

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

November 10, 2011

The Honorable Hillary Clinton  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton:

We are writing to express our concern with the Administration's proposed sale of Howitzer munitions to Iraq. Congress was notified of the sale by the Department of Defense on October 14, 2011. We do not believe that this sale should proceed until the Administration explains how it can ensure the safety of the residents of Camp Ashraf in Iraq.

The United States has pledged to secure Camp Ashraf and its population as Protected Persons under the Geneva Convention. Yet, in April of this year, unarmed civilians of Camp Ashraf were involved in an attack that resulted in the killing of approximately three dozen Ashraf residents and many more wounded.

The Government of Iraq has announced that it will close Camp Ashraf by December 2011 at which time residents of Camp Ashraf will be forcibly relocated. The December deadline does not give the United Nations High Commission on Refugees adequate time to fully process the hundreds of individual refugee requests it has received from Camp Ashraf residents. As the United States withdraws troops from Iraq, we fear that Camp Ashraf and its residents face a grave threat, despite U.S. assurances of protection.

On November 2, 2011, the House Foreign Affairs Committee unanimously adopted an amendment to H.R. 1905, the Iran Threat Reduction Act of 2011, calling on the U.S. Government "to urge the Government of Iraq not to close Camp Ashraf until the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has completed its process, of recognizing as political refugees the residents of Camp Ashraf who do not wish to go back to Iran, and resettling them in third countries."

The House Foreign Affairs Committee also unanimously adopted an amendment to H.R. 2583, the Foreign Relations Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012, calling on the State Department to "take all necessary and appropriate steps to prevent the forcible relocation of Camp Ashraf residents inside Iraq and to facilitate the robust presence of the United Nations Assistance Mission (UNAMI) in Iraq in Camp Ashraf."

You have stated that you are personally focused on ensuring the protection of the residents of Camp Ashraf and we deeply appreciate your engagement on this issue. Strong leadership is needed to send a direct, unqualified statement to the Maliki government that the United States will not tolerate any threats to the unarmed people of Camp Ashraf.

We look forward to hearing how the United States will meet its obligation to the residents of Camp Ashraf.

Sincerely,

Bob Filner  
Gina Richardson  
E. Parns

Judy Chu  
Robert Chertoff 11-10  
Tom Benton

Quil E. Ingue  
Rafael

Zi Johnson  
Wm. Fay Clay

Faleanavae  
Wann D. Hily