

The President of the United States of America  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20550

June 7, 2014

Dear Mr. President:

We write in hope that you will welcome, sign and carry out the intent of legislation now pending in Congress that will resolve a complex problem your envoys have struggled to manage and do so in a manner that will reflect credit upon United States leadership.

For three years, approximately 3,000 men and women of the exiled Iranian dissident organization, the Mojahedin-e Khalq (MeK), have been confined in very austere and perilous conditions at Camp Liberty, Iraq, a facility under the armed control of Iraqi security forces. In 2011 the exiles had been assured by your envoy, Ambassador Daniel Fried, that if they left their home of 25 years, Camp Ashraf and relocated to Camp Liberty, they would be safe while undergoing expeditious processing as refugees for onward relocation by the United Nations. Instead these people are trapped, struggling to protect one another against repeated attacks that have killed many of them. The only sizable relocation to date has been to Albania through an arrangement initially negotiated by the group's political affiliate, the National Council of Resistance in Paris.

It is not the only American pledge your Administration is failing to uphold. In 2004, having been individually investigated by U.S. intelligence and law enforcement agencies and cleared of any allegation of hostile activity toward the United States, these Iranian exiles gave their weapons to U.S. forces and each signed a contract forswearing violence, in return for which each was granted a promise of security by the U.S. Government. In 2011 your representative, Ambassador Fried, promised that Camp Liberty would be closely monitored and regularly visited by the United States Embassy in Baghdad. So far this year the only visits to Camp Liberty have been made by U.S. officials from Washington, on business from the State Department or Department of Homeland Security. No visits have been initiated by U.S. Embassy – Baghdad and no visits concerned quality of life as promised by Ambassador Fried. Last year was no better.

The truth is that the residents of Camp Liberty have fulfilled every assurance requested and received by the United States Government, while the United States, for its part, has failed to fulfill every important assurance it has extended to the residents.

You will be familiar with the widespread perception within the policy community that the residents' organization, the MeK, has a long record of terrorism and American blood on its hands – a record that could temper the enthusiasm of U.S. officials to expend effort and influence on behalf of these people. And yet, the history of U.S. policy toward the MeK has been reexamined in detail and the investigation has chronicled decades of unceasing efforts by the intelligence arm of the government in Tehran to plant inaccurate, defamatory information about the MeK in Western countries, including the U.S.

This organization does not have American blood on its hands – those who murdered Americans in Iran in the 1970s were its rivals. French and British judicial reviews in recent years judged the MeK's activities against the violently repressive religious dictatorship in Iran prior to its renouncing violence 2001 as

resistance to tyranny and not as terrorism. The U.S. State Department in September 2012 announced that there had been no violent activity by the MeK for at least a decade as it removed the group from the U.S. List of Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTO).

The reality is that these opponents of the regime in Iran have continuously sought to assist and cooperate with the United States. For six years after the MeK in Iraq voluntarily handed over their weapons to the U.S. military, the group worked closely with American soldiers and Marines co-located with them at Camp Ashraf. As verified by American officers assigned to Camp Ashraf, some of whom are signatories to this letter, the MeK worked hard to help protect the lives of our service-members, despite continuing to be listed by the State Department as an FTO. MeK members provided invaluable information about not only Iran's concealed nuclear enrichment activities, but also threats inside Iraq. It is sadly ironic that Camp Liberty residents face the constant threat of attack and despicable conditions while Moqtada al Sadr's Mahdi Army, responsible for killing hundreds of U.S. service-members in Iraq and vows to kill more Americans, has never been termed a terrorist organization by the U.S.

After Iraq assumed responsibility from the U.S. for the security of the exiles at the end of 2008, Iraqi military forces entered Camp Ashraf in July 2009 and April 2011 and attacked the defenseless residents with military-grade weaponry, killing and wounding many. Further lethal rocket and mortar attacks were staged against the residents following their 2011 relocation to Camp Liberty, with the attackers firing from within the Iraqi security perimeter and publicly claiming support from Iran. The deadly operation on September 1, 2013, where a group of MeK persons authorized to remain in Camp Ashraf and oversee disposition of the exiles' property were systematically attacked, should have prompted an emergency reassessment of the U.S. approach to this problem.

