

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 3, 2011

His Excellency Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General
United Nations
760 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017

Dear Secretary General,

We write to you to ask for your attention to the plight of the people in Camp Ashraf, Iraq. As you are aware, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) received a significant number of individual requests for the determination of refugee status from residents of Camp Ashraf in Iraq, where 3400 members of the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI/MEK) reside.

As required by international law, the residents of Camp Ashraf should benefit from basic protections for their security and well-being, including protection against any expulsion or placement in areas where their lives would be threatened. Instead, charged with their protection, the Government of Iraq has subjected Camp Ashraf to deadly incursions and repeated incidents of harassment. Therefore, we are deeply concerned that a lack of immediate action by the United Nations could lead to another tragedy on a larger scale. The Government of Iraq has set an arbitrary deadline of December 2011 for the closure of Camp Ashraf. However, UNHCR has stated that this is insufficient to properly process refugee status requests. The Government of Iraq must immediately lift the deadline.

Accordingly, we urge you to intervene and instruct the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights working in conjunction with United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq to station a fulltime monitoring team in Camp Ashraf. This will create the safe, accountable, and orderly environment where all claims can be fully processed and all refugees can be resettled in third countries where they are safe. Your continued vigilance and supervision of Camp Ashraf is vitally necessary to avoid more bloodshed and carry out the mission. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,




Edolphus "Ed" Towns
Member of Congress



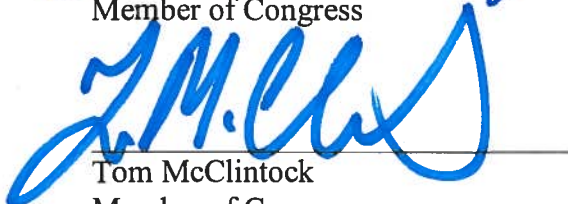
Ted Poe
Member of Congress

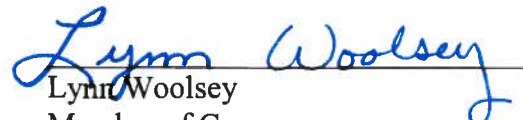

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



John Lewis
Member of Congress

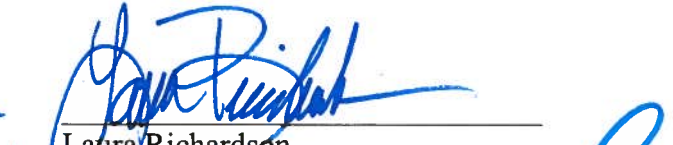

Dan Lungren
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Bob Filner
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Tom McClintock
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Lynn Woolsey
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Eni F. H. Faleomavaega
Member of Congress


Laura Richardson
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James P. McGovern
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Lynn A. Westmoreland
Member of Congress


Brad Sherman
Member of Congress


Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress

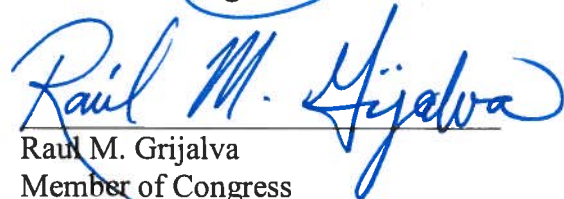

Pedro R. Pierluisi
Member of Congress

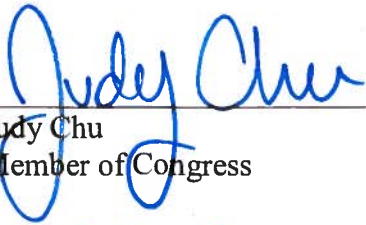

Michael E. Capuano
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Bobby L. Rush
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Emanuel Cleaver
Member of Congress


Gene Green
Member of Congress


Raul M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Dana Rohrabacher
Member of Congress



