nuclear weapons agreement had been achieved.

The full blockade was lifted on Saturday 18 July (day after the Eid al-Fitr which marks the end of one month of fasting) and critical supplies entered the camp (albeit fresh food stuffs were rotten and useless). “To the residents this must have seemed like the first

delivery of the Berlin Airlift almost seventy years ago”, said Colonel Wesley Martin to the campaigners around the globe. “Special thanks to our friends in America and Great Britain for their direct engagement of the State Department and the Foreign Ministry. Also, thank you to the numerous friends who engaged the media and exercised other communication forums to bring pressure on the Iraqi government. Without the involvement of the **Defenders of Liberty**, there is no doubt this blockade would be continuing”, he emphasised.





US MUST UPHOLD COMMITMENTS TO IRANIAN DISSIDENTS

With or without deal, US must uphold commitments to Iranian dissidents *continued from p.1*

“Now, it has been revealed that the administration is also staying quiet as the Iranian regime has increased pressure on dissidents taking refuge in neighbouring Iraq. For months now, nearly 2,500 Iranian political refugees residing in Camp Liberty, Iraq, have been subjected to frequent blockades by the Iraqi government and deprived of the most vital life-support needs.

“The United States has a moral and legal obligation to protect the residents. Those promises have been broken multiple times, with well over one hundred innocent lives lost as a result. The Secretary of State should take immediate action to press the Iraqi government to end its inhumane siege of Camp Liberty, undertaken at the behest of the Iranian regime.

“The inhumane blockade on fuel, food and other critical humanitarian needs has had a dire impact on the lives of thousands of defenseless Iranian refugees, whom the U.S. government committed itself in writing to protect.

“The MEK was the first to expose the existence of the Iranian regime’s secret nuclear infrastructure in Natanz and Arak in August 2002, which explains Tehran’s hostility.

“Now, the recent nuclear deal has emboldened the Iranian



regime to move more quickly and decisively to annihilate its opponents both inside Iran and also exiled in neighboring Iraq.

“The U.S. has a special moral and legal obligation to the residents to protect their lives. The Secretary of State should intervene to press the Iraqi government to ensure that the residents are properly protected and that they are not subjected to similar blockades in the future. Otherwise, Tehran’s tentacles will dominate Iraqi politics and beyond at a time it stands to benefit from the lifting of sanctions.”

Wes Martin was senior Antiterrorism/Force Protection officer for all Coalition Forces Iraq. Leo McCloskey was commander of the Joint Interagency Task Force (JIATF) at Camp Ashraf and Thomas Cantwell was battalion commander during several tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. All three served as commandants of Camp Ashraf between 2003 and 2009.

Protest in Brussels against EU’s silence on human rights abuses in Iran

The Association of Iranian Refugees in Belgium initiated a protest with approximately 100 people from Brussels’ Iranian community gathering at Schuman roundabout facing



the headquarters of the Council of the European Union on Thursday 23 July, to criticise the silence of European authorities in view of human rights violations in Iran.

Protesters decried the fact that human rights violations have been ignored since the beginning of negotiations on



nuclear power with Iran 2 years ago. An agreement having been signed on July 14th, they say the European Union cannot justify its silence any more.

Over 1,800 people have been hanged since Hassan Rouhani became president on August 4th, 2013.

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extensive repression and discrimination; however, Ms Mogherini has refrained from uttering even a single verbal condemnation of these daily atrocities. This is disgraceful for the EU whose very foundation is based on countering fascism and supporting democracy and human rights.

In Iran Ms Mogherini met with

those responsible for 120,000 political executions, including the massacre of 30,000 prisoners in the summer of 1988, the same people who also bear chief responsibility for the export of terrorism and fundamentalism to the entire Middle East and beyond.

Before her arrival in Tehran, the regime hanged a group of 11 prisoners in Karaj on Monday. Yet in her op-ed

on Tuesday, 28 July in *The Guardian’s Comment is Free*, Ms Mogherini failed to even remotely refer to a need for Tehran to improve its human rights record.