Fifty-two exiles were murdered, many after being immobilized with plastic handcuffs and shot in the head with weapons using silencers. Seven men and women were abducted and remain missing, with the obvious concern that they may have been transferred to the hands of the Iranian government, where they would face virtually certain torture and execution. Cell phone videos and photographs of the unfolding attack on September 1 leave no doubt that uniformed members of Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al Maliki's "Golden Division" were the perpetrators, employing target acquisition skills and methods directly reflecting prior training by U.S. special operations forces.

And yet, despite the wealth of visual and analytical evidence, much of it generated by the people facing imminent execution by these 'elite' Iraqi forces, the State Department says, "There is no evidence the Iraqi government was involved." Iraq's culpability is inconvenient in light of legal consequences contained in the Arms Export Control Act and the two Leahy human rights laws banning training to militaries guilty of gross human rights abuses. Nor have U.S. policy officials shown much eagerness to acknowledge Prime Minister Maliki's close collaboration with Iran's leaders on key security matters including the fate of these exiled dissidents.

Over the past three years, while your Administration was committed to keeping the residents secure and facilitating the U.N.'s effort to process and resettle them in willing countries, a total of one-hundred and thirty-five MeK residents have either been murdered in these staged attacks or died while being denied access to medical treatment by the Iraqi security forces controlling Camp Liberty. In the possession of each deceased resident was a Protected Person Status identity card issued in 2004 by the United States.

Mr. President, we understand the importance of a proper political and security relationship with Iraq, particularly after so much sacrifice by U.S. forces. We do not believe that fulfilling well-known American promises to these exiles should have any bearing on your efforts to reach a negotiated agreement with Iran's government to prevent its development of nuclear weapons. We call upon you to adjust a policy approach that is failing to produce the intended results and instead continues to invite

lethal attacks against unarmed civilians we pledged to protect, monitor and relocate expeditiously. U.S. credibility and honor are diminished with every casualty incurred by these residents of Camp Liberty. The interests of both will be served by a simple policy determination that has the added benefit of reflecting the truth.

European governments are being solicited by U.S. and U.N. envoys to accept the residents into their countries. As U.S. officials have related, foreign governments have asked the obvious question of how many residents the United States is prepared to receive. The answer to date is "none," notwithstanding that diaspora Iranians have offered to fund in full the transfer and future needs of these residents. There is no doubt that American friends and supporters of the MeK could absorb all 3,000 residents should that be necessary to rescue them from further threat of attack inside Iraq. We believe, however, that acceptance of any substantial share of these 3,000 exiles by the U.S. will produce several additional offers of hospitality from other friendly governments.

The sole obstacle to an immediate evacuation of the Camp Liberty residents to the U.S. is a provision of The Immigration & Nationality Act barring admission to the U.S. of certain individuals based on "Terrorism-Related Inadmissibility Grounds," such as assistance to any terrorist group. Here is where Iran's 35-year intelligence campaign of disinformation continues to plague official understanding of the MeK's actual history and thereby infect the U.S. policy process, to our deep detriment.

Not having undertaken a thorough judicial or counterintelligence review as some allies have done, U.S. officials appear reluctant to cease relying on now-discredited assessments about the MeK and the alleged "terrorist" nature of its resistance activities in prior decades. Such a review would, we are confident, fundamentally undermine the rationale for designating the MeK as a terrorist organization at any time dating back to the days of the Shah, as its members went to the gallows standing for popular sovereignty, free speech, gender equality, religious tolerance and ethnic minority rights in Iran among other principles in the face of brutal punishment for its refusal to accept dictatorship.

U.S. policy is hampered by the belief that Terrorism-Related Inadmissibility Grounds must be applied to this case, a view that benefits no one more than the hard-line faction of the regime in Tehran. It is dismaying for those of us acquainted with the true history of the MeK, and its enormous sacrifices on behalf of a more progressive Iran, to find our government telling the residents of Camp Liberty that the U.S. can consider admitting them only if they renounce any affiliation with the MeK and its goals.

