



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Friends of a Free Iran Intergroup (FOFI)

Members of European Parliament express concern about Iranian regime's ploys to displace Camp Ashraf residents within Iraq

Brussels
November 2009



Message of Vice President

As a political institution representing the European people, the European Parliament has closely followed developments pertaining to the Iranian people and their resistance for the achievement of democracy and human rights. In particular, a great number of members from various political parties have paid special attention to the coalition of democratic opposition forces, the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), and the resistance's pivotal force, the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI). These members have repeatedly declared their support for the NCRI and its aims and political program.

Over the past several years, MEPs have also kept a close eye on the situation of 3,400 PMOI members residing in Camp Ashraf in Iraq and the threats posed against them by the Iranian regime. Several delegations from the European Parliament have visited this camp on a number of occasions between 2004 and 2008.

A European Parliament resolution passed on April 24, 2009, called on the Iraqi government to respect the rights of Ashraf residents in accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention, to lift the unjust siege placed on the camp since the beginning of 2009, and to refrain from forcibly expelling or displacing the residents inside or outside Iraq.

The July 28 and 29 attacks by Iraqi armed forces on Camp Ashraf were a painful reminder of the validity of the European Parliament's justified concerns about the fate of Ashraf residents.

The attack on the camp's defenseless and unarmed residents left 11 dead, more than 500 injured, and 36 taken hostage.

The attack was carried out at the behest of the clerical rulers in Iran, who had planned it months ahead. On February 28, the clerical regime's supreme leader, Ali Khamenei, unveiled a bilateral agreement between the regime and the government of Iraq to destroy Ashraf.

The attack on Ashraf was part of Khamenei's broader efforts to overcome and control the Iranian people's uprising and mass demonstrations against the entire ruling theocracy and in support of the establishment of democracy. These demonstrations, which started in June, have caused a political earthquake in Iran.

The protests and their persistence have clearly exposed the deep unrest of the Iranian society as well

as the profound instability gripping the regime. As soon as the nationwide uprisings in Iran began to rattle the very foundations of the clerical regime, Khamenei attempted to devastate Ashraf as a precondition to suppressing the uprising.

On October 7, as a result of an international campaign in condemnation of this crime against humanity, and thanks to the steadfastness of Ashraf residents and the 36 hostages who maintained a 72-day hunger strike the last seven days of which they went without water, the hostages were finally released and returned to Ashraf, just several hours away from imminent death.

But many concerns still remain about the fate of the camp's residents. Having failed to implement its plots successfully against Ashraf, the clerical regime is adamantly pressing the Iraqi government to displace Ashraf residents to an insecure and dangerous region of Iraq in a bid to massacre the residents.

On November 11, 2009, during a parliamentary meeting at the European Parliament, which was attended by a large number of MEPs representing various political groups, the situation of Ashraf and the status of the Iranian people's uprising against the ruling fascist theocracy were discussed.

During the parliamentary meeting, the keynote speaker of which was Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, the President-elect of the Iranian Resistance, MEPs expressed their solidarity with the Iranian people's uprising and condemned its brutal suppression by the regime. They reaffirmed their continued support for the rights of Ashraf residents and the implementation of the April 24th European Parliament resolution while emphasizing that they will never accept the forced displacement of Ashraf residents inside Iraq.

In the hopes of preventing the occurrence of an unprecedented human catastrophe with regards to the residents of Ashraf, the MEPs stressed and warned that following the defeat of its previous plot against Ashraf, Tehran is preparing the groundwork for its ominous objective of displacing the residents in order to set the stage for their massacre. It is the duty of all democrats in Europe to oppose to such unacceptable violation of human rights.

Alejo Vidal-Quadras
Vice President
European Parliament

Members of European Parliament express concern against mullahs' ploys to displace Ashraf residents within Iraq

Euro MPs criticize governments not heeding to warnings on human catastrophe in Ashraf

In a meeting at the European Parliament on Wednesday November 11, 2009, chaired by Dr. Alejo Vidal-Quadras, Vice President of the European Parliament, and attended by dozens of Euro MPs and a large number of staff members at the European Parliament, the participants discussed the current situation in Camp Ashraf in Iraq, where 3,400 members of the Iranian opposition reside, and also the nationwide uprising in Iran against the ruling religious dictatorship.

Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, President-elect of the Iranian Resistance, was the keynote speaker. Other speakers and participants included Mrs. Eva-Britt Svensson, Chair of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality; Mr. Struan Stevenson, President of the Iraq Delegation; Mr. Stephen Hughes, First Vice President of the Socialist and Democrats Group;



From left: Astrid Lulling, Janusz Wojciechowski, Anna Rosbach, Struan Stevenson, Maryam Rajavi, Alejo Vidal-Quadras, Sari Essayah, Francisco Sosa Wagner, Mariya Nedelcheva

Mr. Vytautas Landsbergis, Former President of Lithuania; Mr. Tunne Kelam, member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs; Mr. Edward McMillan-Scott, EP Vice President; Mr. Søren Søndergaard; Mr. Jim Higgins, Member of Parliament's Bureau; Mr. Filip Kaczmarek; and Mr. Jean-Pierre Audy.

Representatives of European Member States expressed their solidarity with the Iranian people's uprising and condemned the Iranian government's brutal crackdown. They declared that they will continue with their support for the rights of Ashraf residents and the implementation of the European Parliament's April 24, 2009 resolution on Ashraf.





From left: Stephen Hughes, Filip Kaczmarek, Tunne Kelam, Alejo Vidal-Quadras, Maryam Rajavi, Struan Stevenson, Eva-Britt Svensson and Jim Higgins

Iraqi government should look to streets of Iran and realize that Iranian regime has no future

Alejo Vidal-Quadras

EP Vice President

We are very happy that the president of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, our very good friend, Mrs Maryam Rajavi is here today as our main speaker and our special and distinguished guest.

Many of us in this House share and support her vision and the political platform she represents for a future democratic Iran. I would like to convey my congratulations to the PMOI members in Ashraf and all of those across the world who took part in the 72 day campaign which led to the successful release of the 36 Ashraf residents. These 36 residents were illegally taken hostage by the Iraqi security forces during the brutal raid at the end of July.

On my trip to Camp Ashraf in October last year, I was able to experience the PMOI and Ashraf. Before leaving Iraq, I said that Ashraf is a moral reference for democracy, not only for Iran, but for the whole region and for the world in general. Today, I would like to add and to emphasize that Ashraf is a symbol of courage and moral strength and the residents there deserve all our

admiration.

In order to appease the regime in Iran, our governments place the PMOI on an EU blacklist for many years, making life extremely difficult for them. However, the PMOI did not lose hope. They continued to fight peacefully and democratically, gathering the support of over 2000 parliamentarians in Europe, until they were removed from the blacklist in January.

Their sincerity and the justice of their cause, and also their will and determination made us stand on their side. Today, the Iranian regime, through some elements in the Iraqi government is trying to forcibly displace the residents of Ashraf to remote deserts in southern Iraq, where they will be extremely vulnerable to the threats of the Iranian regime.

As a friend of a democratic and independent Iraq, I would like to remind the Iraqi government not to repeat the mistakes and bloodbath which occurred at the end of July. The world will not tolerate crimes against the defenceless and unarmed residents of Ashraf.

The Iraqi government has set up a

committee to deal with the issue of Ashraf. However, it seems that this committee is not acting independently, but rather under the influence of some external forces originating from Tehran. If the Iraqi government wants to make a good impression in Europe and in this House, it should close down this committee and treat the Ashraf residents in accordance with international humanitarian law. Furthermore the Iraqi government should implement the European Parliament resolution of 24th of April 2009. Iraq should abandon the idea of forcible displacement of the Ashraf residents within Iraq and immediately end its inhumane blockade of the camp, while recognising the rights of the residents under the 4th Geneva Convention.

The Iraqi government should look to the streets of Tehran and other cities in Iran and realize that the totalitarian Iranian regime has no future and is not worth being invested upon.

I believe that the nationwide uprising in Iran which is now entering its 6th month will never dry out. These uprisings have proven to have deep roots within Iranian society. In the recent rallies on 4th November 2009,

people were shouting openly “Down with the dictator”, “Down with Khamenei”. The Iranian people would not risk their lives in the streets in support of this or that faction within the present regime. They wholeheartedly want to topple the regime and to replace it with a secular and democratic republic.