Other senior European officials who have already gone, or plan to go, to Tehran following the nuclear accord have been equally silent on the human rights violations in Iran. **This silence must be stopped. Fully stopped.**



Fear stalks the republic of death

Iran may be losing its pariah status, but the regime's human rights abuses continue – and recent months have seen an unprecedented spike in the number of its citizens being put to death – Hess Staufenberg reported in *The Independent*, 24 July. Following are excerpts from the report:

Amid an “unprecedented spike” in the number of Iranians put to death, Tehran faces renewed calls to address human rights abuses as the West lifts sanctions in return for a commitment not to build a nuclear bomb.

Second only to China as the nation

that kills the largest number of its citizens, Iran is said to have executed almost 700 people so far this year.

That equates to around three prisoners a day. Rights groups predict Iran will execute more than 1,000 prisoners by the end of this year. Thousands more wait on death row in what campaigners have called a “theatre of cruelty”.

“Iran’s staggering execution toll for the first half of this year paints a sinister picture of the machinery of state carrying out premeditated, judicially sanctioned killings on a mass scale,” said Said Boumedouha, deputy director of



Amnesty's Middle East programme.

Yet Mohammad Javad Zarif, the Iranian Foreign Minister who built a warm rapport with US Secretary of State John Kerry during nuclear negotiations, has said he is “proud” of Iran’s judicial system.

Remembering the 1988 massacre of 30,000 political prisoners in Iran

In July 1988 Ruhollah Khomeini, the then supreme leader of Iran signed a decree that led to the massacre of 30,000 political prisoners in a matter of a few weeks. On 31 July 1988 Khomeini's then successor, Ayatollah Montazeri wrote an open letter to Khomeini complaining about mass execution of PMOI prisoners. He was deposed immediately after writing the letter.

In the weeks after Ruhollah Khomeini accepted a cease-fire in his eight-year war with Iraq, the fundamentalist ruler of the mullahs' regime ordered mass execution of all political prisoners affiliated with the main Iranian opposition group, the PMOI.

The prison massacre, described by

international human rights lawyer, Geoffrey Robertson QC, as “the greatest crime against humanity that has gone unpunished since the Second World War”, saw the execution of some 30,000 defenceless prisoners.

The Iranian regime has never acknowledged these executions, or provided any information as to how these prisoners were summarily killed. Young girls, old parents, students, workers, and many of those who had already served their prison terms were among those who vanished in the span of a few weeks. Their bodies were dumped into mass graves, including in Khavaran Cemetery near Tehran (pictured).



Khomeini had assigned commissions for carrying out this decree. The ‘Death Commissions’ consisted of three individuals; a representative of the Ministry of Intelligence, a religious judge and a prosecutor. ‘Trials’ lasted just a few minutes and resembled an interrogation session.

None of the perpetrators of the 1988 massacre and none of the regime's senior officials, including the then president Ali Khamenei, have been brought to justice... yet!

THE HILL

Iran continues policy of death after nuclear deal [31 July]

By Hamid Yazdan Panah

By adopting a ‘policy of death’, Iran continues to escalate the rate of executions and mass repression while the international community remains hardened in its silence.

Just weeks after signing the “historic” deal and more than eight months after signing an interim agreement, Iran is in the midst of what Amnesty

International has referred to as an “unprecedented spike” in executions. Currently, Iran’s new “moderate” administration is on pace to hit a new 12 year high in executions. The regime continues to suppress this information and routinely under-reports the actual number of executions. Amnesty International has noted that while the regime officially claims that only 246 executions have taken place in 2015, this number is closer to 700 in reality.

The swiftness and scale of these killings are reminiscent of the 1988 massacre of prisoners in Iran, in which thousands of political dissidents were systematically executed in a matter

of weeks, some of whom had already completed their sentences. The majority of the prisoners executed were prisoners of conscience, and were denied any form of due process. To date, there has been no independent investigation of the massacre, but rights groups have called the massacre a crime against humanity.





Hassan Rouhani chided for religious persecution

The Washington Times, 4 August (excerpts):

Iran's president, who reached his second anniversary in office Monday, was again implored to release prisoners of conscience – including an Iranian-American pastor – and improve conditions for freedom of religion.

“Two years have passed since President [Hassan] Rouhani assumed office, and for two years he has failed on his promise to improve the climate for religious freedom, particularly for religious minority communities,”

Robert P. George, chairman of USCIRF said on Monday.