The honor, devotion and sacrifice each of these individuals has chosen as his or her life's calling should be for Americans above all, and is for the undersigned, an object of our respect and admiration. If American service-members or civilian officials imprisoned by an enemy renounced our country and the cause for which they were serving as the price of their release, they would face discredit and possible prosecution upon their return. I hope you can see why we regard your Administration's demand that the exiles renounce the goals and principles for which many of their family members have been executed in Iran's prisons as not just wrong, but disgraceful and unworthy. This specter is all the more unseemly given Tehran's well-documented history of enlisting other governments' law enforcement machinery, including our own, in the service of its mission to suppress any in the diaspora who would oppose the regime politically.

U.S. House Resolution 3707, now working its way through Congress, would remove the requirement for Camp Liberty residents to renounce their beliefs and affiliations, clearing the way for them to be settled in the United States. Congress should pass this legislation quickly, saving time and lives by offering a solution now, without waiting for the Executive branch to correct the flaws in the MeK dossier. Should this bill reach your desk, as we hope it soon will, we urge you to sign it and immediately mobilize the

diplomatic and logistical resources to relocate from Iraq the remaining Iranian residents to a safe and humane location such as the U.S., even as their ultimate destinations are being determined.

Please communicate to the Congress your readiness to sign this legislation once passed. One hundred and thirty-five of these men and women have already been killed and seven abducted while believing our great country would see to their safety. It is time now to fulfill America's promise to the rest.

Respectfully,

*Hon. Lincoln P. Bloomfield, Jr.*, Former Special Envoy and Asst Sec State

*Hon. Rudy Giuliani* - Former NYC Mayor, Presidential Candidate

*Hon. Mitchell B. Reiss* (Ret.) - Former Ambassador, Special Envoy to the Northern Ireland Peace Process

*Hon. John Bolton* - Former UN Ambassador

*Hon. Porter Goss* - Former Director of CIA, Former Chairman of House Intel Committee

*Hon. Edward Rendell* - Former PA Governor, DNC Chairman

*Colonel (Ret.) Thomas V. Cantwell*, Former US Military Commander for Camp Ashraf

*Hon. Dennis Hastert* – Former Speaker of the House

*Hon. Bill Richardson* – Former NM Governor, Secretary of Energy, UN Ambassador, Presidential Candidate

General (Ret.) *Michael Hayden* - Former CIA and NSA Director

*Hon. Tom Ridge* – Former PA Governor, Secretary Homeland

*Hon. Linda Chavez* -Former Assistant to the President For Public Liaison; Chairman of the Center for Equal Opportunity

General (Ret.) *James L. Jones* - Former USMC Commandant, NATO Commander, National Security Advisor to the President

*Hon. John Sano* - Former Deputy Director CIA Security

*Hon. Glenn Carle* Former Deputy National Intelligence Officer for Transnational Threats, National Intelligence Council

*Colonel (Ret.) Barry Johnson* - Former Senior Staff Officer for Multi-National Forces - Iraq

*Dr. Ivan Sascha Sheehan* University of Baltimore

*General (Ret.) Hugh Shelton* - Former Chairman of US Joint Chiefs of Staff

*Gen. (Ret.) James Conway* – Former Commandant U.S. Marine Corps

*Hon. Robert Joseph* Former Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security

*Hon. Eugene R. Sullivan* – Retired Federal Judge

*Hon. Dell L. Dailey* - US Dept. of State Coord for Counter Terrorism, Former Ambassador, Lt. General (Ret.) US Army

*Hon. Robert Torricelli* - Former NJ Senator

*Hon. Howard Dean* - Former VT Governor, DNC Chairman, Presidential Candidate

*Hon. Patrick Kennedy* – Former Rhode Island Congressman

*Hon. Frances Townsend* – Former Homeland Security Advisor to the President

*Lt. Gen. (Ret.) David Deptula* – Former Deputy COS For Intel, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance, U.S. Air Force

*Colonel (Ret.), U.S. Army Wesley M. Martin* – Former US Military Commander for Camp Ashraf, Senior Antiterrorism Officer - Iraq

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*Dr. Alan Dershowitz* - Professor of Law,  
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*Hon. Louis J. Freeh* – Former Director  
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*Hon. Michael B. Mukasey* - Former  
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*Hon. Newt Gingrich* - Former Speaker of  
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*Brig. Gen. (Ret.) David D. Phillips* –  
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