

Iranians Condemn the Missile Attack on Camp Liberty in Iraq

On October 29, 2015



Nationwide Protests and Rallies



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Department of States Washington DC October 29, 2015

Sec. Kerry condemns attack on Iran's PMOI in Camp Liberty in Iraq

October 29, 2015



CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING

Missile Attack on Camp Liberty Residents

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
RAYBURN, GOLD ROOM

NOVEMBER 5, 2015



Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce (Left) and Ranking Member Eliot Engel (Right)

Sec. Kerry condemns attack on Iran's PMOI in Camp Liberty in Iraq

Rocket Attack on Camp Hurriya in Iraq

Press Statement

John Kerry - Secretary of State
Washington, DC - October 29, 2015

The United States strongly condemns today's brutal, senseless terrorist attack on Camp Hurriya that killed and injured camp residents. Our condolences go out to the families of the victims, and we hope for the swift recovery of those injured.

We have been in touch with senior Iraqi officials to ensure that the Government of Iraq renders all possible medical and emergency assistance to the victims. We also urge the Government of Iraq to provide additional security for the camp's residents and to find the perpetrators and hold them accountable for the attack, consistent with its obligations under the December 25, 2011 agreement with the United Nations. We are consulting with the Government of Iraq to ascertain the full extent of this unprovoked attack.

No matter the circumstances, on this point we remain absolute: the United States remains committed to assisting the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in the relocation of all Camp Hurriya residents to a permanent and safe location outside of Iraq. We call on more countries to assist in responding to this urgent humanitarian situation by welcoming camp residents for relocation and by contributing to the fund established by the United Nations to support their resettlement. The Department, through its Senior Advisor for MEK Resettlement, will remain actively engaged in the international effort to relocate the residents of Camp Hurriya to safe, permanent locations as soon as possible.

Source: <http://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2015/10/248970.htm>



- 80 missiles landed in Camp Liberty, mostly Iranian-made
- 357 mobile homes burned or exploded in pieces
- 24 residents killed
- Dozens more injured

Iran-Backed Militia Claims Responsibility for the Attack

October 30, 2015

The New York Times



Camp Liberty, Iraq October 29, 2015

The New York Times

Iran-Backed Militia Claims Responsibility for Attack on Iraqi Camp

By OMAR AL-JAWOSHY and MICHAEL R. GORDON | October 30, 2015

BAGHDAD — A Shiite militia supported by Iran claimed responsibility on Friday for a rocket attack on a camp near Baghdad that killed 23 members of an Iranian opposition group and provoked condemnation by the United States.

In a [statement published](#) by the Iranian news agency Fars, the militia, the Mukhtar Army, threatened more strikes as long as members of the [opposition group, Mujahedeen Khalq](#), or People's Mujahedeen, remained in [Iraq](#).

About 2,200 people in the group, known as M.E.K., are housed in what is now called Camp Hurriya, a former United States military base near Baghdad international airport, according to the United Nations. Thirty members were wounded in Thursday's attack, according to the Iraqi police. Two Iraqi soldiers were also killed and 18 wounded, the police added.

Members of the group have been living in [Iraq](#) for decades. The United States has been supporting efforts to relocate them outside the country. But those efforts have moved slowly, leaving residents of the camp, formerly known as Camp Liberty, in a kind of limbo and exposing them to periodic mortar and missile attacks.

"We have been in touch with senior Iraqi officials to ensure that the government of Iraq renders all possible medical and emergency assistance to the victims," Secretary of State [John Kerry](#) said in a statement. "We also urge the government of Iraq to provide additional security for the camp's residents and to find the perpetrators and hold them accountable for the attack."

Shahin Gobadi, a spokesman for the M.E.K., said his group held the government of Iraq and the United Nations responsible for the attack, as the United Nations had guaranteed that residents would be safe when they [moved to Camp Liberty from another camp](#).

In an emailed statement, Mr. Gobadi said Nuri Kamal al-Maliki, the former Iraqi prime minister, and the Iranian government had used the "puppet" Mukhtar Army "as a cover for their crime and in order to hide the role of more prominent figures, such as Maliki himself."