“In fact, the situation for religious minority groups – including Baha'is, Christians, and Sufi Muslims – remains dire, as it does for dissenting Shi'a and Sunni Muslims,” said Mr. George, a nationally known law professor at Princeton University.

Baha'is, in particular, are being mistreated, he said, with authorities closing their businesses and wreaking financial havoc on the persecuted minority.

However, “Christian church services continue to be raided and worshippers arrested, and dissenting Muslims continue to be imprisoned and tortured,” Mr George said. USCIRF

Monday called for the immediate release of hundreds of prisoners of conscience. These include Pastor



Saeed Abedini, an Iranian-American Christian from Idaho; Behnam Irani, an evangelical Christian leader; Ayatollah Mohammed Kazemeini Boroujerdi, a dissident Shi'a Muslim cleric; and members of the Baha'i community.

Julie Ward MEP: “Deals can't come at the price of human rights.”



The recent nuclear deal with Iran should not lead the West to ignore the appalling state of human rights in that country, Julie Ward, a Member of the European Parliament from Northwest England said in an online interview with ncr-iran.org.

In her opening statement during which Ms Ward said that “deals can't

come at the price of human rights”, she emphasized that the regime needs to be challenged on “its appalling human rights record.”

This regime is very “cynical”, “opportunistic” and “pushes against all kinds of sincere diplomatic overtures that the rest of the world makes,” she said and revealed that she is shocked at the “brutal, medieval behaviour” the regime displays.

Addressing the people of Iran, she said: “You have friends in the European Parliament ... you have many friends in Europe.”

She used as an example the June 13 rally in Paris where many parliamentarians attended to show their support and solidarity with the Iranian

people and their organised resistance movement.

Julie Ward explained that, as someone who has been elected in a democratic society, she has been given a voice and she is using that voice to speak up about the atrocities happening in Iran.

She said that many Iranian women are frightened and are subject to horrifying attacks, some involving acid being thrown in their faces.

Her closing message was to the brave women of Iran who are standing up and speaking out. She appealed to the women of Iran to see themselves in a global context, as this is in her words a “global fight” for peace and justice and the world is fighting along with them.

Remembering the brutal attack on Camp Ashraf in 2009

July 28 and 29 marked the 6th anniversary of the Nuri Maliki-led Iraqi government's massacre at Camp Ashraf which left 11 residents killed, 500 wounded, and a further 36 camp residents taken hostage for 72 days.

The unprovoked attack drew widespread condemnation from international lawmakers, human rights organizations and religious personalities.

Amnesty International, the International Federation for Human Rights, the World Organization Against Torture, and the Archbishop

of Canterbury were among those who condemned the attack and expressed concern about the situation of Camp Ashraf residents in numerous statements.

Other Camp Ashraf residents and their families and supporters around the world launched a 72-day hunger



strike that eventually forced the Iraqi government to release the 36 Camp Ashraf hostages on 7 October 2009. Iraqi courts had issued three verdicts by this time ordering the government to release the detained residents.

Since 2009, Camp Ashraf and later Camp Liberty have been under a barbaric siege, delivery of food, fuel and medicine has been hampered, and visits by family members, human rights organisations, lawyers, lawmakers and independent journalists have been barred. Despite these deprivations their spirits remain resolute.



Leaders of Muslim communities speak out in France

The solution to the crisis in the Middle East is expulsion of mullahs' regime from throughout the region



Sheikh Khalil Merroun, rector of the Grand Mosque of Evry, the largest mosque in France and President of the Committee of French Muslims in Defense of the Rights of Ashrafiis (CMFDDA).

Leaders of Muslim communities in France and dignitaries from Arab and Islamic countries attended a conference titled: 'Tolerant and Democratic Islam vs. Fanaticism and Extremism' in Paris on 3 July for the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan. They declared their support for the democratic platform of Iranian opposition. Keynote speaker Maryam Rajavi, President-elect of the Iranian Resistance, said: "So long as this regime is in power, the people of Iran and other nations in the Middle East will not experience freedom and democracy."