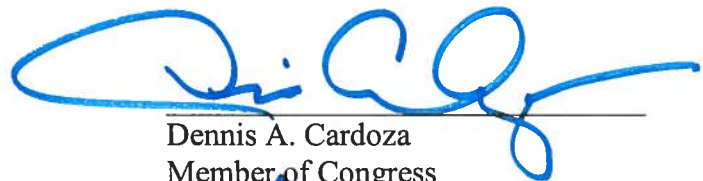
Edward R. Royce
Member of Congress



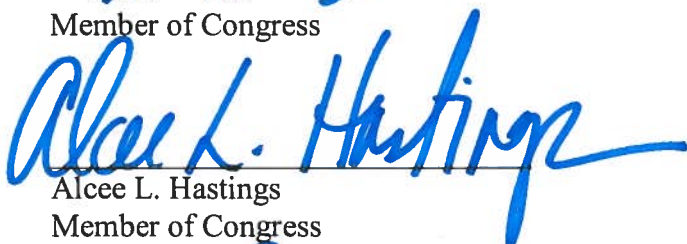
Mike Coffman
Member of Congress



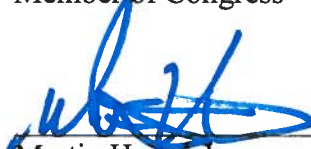
Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress



Dennis A. Cardoza
Member of Congress



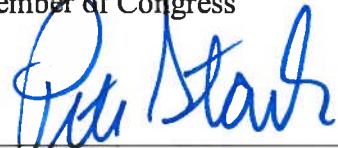
Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



Martin Heinrich
Member of Congress



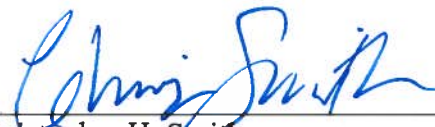
Loretta Sanchez
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Fortney "Pete" Stark
Member of Congress



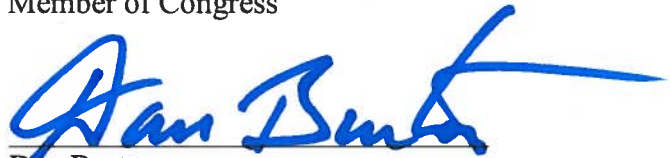
Austin Scott
Member of Congress



Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress



Barney Frank
Member of Congress



Dan Burton
Member of Congress



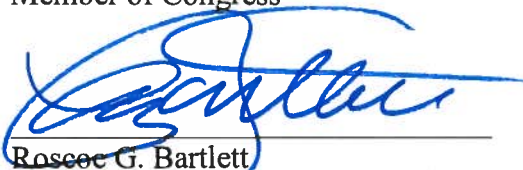
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



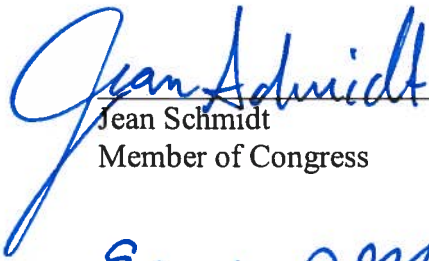
Andy Harris
Member of Congress

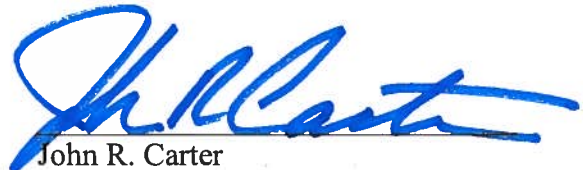


Kenny Marchant
Member of Congress

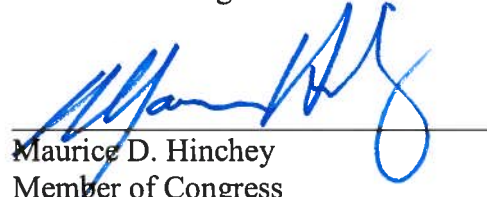


Roscoe G. Bartlett
Member of Congress


Jean Schmidt
Member of Congress


John R. Carter
Member of Congress


Edward J. Markey
Member of Congress


Maurice D. Hinchey
Member of Congress

cc:

Her Excellency Navi Pillay, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
His Excellency António Guterres, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees