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Protection of Camp Ashraf residents

Written declaration No. 415

This written declaration does not reflect the position of the Assembly; only of those members that have signed it. It will not be considered further by the Assembly.

Amnesty International (28 August 2008, statement), the European Parliament (4 September 2008, resolution), and the International Federation of Human Rights (8 September) have expressed concern regarding the threats posed to 3 500 Iranian political refugees in Camp Ashraf in Iraq, who are protected persons under the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Relevant international bodies and United States (US) officials have confirmed that the principle of *non-refoulement* and protection under international humanitarian law and international law apply to Ashraf residents.

We are deeply concerned that the protection of Ashraf may be transferred from the US-led Multinational Force Iraq to Iraqi forces resulting in greater pressure on the Iraqi Government by the Iranian regime to crack down on or extradite PMOI members in Ashraf, and allowing the regime to increase its terrorist attacks on Ashraf. They would face torture and execution if returned to Iran.

Transferring protection of Ashraf under the present circumstances violates the principle of *non-refoulement*, the Fourth Geneva Convention, the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, the Convention against Torture, international humanitarian law and international law, and would result in a humanitarian catastrophe, thus we urge US forces for as long as they remain in Iraq to continue to protect Ashraf residents and uphold their judicial protection under international law.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

EVANS Nigel, United Kingdom
ANDERSON Donald, United Kingdom, SOC
AZPIAZU Pedro, Spain, ALDE
BARTOŠ Walter, Czech Republic
BLOM Luuk, Netherlands
BRANDE Luc, Van den, Belgium, EPP/CD
CHOPE Christopher, United Kingdom, EDG
CILEVIČS Boriss, Latvia, SOC
COLEIRO PRECA Marie-Louise, Malta, SOC
CORREIA Telmo, Portugal, EDG
CUBREACOV Vlad, Republic of Moldova
ČURDOVÁ Anna, Czech Republic
DENDIAS Nikolaos, Greece
DÍAZ TEJERA Arcadio, Spain
ELZINGA Tuur, Netherlands, UEL
EÖRSI Mátyás, Hungary, ALDE
ERR Lydie, Luxembourg, SOC
ETHERINGTON Bill, United Kingdom
FAHEY Frank, Ireland, ALDE
FERTUZINHOS Sónia, Portugal
GALE Anita, United Kingdom
GARDETTO Jean-Charles, Monaco, EPP/CD
GIARETTA Paolo, Italy, ALDE
GLESENER Marcel, Luxembourg
GREEN MACÍAS Rosario, Mexico
GREENWAY John, United Kingdom
GROSS Andreas, Switzerland, SOC
HANCOCK Mike, United Kingdom, ALDE
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HUSS Jean, Luxembourg, SOC
IVANIĆ Mladen, Bosnia and Herzegovina, EPP/CD
IZETBEGOVIĆ Bakir, Bosnia and Herzegovina, EPP/CD
JACOBSEN Bjørn, Norway
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JIMÉNEZ RUMBO David, Mexico
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O'REILLY Joseph, Ireland, EPP/CD

1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EDG: European Democrat Group
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialist Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left

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Total = 73