While stressing the separation of religion and state, as a Muslim woman and on behalf of a generation that's been defending the genuine Islam of the Prophet Mohammad for five decades against

fundamentalism and religious dictatorship, she declared: "We reject compulsory religion and any compulsion in religion. Despotism and tyranny under the name of Islam, the medieval Sharia laws, and the excommunication of opponents, whether Shiite or Sunni, are against Islam and the emancipating Tradition of the Prophet Mohammad.

"In our view, the essence of Islam is freedom, freedom from all forms of coercion, oppression and exploitation."

Other than participants, hundreds of political dignitaries and parliamentarians from various countries expressed their support for this conference by sending their video or written messages.



Maryam Rajavi's message to Christian Leaders

Mrs Maryam Rajavi, President Elect of the Iranian Opposition, posted a message on her website to leaders of Christian communities; excerpts from it follow:

Honourable faith community leaders, advocates of the path of Jesus Christ, the great messenger of peace and emancipation, I am speaking to you as an Iranian, someone from the Middle East, the land of Abrahamic prophets, where Christians, Jews and Muslims, Shiites and Sunnis have co-existed for hundreds of years with love, friendship and brotherhood. Yet today, this land is burning in the fire of extremism, a fire where Christians, Jews and Muslims, Shiites and Sunnis burn alike.

From the beginning, the Iranian regime has oppressed and harassed followers of other faiths. It has executed a number of Christian leaders and a large number of Christians for their opposition to the regime or affiliation with the opposition, like the Honorable Bishop Hosenian Mehr who was brutally murdered. It has also denied Christians their fundamental right to practise their faith.

And now, several Christians, including Saeed Abedini, have been imprisoned.

The current regime ruling Iran is the epicentre

of extremism.

I must emphasize that crimes carried out by the mullahs, their affiliated militia and other terrorist groups like ISIS under the banner of Islam have nothing to do with Islam. Islam is the religion of compassion, friendship and tolerance. As the Holy Quran says, "There is no compulsion in religion."

Islam and the Quran do not discriminate



between followers of Mohammad, Jesus, Moses and others.

We struggle to achieve peace, fraternity and coexistence, which are the supreme values in Islam.

It is necessary that Christian leaders inform the public about the Iranian regime's threats and inhumane practices, and tell them about the distinction between true Islam and what fundamentalists portray as Islam.

The residents of Liberty are sacrificing every day and endure the most difficult conditions. The late Dr Martin Luther King said it once, "human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable. ... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering and struggle." And the residents of Liberty pave the way of peace, love and justice.

Today, the Middle East is facing a watershed moment. Moderate forces striving for human rights must be supported. And faith community leaders can contribute a great deal toward the establishment of a free Iran, where human rights are respected.

The Holy Bible teaches us to support and encourage the oppressed. "Learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed." (Isaiah, 1:17)

Thank you and God bless you all.



LONDON EVENT AT A GLANCE



Jessica (above): It was a very special evening. We felt so privileged to meet the friends from Ashraf/Liberty.



Peter (above): Through our support of the people of Camp Liberty, through that honour, right will prevail.

Lord Clarke (below): I am privileged to be amongst supporters of Camp Liberty



YOUR SAY

Sarah: Thank you for the lovely Persian dinner last night.

David and I so enjoyed seeing you all again – even if a rather wet evening! It was such a moving experience to hear the stories of all eight people from the camps. It is incredibly inspiring to see the power of the human spirit and I hope my donation (though small) will help more to support these heroes whom we are honoured to know and witness.

Susan: Thank you for another interesting evening with delightful company and delicious food; of course it is wonderful to see you all again and again and to meet the brave Ashrafi recently arrived; such a privilege.

Philip: I want to say a big ‘Thank You’ to you and all your colleagues for an excellent event last night. It was, as always, both enjoyable and informative. It was great to see everyone again.



Fiona & Andrew: We were, as always, humbled by the accounts of your sacrifices and the quiet dignity with which you shared your stories.

Susan: It was wonderful to meet so many Ashrafi – still dedicated and still positive after so many years. I had heard a little about the transformation that has been made at Camp Liberty so it was a treat to meet a few of the people who have made that happen. My best wishes to all of you who are

working hard to get the remaining people out of Camp Liberty – it’s a frustratingly slow process but you will get there in the end.