I would like to use this opportunity to congratulate the statements made by the historic leader of the Iranian Resistance, Massoud Rajavi, on this uprising who has actively encouraged the ayatollahs to distance themselves from the rule of the so called Supreme Leader. Many leading clerics have now rejected Ali Khamenei and are joining the uprising. This is very encouraging for all of us.

I want to conclude by expressing my faith in the final victory of freedom in Iran. I believe in this victory, because history has proved as we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall that totalitarian regimes collapse because they are against the true nature of human beings.

The theocratic regime of the ayatollahs stands against everything the overall majority of Iranian people desire. Iranians want to live in a country where they can express their opinion without fear, where dissidents are not executed and tortured, where women are not humiliated but treated in equality with men, where rulers must respond to the people, where the wealth produced by the natural resources of the Iranian land are used for the wealth of the people and not for financing terrorism or for a crazy nuclear military program, where all religions are tolerated and respected and where elections are clean and fair.

Madam President you will always have the members of this Parliament at your side, fighting with you, suffering with you, hoping with you, and persisting with you, until the complete liberation of the Iranian people. Thank you, Mrs President, for your dedication and unfailing commitment to the cause of freedom in your country.

Forcible displacement of Ashraf resi unlawful and would violate interna

*Presence of Ashraf residents in Iraq is in compliance
and widely supported by Ira*

Maryam Rajavi

*President-elect of the Iranian
Resistance*

On November 4, when the people of Iran rose up once again, there were more cities rocked by widespread protests in comparison to previous uprisings in the past five months. Larger crowds took to the streets in Tehran and 20 other major cities across the nation. These people came from all sorts of social backgrounds and demographics.

They were all voicing one demand: The regime must be changed, to the extent that a large portrait of Ali Khamenei, the regime’s Supreme Leader, was pulled down by people in Tehran and stepped on.

Protesters also deplored Mr. Obama’s leniency towards the mullahs.

Moreover, they chanted, “We do not want nuclear weapons.”

They also chanted, “Peace for the world, democracy for Iran.”

This was the true voice of the Iranian people.

As the leader of the Iranian Resistance declared on November 4, “All these developments reflected a nationwide determination for the overthrow of the despised absolutist rule of the clerics and achievement of freedom and popular sovereignty instead.”

The regime, on the other hand, has intensified its suppression of the people in Iran, its meddling in various countries of the region, and its efforts to produce nuclear weapons.

The mullahs have a clear road map. In accordance with instructions

handed down by Khamenei himself, they have exploited nuclear talks as a means for gradual progress towards manufacturing nuclear weapons. Simultaneous with the talks, all three aspects of the nuclear weapons program, that is, uranium enrichment, development of missiles and building warheads, are being advanced.

The regime is currently engaged in a program called ‘P 111’ to build nuclear warheads.

Meanwhile, the regime is also trying to produce 20 percent enriched uranium on Iranian soil. To this end, it is asking to buy uranium from abroad in search of the first pretext to allow them to produce 20 percent enriched uranium as soon as a problem arises in its procurement.

The truth is that the regime needs the bomb more than ever before in order to restore its status to where it was prior to the recent uprisings. That is why the international community must exercise resolve when dealing with the regime.

As a new era begins with regards to Iran, the role of the Iranian Resistance and its solution and prospects have gained increasing prominence.

Allow me to outline the political program of the Iranian Resistance in brief:

- Our aim is to overthrow the absolutist regime of the clerics and establish a pluralistic democracy in its place;
- Our solution is the third option, which is opposed to both the policy of appeasement and also foreign military intervention and relies on democratic change by the Iranian people and their resistance. The validity of this solution has been established by the current uprising

Residents inside Iraq in violation of international regulations

Violation of international laws and regulations

in Iran;

- We have been calling for free elections in Iran and we will continue to call for free elections under the auspices of the United Nations and not the Velayat-e Faqih (or absolute rule of clerics).

Rejection of the clerical regime is the common goal of the absolute majority of the Iranian people, regardless of their political or ideological outlook or religion or ethnic affiliations.

The Iranian Resistance has proposed a plan for the creation of a national solidarity front. This front would encompass all political parties, groups and personalities that reject the clerical regime in its entirety and seek the establishment of a secular republic.

As soon as the nationwide uprising started, we even called on the regime's rival factions to reject the Velayat-e Faqih regime in its entirety and declared that we would welcome them if they were to do so.

