



**General Assembly
Human Rights Council
28th session**

Item 6 – Universal Periodic Review

Iraq

Mr. President,

In the UPR session for Iraq last November, several members of the UPR Working Group raised the issue of the protection for Iranian asylum seekers in Camp Liberty, near Baghdad.

Since then, there has been a new element which we wish to inform the Human Rights Council.

The Communications report of Special Procedures¹ (p. 51) presented to the current session of the Council, states that no information is available regarding any investigation into the the massacre that occurred on 1st September 2013 in Camp Ashraf, neither on the previous attacks on Camp Ashraf and later Camp Liberty in 2013. It also states that, none of the perpetrators of this attacks have been identified and brought to justice.

In the course of these attacks, 116 Iranian refugees have been killed, 1300 injured and 7 taken hostage in Iraq.

Three HRC mandate holders² wrote to the Iraqi Government on 6 August 2014 reiterating their concern since the investigations into the attacks of 1 September 2013 appear to fall short of basic standards and principles of independence and impartiality, and have remained inconclusive. They also expressed concern that the whereabouts of the seven refugees abducted on 1 September 2013 remain unknown.

The Letter emphasises that “ The past 6 attacks against that community, the lack of proper investigations and of effective measures to protect its members, heightens our concern about its vulnerability to further attacks, especially in the context of the recent upsurge in fighting in the country including in areas close to the camp.”

The Experts call for effective measures be taken to ensure the safety of the asylum seekers, stating that “ the severe crimes committed and the impunity that has accompanied them, entail violations of numerous international treaty provisions.”

Since there is no replay to this letter yet, we call on the Human Rights Council and all UN concerned Office to give every support to the experts to fulfil their mandate and initiate a full independent investigation on those crimes.

I thank you Mr. President.

19th March 2015

¹ A/HRC/28/85

² The Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, Christof Heyns; the Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, Mads Andenas and the Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order, Alfred De Zayas