Ruth: Thank you for the opportunity to meet the 15 Ashrafi.

I was moved by their testimonies. Each one played their part in the vital struggle for freedom, democracy and human rights for Iran and the Region, and also for the rest of the World.

Patricia: Thank you all so very much for your hospitality at the gathering last Friday and the opportunity to meet and hear from those of you who had come from Camp Liberty. It was very humbling to hear of the great suffering of you all, and for us to be thanked by you!

Graham: I was so pleased to meet the new arrivals from Liberty – what a thoroughly decent bunch of chaps!



• I R A N N E W S I N B R I E F •

50 arrested at a party in Iran

Some 50 young men and women have been arrested by the Iranian regime's suppressive security forces in the city of Dezful, south-west Iran, for attending a mixed-gender party.

The young men and women were celebrating late on Sunday 19 July in a garden in the suburbs of Dezful when they were rounded up by the regime's suppressive forces. 26 women and 24 men, aged between 20 and 25 were arrested.

"These people went to a garden in Dezful's Shams-Abad district and began to celebrate in a mixed-gender and inappropriate fashion and the level of noise they made from having fun was to such an extent that the police were alerted," the state-run Fars news agency reported.



Iran about to gouge out yet another eye

Mailonline 6 August: A man has been sentenced to have his eyes gouged out in Iran after damaging the sight of a man during a street fight, it has been reported.



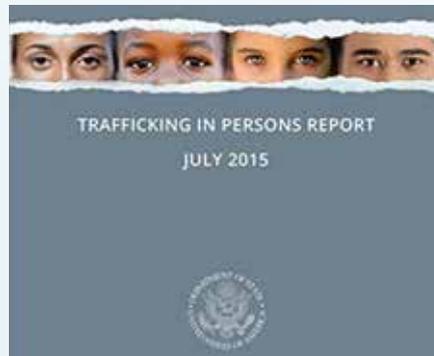
The horrifying 'eye for an eye' sentence was handed down to a 27-year-old man, referred to only by his first name, Hamed.

It is punishment for unintentionally injuring a man's eye during a brawl in March 2011, when he was just 23 years old.

US: Iran officials involved in the human trafficking of women

Officials of the regime in Iran are involved in the "sex trafficking of women and girls", the U.S. State Department said in an annual report on human trafficking released 26 July.

"Iran is a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children subjected to sex trafficking and forced labour," the State Department said in its annual 'Trafficking in Persons Report 2015.'



Teachers protest despite threats

Iranian teachers on Wednesday 22 July protested outside the Iranian regime's Majlis (Parliament) to demand their rights and the release of their detained colleagues.

The rally took place despite heightened repression in Tehran. The rally had been called by the Central Council of Teachers in response to the arrest of a number of teachers.

Many teachers had travelled from other cities to join the rally.

The regime's suppressive forces arrested some 100 people at the rally. To prevent them taking photos, people who pulled mobile phones from their pockets were immediately arrested.



Iranians in Canada supported Teachers' protests

Iranians living in Canada demonstrated in front of the Global Education Congress to protest abuses against teachers in Iran.

In particular, they highlighted the case of Esmail Abdi, the Iranian Teachers Union leader who was supposed to attend the conference but was arrested in Tehran for no valid reason.



Protests against acid attacks on women in Iran

Residents of Bukan, north-western Iran, took to the streets on Saturday 18 July to protest against acid attacks on four Iranian Kurdish women. Protestors demanded prosecution of those responsible for the acid attacks.



The rally took place despite the regime's attempt to prevent any protests.

On Tuesday 14 July two women and two young girls were victims of acid attacks in the city of Bukan.

One of the victims, Susan Ismaeel Nezhad, a 24-year old college student, had been threatened previously by regime agents for her brother's activism outside Iran. Two girls attacked in another incident were sisters in a well-known dissident family. The wife of a Kurdish artist was the other victim of the savage attacks.