In recent months, after Iraqi forces attacked Camp Ashraf at the behest of the Iranian regime, all Iranian groups and personalities condemned it in unison despite their divergent, and in some cases contradictory, political tendencies and positions. Such an unprecedented unity among Iranians was a clear indication of progress towards national solidarity.

As for the future:

- We seek the establishment of a secular and pluralistic republic;
- In the future Iran there will be no execution or torture;
- Women will enjoy equal rights with men in all areas including political leadership;

- We seek a nuclear-free Iran;
- We seek to live in peace and harmony with our neighbors and the rest of the world.

In parallel to the killing of protesters inside Iran, the mullahs have also been plotting to suppress Ashraf, where 3,400 members of the PMOI reside. They consider the suppression of Ashraf crucial to their efforts to contain the Iranian people's uprisings.

They plan to displace the residents of Ashraf inside Iraq in order to set the stage for a larger massacre. This plot poses a particular threat to the lives of the 1,000 women residing in Ashraf.

The forcible displacement of Ashraf residents inside Iraq, after 23 years of legal residence in that country, is unlawful and would violate International Humanitarian Law and international human rights. The presence of Ashraf residents in Ashraf, Iraq, is in compliance with international laws and is widely supported by the Iraqi people.

Ignoring our warnings over the past year about the threats posed by the mullahs' plots against Ashraf paved the way for the mullahs to carry out the July 28 massacre. I hope governments and the international community would heed our warnings this time around.

Our solution for Ashraf is very clear:

- The United Nations must formally prohibit forcible displacement of Ashraf residents within Iraq;
- The American government must provide the necessary guarantees to prevent attacks and violence against the residents of Ashraf and their forcible displacement within Iraq until the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq at the end of 2011;
- The Iraqi government must comply with the April 24 resolution of the European Parliament, end the siege



on Ashraf, recognize the rights of Ashraf residents under the Geneva Conventions and refrain from their forcible displacement within Iraq.

I rely on your help for the realization of this solution.

I should mention that Ashraf was built entirely by its residents using the financial resources of the Resistance.

From the outset in 1986, the territorial integrity of Ashraf has always been respected. This was also reaffirmed by the United Nations in the 1990s.

On this basis, Ashraf's territorial integrity must continue to be respected and protected against any attack or aggression.

Today, the Iranian regime is engulfed by the Iranian people's uprisings and is in its final stages.

We call on EU member states to adopt a firm policy in defense of the Iranian people's human rights and to prevent the regime from using its economic and diplomatic ties with the EU in order to justify suppression of the Iranian society.

My compatriots and I count on your efforts more than ever before in support of an Iranian solution to the Iranian problem.



We condemn forcible displacement of Ashraf residents inside Iraq

Eva-Britt Svensson

MEP, Sweden

Chair of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

When looking at the films, and some pictures of recent antigovernment demonstrations in Iran, we see many girls and women in the streets. The reason is because women are the most repressed under Islamic fundamentalism. So in this great uprising in Iran, women have a leading role and they deserve all our support for a democratic and secular Iran.

We have also been very disturbed by the news we hear from Iraq and from Camp Ashraf. As you know, there is one thousand women in camp Ashraf and we are extremely worried about them. Women inside Iran are motivated by the resistance, encouraged by their sisters in Ashraf.

We condemn any forcible displacement of Ashraf residents inside Iraq. The United Nations should clearly prevent more abuses by the Iraqi forces against PMOI members in Ashraf, in particular women. The European Parliament resolution on April 24, 2009, on Ashraf, must be respected by the Iraqi government. If Iraq wants to be regarded as an independent and democratic country, it should stop these pressures on Ashraf and treat them humanly.



People of Iran will secure democracy and choose who to govern them

Søren Søndergaard

MEP, Denmark

I would like to express my admiration for the brave people of Iran. What we are now seeing in Iran is that, you can suppress the people, you can violate the rights of the people, but in the end the people will rise up against oppression.

The people of Iran will secure democracy and the right to choose those who govern them.

I send my greetings to residents of Ashraf. For many years the Iranian opposition have informed us of the threats posed to the Camp Ashraf residents, threats which many people underestimated. Unfortunately, we saw that the Iranian opposition was correct and these threats were real. The Camp Ashraf residents were violently attacked and they have been deprived of their basic rights.