The fraught situation of the M.E.K. reflects the persistent tensions between Iran and the United States even as Iranian and American diplomats participate in talks in Vienna on the Syrian crisis. While the United States and Iran are supporting the Iraqis in their fight against the Islamic State terrorist group, there is no military cooperation or coordination between American and Iranian officials in Iraq.

Iraqi officials have tried to keep the efforts by the two sides separate. Iraqi Army units advised by American officials are encircling Ramadi in Anbar Province, west of Baghdad. Shiite militias supported by Iran are operating in and around Baiji, in northern Iraq.

The Iranian-backed militias have refrained from attacking American forces, officials say, and the United States has no interest in operating against Iranians in Iraq, signifying a cold peace between the two sides. The same, however, cannot be said of Shiite groups close to Iran that have periodically targeted the M.E.K.

The Iranian opposition group has numerous supporters in Congress, who expressed concern about their plight on Friday.

"With growing Iranian involvement in Iraq, the security situation around Camp Liberty is increasingly risky," Representative Ed Royce, a California Republican who heads the House Foreign Affairs Committee, [said in a statement](#). "The Iraqi government made an international commitment to protect the camp's residents. The U.S. and international community must demand accountability."

Compiled by Organization of Iranian American Communities – US



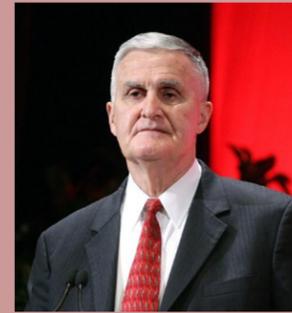
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Gov. Tom Ridge: Give U.S. air protection to Camp Liberty

November 5, 2015

Tom Ridge, former U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security and Governor of Pennsylvania, has urged the Obama administration to bring [Camp Liberty](#), which houses thousands of Iranian dissidents near Baghdad, within the aerial perimeter of U.S. air protection to prevent a repeat of last month's deadly rocket attack on the camp by agents of Iran's regime.



Gen. Hugh Shelton: U.S. must uphold promises to Iranian dissidents

The Charlotte Observer

NOVEMBER 17, 2015

BY GEN. HUGH SHELTON
Special to the Observer

I have long advocated that the United States must uphold its promises to protect the thousands of unarmed Iranian refugees in Iraq as they await final resettlement to third countries through the United Nations. To my regret, warnings of an impending bloodbath perpetrated by Tehran came true last month when 24 Iranian dissidents were killed in a horrific rocket attack against their defenseless encampment. Dozens more were wounded.

P. J. Crowley condemns rocket attack on Camp Liberty

November 5, 2015

Former US Assistant to Secretary of State (2009-2011)

... this was not a sneak attack, it involved large weapon systems that are not stealth. ... it was a significant military operation, it took a considerable effort to pull off.

It is time to communicate very clearly to Iraqi government that what happens at Camp Liberty is vitally important to the USA.

Two dozen members of the main Iranian opposition group People's Mojahedin (PMOI or MEK) died in the terrorist rocket attack on Camp Liberty on October 29.

Speaking at a November 5 Congressional briefing on the rocket attack, Gov. Ridge said: "I join you today to acknowledge, to commemorate, and to mourn the sacrifice of these men and women at Camp Liberty. ... And like any other kind of memorial, when you put faces on the martyrs it becomes much more personal. And for me it's even more personal because of my strong belief in America, our values and our principles.

And today I grieve personally the failure of my country to live up to those values and principles based upon the word it gave to these men and women many, many years ago when we asked them to surrender their own means of self-defense and trust us to provide for their safety and security.

I'm not going to recite the multiple occasions when that trust has been violated by the continuing assaults and murders of residents of both Camp Ashraf and Camp Liberty. But I would be remiss if I didn't talk about the responsibility of the United States to keep its word. It's all these men and women in Camp Liberty want us to do. And so I grieve the fact that at least to this date we have failed to keep our promises."