CAMP LIBERTY DAILY REPORTS Excerpts from Camp Liberty's daily reports to the UN in Iraq

July 19 (2015)

Today the army intelligence forces, under the order of the suppressive committee, again prevented delivery of the purchased (non-food) items of the residents. These items arrived at the camp yesterday after 5 days of keeping the trucks outside the camp for no reason. Upon arrival the items were kept in a container at the checkpoint of the camp. In the scorching heat the residents went to the checkpoint to get at least some of the 10 air coolers in the cargo but Iraqi forces refused to deliver any of them.

July 21

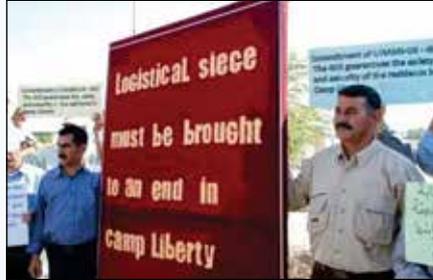
1. Today the ambulance carrying patients for medical appointments again left the camp after a long delay. Due to this delay three of the patients, Abbas Khatibi, Saeed Sadrieh and Ashraf Farshid missed their medical appointments.

2. Today the army intelligence forces prevented the contracted septic tankers from continuing their work after 4pm although the agreement was that they could work until 6pm. As a result some of the septic tanks were not discharged.

3. Today again residents went to the checkpoint to receive their items, and especially the air coolers, but the army intelligence forces refused to deliver them.

July 26

1. Today again residents referred to the checkpoint of the camp to receive the purchased items which are kept in a container at the checkpoint by army intelligence forces, but the guards, under the order of suppressive committee, refused to deliver the items. These items have been kept in the container at the checkpoint for some time. Keeping coolers away



from the residents in the hottest days of Baghdad is an inhumane measure to harass the residents.

2. Today also the army intelligence forces prevented entry of stationery items purchased by the residents and they kept the items in the container at the checkpoint of the camp.

A number of residents gathered to protest the inhumane siege and prison-like conditions of the camp. They also asked the UNHCR to call Camp Liberty a refugee camp.

July 28

Due to international pressure, after 10 days of preventing entry of the purchased items, the residents were given the air coolers and some other items. But still entry of many items which have been kept in a container at the checkpoint of the camp since May was prevented. The banned items are needed for maintaining the camp's infrastructure including silicon paste, insecticide sprays, water pump, water hose, welding rods, adaptors, battery for generator, electric parts, vehicle parts, and parts for repairing refrigerators and air conditioners. Preventing these items is a clear breach of the terms of MoU (Memorandum of Understanding that was signed by the Government of Iraq prior to relocation from Ashraf to Liberty).

July 30

1. Today again on the order of suppressive committee, entry of most of the purchased items was prevented and the truck driver was forced to return them. Iraqi forces also forced the driver (by threatening and confiscating his documents) to return the items that were previously purchased by the residents and were being kept in the container at the check point for over a month.

This is part of the 4 year siege and a clear breach of international humanitarian and human rights standards and violation of the terms of the MoU.

August 3

1. Today the Iraqi forces at gate 4 of the airport, prevented entry of the medicines destined for Camp Liberty. The control room of the airport emphasised that Sadeq Mohammad Kazem (of the suppressive committee at Camp Liberty) prevented entry of the medicines and so long as he does not permit it, the medicines will not be delivered to camp residents.

2. Today again a number of residents gathered to protest against the inhumane siege and prison like conditions of the camp.

According to the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention: "The situation of the residents of Camp Liberty is tantamount to that of detainees or prisoners". The Working Group emphasises that there is no justification for such detention and in no way does it conform to the standards and principles of international human rights law.

August 4

1. Today again the forces at the checkpoint of the camp prevented entry of all the materials purchased by the residents for maintenance of water systems and forced the driver to return them.

2. Today is the 142nd day since Mr Zakery's tanker has been confiscated by Gol without any legal reason.

3. Today is also day 703 since seven residents were taken hostage in Ashraf by Iraqi forces, and Gol refrains from releasing them. Also, the Iraqi government is not disclosing where they have secretly buried the 52 martyrs of 1 September 2013 Ashraf massacre. The families of the martyrs have continuously been asking to go to the burial site of their loved ones.

Nevertheless, the struggle for freedom and liberty will persevere without hesitation!