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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN
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September 12, 2013

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The Honorable John Kerry
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I'm writing to you to express my strongest condemnation of the kidnapping and killing of dozens of unarmed residents in Camp Ashraf, Iraq, on September 1. I have previously written to you to express my outrage over the non-protection afforded to these residents and those of Camp Hurriya, and to condemn the persistent and vicious attacks against them.

I am concerned that seven residents are still missing, and possibly kidnapped, and now other Ashraf residents fear that these seven may be in jeopardy of being extradited to Iran where they could face execution. This is extremely concerning because these residents are "protected persons" under the 4th Geneva Convention and considered "people of concern" by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. It is also my understanding that a UNAMI delegation led by the Deputy Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General (DSRSG), Mr. Gyorgy Busztin, conducted a visit to the camp on September 2 and verified the 52 deceased, noting that they had "suffered gunshot wounds, the majority of them in the head and the upper body, and several with their hands tied." In fact, reports indicate that this massacre was perpetrated by the same Iraqi forces who are supposed to protect these residents.

As I have noted in previous letters, these residents were guaranteed their safety by both the UN and the Iraqi government in the Memo of Understanding (MoU) of December 25, 2011. The Iraqi government committed itself to providing the safety and security of these residents but it has not lived up to its obligations. I respectfully urge you to demand that the Government of Iraq immediately investigate this horrendous attack and to use all measures to prevent any further attacks on these defenseless residents until it can ensure the safety that these residents were clearly guaranteed in the MoU of 2011. Thank you for your immediate attention to this very urgent matter.

Sincerely,

ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN
Member of Congress