Gov. Ridge said a bipartisan group of U.S. lawmakers and former officials have written to U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry demanding protection for the residents of Camp Liberty. He referred in particular to a letter by Senator John McCain to Secretary Kerry.

24 Residents Killed in Rocket Attack on Camp Liberty in Iraq

October 29, 2015



- 24 Killed
- Dozens Injured, some may not make it, like Hassan Nour-Ali



Hon. Tom Ridge

Condemning the Missile Attack on Camp Liberty



PRESS RELEASE

Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi condemns terrorist attack on Camp Liberty

October 30, 2015

San Francisco – Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi today released this statement on the rocket attack against Camp Hurriya in Iraq:

... “The violent attack on Camp Hurriya deserves the world’s condemnation. Today, the American people’s thoughts are with the Camp’s residents as they mourn their loved ones, recover from injuries, and continue to seek a safe future for their families following this unconscionable rocket attack. ...

“I endorse Secretary Kerry’s statement calling on the Iraqi government to meet its obligations and take all necessary measures to protect the residents of Camp Hurriya.

“Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims, survivors, and loved ones of those affected by this act of terrorism. The American people remain dedicated to ensuring that the human rights of refugees are protected at Camp Hurriya and throughout the world.”

Source: <http://www.democraticleader.gov/newsroom/pelosi-statement-on-violence-at-camp-hurriya-in-iraq/>



Sec. Gen. Ban Ki-Moon



UNHCR



Lantos Commission



EU PARLIAMENT



BRITISH PARLIAMENT

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL:
“Iraq: Investigate deadly Camp Liberty rocket attack”

October 30, 2015

Camp Liberty, Iraq
October 29, 2015

6. Given Camp Liberty’s proximity to Baghdad International Airport, has the Administration considered the requirements to bring Camp Liberty within the aerial perimeter of U.S. air protection to ensure that the firing of missiles or mortars would not be permitted on the camp?
7. Why has the refugee resettlement process not been completed to date, and what is now being done to expedite the resettlement of the men, women, and children of Camp Liberty who continue to be under direct threat?

Given the deteriorating conditions in Iraq, I believe our current efforts should focus on the approximately 2,300 residents whose lives are at stake in Camp Liberty. In a recent Senate Armed Services Committee hearing, multiple witnesses testified to the fragile security conditions and vulnerability of the Camp’s residents. Their testimony made clear that these residents have repeatedly been the victims of daily harassments that have decreased quality of life, blocked access to food and critical medical care, denied of non-lethal protective equipment, and endured rocket attacks and violent raids that have resulted in the deaths of more than 100 men, women, and children. Yet despite the atrocious conditions and continued danger to residents, the United States has remained ineffective, and even reluctant, in responding to our humanitarian obligations to protect the residents and facilitate their swift relocation to a secure location.

Again, I urge you to continue to push for the protection of the residents of Camp Liberty and to expedite the refugee resettlement process. We made a commitment to protect these Iranian dissidents and, as we move forward, I look forward to working with you to fulfill this commitment.

Sincerely,

Senator John McCain
United States Senator

JOHN McCAIN
ARIZONA

CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

United States Senate

November 4, 2015

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

Dear Secretary Kerry,

I am writing you to register my deep concerns over reports of the October 29 attack on Camp Liberty that killed more than 20 residents and injured dozens more.

The Mukhtar Army, a Shiite militia supported by Iran, has claimed responsibility for the rocket attack on Camp Liberty and threatened more strikes as long as residents remain in Iraq. These threats are especially troubling as Iranian-backed Shia paramilitary groups have grown increasingly active and influential in Iraq, and they must be taken seriously. Moreover, continued attacks on residents and other recent events call into question the Iraqi government's commitment to uphold its agreement to ensure the safety and well-being of these residents.