It was therefore critical to bring about a campaign to save the lives of these Iranians who were in grave danger. This was a battle not only for the 36 detained Camp Ashraf residents, but an entire nation's resistance against tyranny in Iran. There was now a direct threat against the entire idea of resistance. It was critical that we succeeded in this campaign and the release of the 36 detainees was a success for resistance as a whole.

However, the struggle for the rights of the Camp Ashraf residents remains. The Iraqi authorities have maintained a blockade on Camp Ashraf denying entry to the camp of



I wish for Iran and Iranian people freedom and peace

Filip Kaczmarek

MEP, Poland

Today two nations celebrate their independence day. One is Angola and the second is Poland.

I am from Poland and I think that it's a quite symbolic day for discussion on Iran and the Iranian situation. Iran is an independent state, but independence is not everything. Angola 27 years after gaining independence had a civil war. So it was independence but there was no peace in this country.

In my country in Poland, we were independent after the Second World War, but there was no freedom in my country for many, many years. Much more than 23 years of your struggle to support Iranian people. So I wish for Iran and Iranian people freedom and peace, because independence is not all.

fuel and doctors. Although the European Union and hundreds of politicians around the world have called for an end to this blockade and called for the residents to be treated in accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention, significant threats remain against their lives.

This campaign must continue. In Denmark at the Foreign affairs Committee we will be calling on the government to clarify what they are doing to guarantee that the rights of the Camp Ashraf residents are protected.



We must make sure Ashraf residents are not displaced

Jim Higgins

MEP, Ireland
Member of Parliament's Bureau

I want to thank you first of all Mrs President, because I think that you have encapsulated for all of us exactly what our collective feelings are. It was a very, very powerful oration indeed and a very powerful demonstration of our solidarity and support for the PMOI and your ongoing campaign which I don't have any doubt, given all the internal pressure in the country itself, and given the external political pressure, which is absolutely crucial, that this joint partnership will eventually deliver what we want and that is the vision of Mrs Rajavi who is extremely welcome indeed. That is a secular, pluralistic and non-nuclear Iran. We are here today to push that particular agenda until we realize that particular dream.

We are looking for a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. We are looking for a free democracy to rid Iran of the tyrannical regime that unfortunately tramples on the rights of the people.

I am in all admiration of the fact that you have managed to keep the uprising going. Sometimes it can be easy to start an uprising, but a real test is whether or not that uprising and the momentum can be kept going.

We celebrate this week in Europe the demolition of the Berlin wall over 20 years ago. We remember that when we

had the uprising in 1956 in Hungary, the Russians moved in and suppressed it over night and that was the end of the revolution. We had the same situation in relation to Czechoslovakia led by Dubcek. This was suppressed too, and that was the end of the uprising.

What I admire about Iran, is that you have managed to keep it going, and that is crucially important.

From the point of view of the residents of Camp Ashraf, again I admire them for their solidarity and the resistance against the invasion of an area which should have been an area with absolute territorial integrity. Unfortunately that was not recognized by the troops and by the police who invaded that territorial integrity and essentially we've seen the price in terms of loss of lives, the hunger strike and etc.

I had the pleasure of speaking in the European Parliament in support of the hunger strikers on day 66, just after they had gone on dry hunger strike. We know from experience in Northern Ireland that once you go on dry hunger strike it is a totally different situation and it is a matter of days.

And I do believe that the international pressure exerted by the European Union and exerted by the United Nations was crucial in terms of making the authorities see the light and allow this people to come out of hunger strike with dignity and to release them. Because they had already defied several court orders in relation with their release. So there's no doubt that, had it not been for international pressure, those brave hunger strikers wouldn't have been in their place today, so pressure absolutely pays.

There is a December deadline in relation to their displacement, it is vital that we keep the momentum and that we keep the pressure to ensure that this displacement does not take place. Because if displacement takes place, we are talking about a Massacre, so we don't want that to happen, what we want is actually on international front to ensure that this doesn't take place.

We support Mrs Rajavi 100 percent and I have no doubt that with the internal and the external momentum and the combined efforts, that we will eventually see the realisation of your dream and that is a democratic Iran.



