

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Session document

22.4.2009

B6-0248/2009

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

with request for inclusion in the agenda for the debate on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law

pursuant to Rule 115 of the Rules of Procedure

by Alejo Vidal-Quadras, Tunne Kelam, Charles Tannock, Michael Gahler, Struan Stevenson, Bernd Posselt

on behalf of the PPE-DE Group

on the humanitarian situation of Camp Ashraf residents

European Parliament resolution on the humanitarian situation of Camp Ashraf residents

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Geneva Conventions and notably Article 27 of the Fourth Geneva Convention on the legal status of Protected Persons,
 - having regard to the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) signed between the US and Iraqi Governments in November 2008,
 - having regard to its resolutions of 12 July 2007 and of 4 September 2008 including references to Camp Ashraf residents having legal status as Protected Persons under the Fourth Geneva Convention,
 - having regard to Rule 115(5) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas Camp Ashraf in Northern Iraq was established during the 1980s as the place of residence of members of the Iranian opposition group People's Mujahedin Organisation of Iran (PMOI),
- B. whereas in 2003 US forces in Iraq disarmed Camp Ashraf's residents and provided them with protection, having been designated "protected persons" under the Geneva Conventions,
- C. whereas the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in a letter dated 15 October 2008 urged the Iraqi Government to protect Ashraf residents from forcible deportation, expulsion or repatriation in violation of the non-refoulement principle, and to refrain from any action that would endanger their life or security,
- D. whereas under the US/Iraqi Status of Forces Agreement Camp Ashraf has been returned to the control of Iraqi security forces as of 1 January 2009,
- E. whereas according to recent statements reportedly made by the Iraqi National Security Advisor the authorities intend gradually to make the continued presence of the Camp Ashraf residents "intolerable",
1. Urges the Iraqi Prime Minister to ensure that no action is taken by the Iraqi authorities which violates the human rights of the Camp Ashraf residents and to clarify the government's intentions towards them;
 2. Calls on the Iraqi Government to respect the legal status of the Camp Ashraf residents "as protected persons" under the Fourth Geneva Convention, to protect them from forcible

deportation, expulsion or repatriation in violation of the non-refoulement principle and to refrain from any action that would endanger their life or security;

3. Calls on the Council, the Commission and the Member States together with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to work towards finding a satisfactory long-term solution to the situation of those currently in Camp Ashraf;
4. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Governments and Parliaments of the Member states, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the Government of the United States and the Government and Parliament of Iraq.