As Iran's malign involvement in Iraq grows, the security situation around Camp Liberty is increasingly dire. It is clear that immediate actions must be taken to ensure the safety and security of the residents of Camp Liberty. With this in mind, please respond to the following questions:

1. What information does the Administration have concerning the attack and the current security situation of Camp Liberty?
2. Has the Administration undertaken an investigation to ascertain the full extent of this unprovoked attack and identify those responsible?
3. Has the Administration investigated allegations that Iraqi government officials, including National Security Advisor Falah Fayyad who is responsible for oversight of Camp Liberty, were complicit in the attack?
4. Is the Administration working with the Government of Iraq to procure protective T-walls, sandbags, bulletproof vests, and other non-lethal protective equipment to protect residents in the case of future rocket attacks?
5. What further actions will be taken by the Administration to ensure the future safety of the residents?

Congressional Members Condemn the Attack on Camp Liberty

Chairman Ed Royce: Iran regime ordered Camp Liberty massacre

November 5, 2015

The mullahs' regime in Iran gave the orders for terrorist rocket attack last month on thousands of Iranian dissidents in [Camp Liberty](#), near Baghdad, which left 24 refugees killed and many more injured, Rep. Ed Royce, Chairman of U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs, has said. Two dozen members of the main Iranian opposition group People's Mojahedin ([PMOI or MEK](#)) died in the terrorist rocket attack on Camp Liberty on October 29 carried out by agents of the Iranian regime.

"The crisis at Camp Liberty affects all of us here. All of us in the United States should be speaking out about this, and in a bipartisan way," Congressman Royce said at a Congressional briefing on November 5. ... "Let me just remind all policy makers and certainly everyone here today that the Iraqi government made an international commitment, a binding commitment to protect the camp's residents. That commitment has been broken. The U.S. or the international community must demand accountability. And we demand that accountability now."

"Clearly the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the UN and the Iraqi government does not contain strong enough protections for the residents of Camp Liberty

and they must be called to account."

"The United States must step forward and insist now treatment for all the wounded and defense and support to prevent Iranians or Iraqi militia from attacking that camp."

"This issue is simple. This is a critical time. The U.S. position must be clear, it must be steadfast. And there's too many optimistic statements by UN personnel frankly that carry absolutely no connection to the reality of the situation on the ground for those in Camp Liberty. And the administration and UN personnel and others have to understand the reality of the situation for these people at risk, these people who have been killed and wounded once again, once again on our watch. So international humanitarian standards must be upheld."

"We must expedite also the resettlement in Europe and elsewhere for those seeking to be resettled. Human rights must be respected and there are universal obligations and the residents of Camp Liberty deserve no less than protections under these universal obligations." ... "And lastly, Iran must be called to account because we know at the bottom of it, at the bottom of the attacks it is the forces in Iran that give the orders to carry out these attacks."

Related News - <https://foreignaffairs.house.gov/press-release/chairman-royce-statement-camp-liberty-attack>



Foreign Affairs Chairman Ed Royce (left) and Foreign Affairs ranking member Eliot Engel (right) stand next to portraits of the victims of the Oct. 29 Camp Liberty attack - November 5, 2015

Congressional Members Condemn the Attack on Camp Liberty



Chairman Ed Royce
(R-CA)



Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
(R-FL)



Rep. Dana Rohrabacher
(R-CA)



Rep. Ted Poe
(R-TX)

Rep. Eliot Engel condemns attack on Iranian dissidents in Camp Liberty in Iraq

November 5, 2015

Members of the main Iranian opposition group Mojahedin-e Khalq ([PMOI or MEK](#)) in Camp Liberty, Iraq, are facing a "terrible injustice" at the behest of the mullahs' regime in Iran, Rep. Eliot Engel, Ranking Member of U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs, has said. Two dozen PMOI (MEK) members died in a terrorist rocket attack on [Camp Liberty](#) on October 29 by agents of the Iranian regime.

Standing alongside Rep. Ed Royce, who chairs the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, at a Congressional briefing on November 5, Congressman Engel said: "I think you know where the chairman and I both stand, we are totally in sympathy with the people of Camp Liberty. We are totally against the repression of the Iranian regime and what they've done. We think that the people of the United States need to understand more clearly about what is really happening."