What is needed to be done is to get EU moving

Vytautas Landsbergis

MEP, Former President of Lithuania

Let me share one of the points about what happened and still happens in Camp Ashraf. For me it's the most extraordinary situation, not only for Iraq and Iranians in the Camp, but also for the whole western civilization, if it is allowed to happen.

There is a situation in which many are struggling for people's rights and for their simple justice by such extreme means like hunger strike to the extent of their deaths.

As we can see, part of Iraq, if not all of it yet, is falling increasingly under the influence of Tehran and is becoming a political satellite.

If the Prime Minister [of Iraq] is allowed to liquidate Camp Ashraf and push the inhabitants out of Iraq, may be to please Iranian mullahs, what other means would be left for them to be used for self defence and for the defence of human dignity everywhere? Do we have to expect 2,000 people to go on hunger strike? Surely, the only thing that could move the mountains was that. Perhaps 2,000 people have to starve themselves to death in order to change the indifference of degrading and corrupt Europe. I cannot suggest such a thing, but we should be able to predict everything, not only slaughter and massacre of people, but also the ultimate form of peaceful resistance, if people are left with no other alternative. Let us try to expose this situation in this Parliament.



Task of Resistance has global dimensions

Jean-Pierre Audy
MEP, France

Let me first say, Madam President, my great admiration for the approach that you lead, your courage, your confidence too on the goals you have chosen with your people and of course the support of men of good will.

Seeing you makes me think about Jacques Chirac's book that says "every step is a goal." Your visit today is a step towards your goal. I wanted to tell you how much your task is difficult, but I think it is a task that has global dimensions, that is to say until we have no peace and democracy in your beautiful country, we will face a series of problems of great significance.

I think you are absolutely right to reject outside interference, whether appeasement or military intervention. We have seen it in other situations. It is the people of Iran who are facing this suffering, this ordeal and therefore the solution, the energy must lie among the people.

I would like to compliment the members of your nation that are informing us, and say they are men of very high quality who allowed me to attend this meeting. I also wanted to show them my gratitude.

We can be optimistic that Iranian dictatorship will not last long

Tunne Kelam
MEP, Estonia
Member of Committee on Foreign Affairs

I am pleased to see so many new members of the European parliament in attendance at this meeting of support and solidarity with the Iranian opposition. You may also ask yourself a question: why a Member of Parliament from the north-eastern part of Europe should be interested in the fate of these people? The answer is very simple, because solidarity cannot be divided. We share the same values, the same commitment towards those who oppose dictatorship and suppression of human rights.

I feel privileged to have been one of the last people with Alejo Vidal-Quadras and two other colleagues to visit Camp Ashraf. It was a unique and positive experience of people who are dedicated, who are not armed and who are not terrorised by any leadership. I read today's International Herald Tribune article which I would describe, to put it mildly, misleading. The people, the parliamentarians who have visited Ashraf must be blind and deaf. We do not think we are.

We returned from Camp Ashraf with the most positive impressions. The issue is that Camp Ashraf is not an isolated issue; it is not just a refugee camp among many others. The people of Ashraf and the Iranian opposition are the same people who informed the international community of Iran's secret nuclear weapons program many years ago.

Therefore, attacks against the PMOI are, in a way, recognition of their importance and their role in trying to introduce democracy to Iran. It is recognition of their potential and it is of course internationally a moral issue we must support. I am very happy that the European Parliament at the end of April was able to pass a special resolution on the issue of protection for the Camp Ashraf residents.

However, at the onset of summer this year the world saw what the PMOI has



told us throughout the years and that is that the people of Iran are strongly against the current Iranian dictatorship. Although Western governments have been at least morally supporting the protesters in Iran, at the same time they have hypocritically tried to turn a blind eye to what is happening to Ashraf and its inhabitants. Such an approach will have disastrous results.

We are now facing a critical situation. In today's article, the Iraqi government and Iraq's Prime Minister are quoted as saying that "the government wants to throw this group out of Iraq. It's our goal to get them out of the country. We have enough to worry about without them." So the message is very clear. We must stick to our demands and insist that those Iraqi authorities who are interested in good relations and economic development should make it a test case that they are ready to honour their commitments to the rule of law and the rights of citizens and minorities.

