

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2213/09

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to the Council

Subject: Protection of Ashraf residents in Iraq

According to some NGOs, on Sunday 15 March 2009, a group of Iraqi forces at the gates of Ashraf – historic home of 3 500 Iranian opposition (PMOI) exiles – attacked without any justification two of the residents, Abdol-Ali Mohammadi and Nouredin Navid, with electric batons and attempted to handcuff them, but were forced to release them when US forces arrived on the scene.

Iraqi forces have prevented any commodity or even fuel from entering Ashraf, the only exception being food. Iraqi workers who have been working in Ashraf for many years are being denied entry. The Iraqi National Security Adviser, Mr Mowaffaq al-Rubaie, told the Iranian government's Arabic-language television station al-Alam on 8 March: 'We have a clear and precise policy regarding the expulsion of this terrorist organisation from Iraq and returning the residents of Camp Ashraf to Iran and/or a third country'.

We note the European Parliament resolutions

- on Iraq (P6_TA(2007)0357), which 'strongly rejects the threats of expulsion and cutting off supplies of fuel and drinking water made by some senior officials in the Iraqi Government against 4 000 members of the Iranian opposition';
- and (P6_TA(2008)0412), which emphasises the legal status of Ashraf residents as protected persons under the Fourth Geneva Convention.

We ask the Council what action it is intending to take:

1. to push for recognition of the status of Camp Ashraf residents as being protected under Article 3 of the Geneva Convention;
2. to guarantee the implementation of international conventions and Ashraf residents' protection.