



Doc. 13299

10 September 2013

Third deadly attack on Camp Liberty prompts condemnation, protection and safe return

Written declaration No. 553

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.

We condemn the June 15th rocket attack on Camp Liberty, Iraq, home of 3200 Iranian exiles. Kolthoum Sarahati died instantly while Javad Naghashan died later in hospital as a result of his injuries. 70 other casualties were recorded.

This is the latest in a series of attacks on the Iranian exiles. The previous attack on 9 February left eight residents dead and scores wounded.

Following the previous attacks, Camp Liberty residents have requested minimum security measures, such as bringing their hard hats and armored vests, digging basic trenches for cover and the return of concrete T-walls, but have been refused by the Iraqi authorities.

We therefore call on the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to provide protection to the residents in accordance with its mandate.

According to the UNHCR Manual on the Security of Persons of Concern, following an attack on a refugee camp, when the host country is unwilling or unable to ensure protection, the recommended course of action is to relocate the refugees to a safer location. As it is the only practical such location, we call on the Government of Iraq and the UNHCR to allow the residents to return to the relatively safer Camp Ashraf.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

XUCLÀ Jordi, Spain, ALDE
AGRAMUNT Pedro, Spain, EPP/CD
BENTON Joe, United Kingdom, SOC
BLONDIN Maryvonne, France, SOC
BONET Sílvia Eloïsa, Andorra, SOC
CORVINI Paolo, Italy, SOC
DÍAZ TEJERA Arcadio, Spain, SOC
HANCOCK Mike, United Kingdom, ALDE
HERKEL Andres, Estonia, EPP/CD
MEALE Alan, United Kingdom, SOC
MICHEL Jean-Pierre, France, SOC
MYLLER Riitta, Finland, SOC
PASQUIER Bernard, Monaco, ALDE
REPS Mailis, Estonia, ALDE
SASI Kimmo, Finland, EPP/CD
STRIK Tineke, Netherlands, SOC
VAKSDAL Øyvind, Norway, EDG
VAREIKIS Egidijus, Lithuania, EPP/CD
VORUZ Eric, Switzerland, SOC
WOLDSETH Karin S., Norway, EDG

Total = 20

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