I think referring to the fall of the Berlin wall is a good omen. 20 years ago nobody expected that the Berlin Wall would be taken down and freedom established for central and eastern Europe, but it happened. Therefore, we can be optimistic that the Iranian dictatorship will not last. A further good omen is that against all the odds 36 persons imprisoned and on hunger strike were saved at the last moment. The fact that we are making every effort in this regard is being felt by our governments. If we all continue with our efforts we will all be able to share the success of a free and democratic Iran.



All of our voices will be heard and all of our voices will make a difference

Struan Stevenson

MEP, UK

President of Delegation for relations with Iraq

The people of Iran are well aware of the risk to their lives when they take to the streets to protest and to demand their basic rights. Their demands are not for the election of Mousavi, an issue which has long disappeared. They are demanding freedom. They are demanding democracy. They are demanding human rights. They are demanding respect for women's rights. They are demanding all of the things that Mrs Rajavi, the National Council of Resistance of Iran and the PMOI have stood for, for decades.

We here in the European Parliament, pride ourselves at being at the heart of democracy in Europe. We pride ourselves in supporting these freedoms, freedoms such as human rights, women's rights, an end to the death penalty and a ban on nuclear weapons. We pride ourselves in pushing forward this agenda.

Where we see daily the Iranian regime's race towards procuring nuclear warheads, we see this only as a result of intelligence provided to us by the PMOI. It was the PMOI that brought to the world's attention Iran's clandestine nuclear weapons program. The western intelligence agencies had failed to discover this and the PMOI members still risk their lives on a day to day basis to bring us updated intelligence. However, instead of embracing the opposition, we

put them on the EU terror list.

However with massive support from the forces of good on our side we prevailed and we now have some justice in Europe with the removal of the PMOI from the EU terror list, but we must still bring about the removal of the PMOI from the terror list in the US.

While the people of Iran, the young people take to the streets and show no fear, our governments tremble in fear when they deal with the mullahs' regime. They fear losing their lucrative contracts. They fear losing commercial interests and they fear upsetting a government run by oppressive dictators.

We follow the road of appeasement, a road that we have been down before. We went down that road in the 1930s when we confronted a similar brutal regime in Hitler's Germany.

The attack on Camp Ashraf in July involved armoured vehicles running down innocent unarmed civilians, who were then beaten to the ground while others were shot down. This occurred after months of warnings in this parliament and by supporters of the NCRI.

However, did the European Commission take action? No. Did Javier Solana take action? Did Ms Ferrero Walden take action? Did the UN step in? No! We were ignored. Eleven people lost their lives! 500 people were injured and 36 held hostage illegally in defiance of the justice system in Iraq itself.

The threat now is that Camp Ashraf will be forcibly closed down and the 3400 people who live there forcibly displaced to a desert area in southern Iraq. If this occurs there will be a massacre. If 11 people were killed when Iraqi authorities forcibly moved into Camp Ashraf against civilian refugee population, there will be a massacre if all 3400 people are forcibly moved and we will have the responsibility of blood on our hands. Is that what Europe wants? Why will the commission not take action? Why is the Red Cross not shouting from the rooftops that these people must be protected? What harm have they done? The Camp Ashraf residents have lived there for 23 years. They are unarmed and they are a threat to no one.

Surely, collectively, all of our voices will be heard and all of our voices will make a difference. Mrs Rajavi you have our pledge of support as you have always had.



What has happened to Ashraf is crime against humanity

Stephen Hughes

MEP, UK

First Vice President of the Socialist and Democrats Group

I feel privileged to share this platform with Madam Rajavi. I believe that the attack against Camp Ashraf and the threats that remain towards the residents of Ashraf are undoubtedly crimes against humanity.

Some European governments have taken direct action, while others have spoken out, however too many have remained silent at the crimes committed. Too many governments have attempted quiet diplomacy behind the scenes, while too many have pretended that there is not even an issue. The US government has been even more deafening in terms of its silence.

The Camp Ashraf residents have many friends in this parliament. From across the political spectrum we will continue to work together to guarantee that we do all in our power to focus the world's attention on the injustices that you continue to face.

I think that the time has come for us to make a considered call upon the United Nations to take direct action in parts of the world where these sorts of crimes are committed. These crimes should not have been allowed to go on.

I am proud to be associated with the PMOI and my colleagues alongside me today. I vow to continue to work with them.

