

# 57 DAYS TO MASSACRE IN ASHRAF

## Prevent Killing Rest of My Family Members

### President Obama, Secretary General Ban Ki-moon,

I am Aziz Rezaee,

**8** of my children were slain in Iran for freedom.

**7** of my children and grandchildren with 3400 other Iranian dissidents are about to be massacred in Ashraf.



Iraqi government at the behest of Iranian regime wants to close Ashraf by the end of 2011.

- Urge UN Security Council to protect Ashraf residents with Blue Helmets.
- Call on Iraq to revoke the deadline and provide enough time to UN to transfer all the residents to third countries.



Iraqi forces' attack on defenseless residents of Ashraf last April, carried out at the behest of the Iranian regime, left 36 residents dead and over 300 others wounded.

Camp Ashraf, 60 miles northeast of Baghdad, is home to 3,400 members of Iran's principal opposition movement, the Mujahedin-e Khalq (PMOI/MEK). Some 1,000 of the residents are women and one-third are former political prisoners in Iran, who survived the Iranian regime's reign of terror and found safe haven across the border. Hundreds of university graduates from the United States and Europe joined them in the campaign to establish a secular, democratic, and non-nuclear republic in Iran. In July 2004, they were recognized as "Protected Persons" under the Fourth Geneva Convention. On April 8, 2011, Iraqi forces, acting at the behest of Tehran, attacked Ashraf, killing 36 and wounding hundreds more. In a similar assault in July 2009, eleven residents were killed.

### Amnesty International Public Statement on Ashraf

**AI urges the Iraqi government  
to extend the deadline for the camp closure**

Excerpts:

- Iranian long term residents of Iraq who reside at Camp New Iraq, 60 kilometers north of Baghdad, are at serious risk of severe human rights violations if the Iraqi government goes ahead with its plans to force the closure of the camp by the end of December 2011.
- Most recently, Iraqi troops stormed into the camp on 8 April using grossly excessive force and live fire against residents who tried to resist them. Some 36 residents, including eight women, were killed and more than 300 others were wounded
- The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees - UNHCR, (the UN Refugee Agency), has reported receiving a large number of individual asylum requests from camp residents and has called on the Iraqi government "to consider extending the deadline for the closure of the Camp....".
- Amnesty International is also urging the Iraqi government to allow adequate time for the asylum applications of Camp New Iraq residents to be properly scrutinized by UNHCR in order to make its determinations relating to the refugee status of camp residents confidentially, on neutral ground and in a timely and safe manner
- Throughout this process the safety and security of the camp residents must be of paramount importance. If the interviews are held outside Camp New Iraq the residents' safety and security, including their travel back to the camp, must be guaranteed.
- Amnesty International also calls on the international community, in particular European and North American countries, to come forward and agree to resettle the residents of Camp New Iraq who have been accepted as refugees in a timely manner.