"What I've tried to do in the 27 years I've served in Congress and on the Foreign Affairs Committee is always be on the side of justice no matter where it is in the world. And certainly we know the terrible injustice that has happened to the occupants of Camp Liberty and the terrible injustice that the Iranian people are having right now an oppressive government that is preventing them from being free people. And so I want to just let you know that I certainly stand with you."

Addressing the Iranian-American audience at the briefing, Congressman Engel added: "Keep on spreading the truth so that the American people and the people of the world will understand that what has happened is a tragedy and that we have to end this tragedy. We have to end it and we can no longer look the other way, the world needs to focus on what is happening here. And I want just to assure you in closing that you will always have my support and you have very great leaders and we will keep talking about it until those people are free."

Related news: [U.S. Rep. Eliot Engel condemns attack on Iranian dissidents in Camp Liberty in Iraq](#)



Ranking Member Eliot Engel
(D-NY)



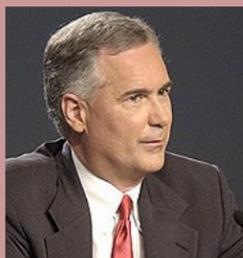
Rep. Brad Sherman
(D-CA)



Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee
(D-TX)



Rep. Loretta Sanchez
(D-CA)



Rep. Tom McClintock (R-CA)



Rep. Mike Coffman (R-CO)



Rep. Steve Cohen (D-TN)



Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA)

Congressional Members Condemn the Attack on Camp Liberty



Sen. Charles Schumer strongly condemns rocket attack on Camp Liberty

November 6, 2015

U.S. Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY) on Friday strongly condemned the October 29 terrorist rocket attack on members of the main Iranian opposition group People's Mojahedin ([PMOI or MEK](#)) in [Camp Liberty](#), Iraq, which left at least 24 residents killed and dozens more injured.

A statement from the office of the Democratic Senator from New York said:

Newsroom
Press Releases

SEN. SCHUMER STATEMENT ON ATTACK AT CAMP HURRIYA

"I strongly condemn the recent rocket attack on refugees at Camp Hurriya in Iraq. The perpetrators that committed this disturbing, cowardly and barbarous attack must be swiftly brought to justice. My thoughts and prayers are with all the victims -- and with loved ones -- of those who were tragically killed and injured. I urge the State Department and the Iraqi government to do all they can to find and punish the perpetrators and to ensure the residents at Camp Hurriya are safe." - U.S. Senator Charles Schumer

Source: <http://www.schumer.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/schumer-statement-on-attack-at-camp-hurriya>



Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ)



Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)

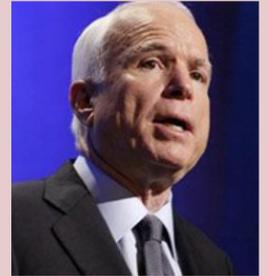


Sen. Roy Blunt (R - MO)



Sen. John Boozman (R-AR)

Sen. John McCain condemns attack on Iranian dissidents in Camp Liberty



October 30, 2015

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator John McCain (R-AZ) released the following statement on the attack on [Camp Liberty](#) in Iraq this week, which has reportedly killed over 20 people:

"Yesterday's senseless and unprovoked attack on Camp Liberty that reportedly killed over 20 residents and injured dozens more is an outrage and represents a betrayal of the civilians the United States committed to protect. The Government of Iraq should provide immediate medical and emergency assistance to the victims of the attack and render every effort to ensure the recovery of those injured.

"Sadly, this is only the latest attack in a continued campaign against the residents of Camp Liberty. These residents have repeatedly been the victims of daily harassments that decrease quality of life, blocked access to food and medicine, and denial of basic protective equipment. I strongly urge the Iraqi authorities to provide additional security to Camp Liberty and bring those responsible to justice.

"The U.S. government and military committed to thousands of civilians that we would protect them, and they surrendered their weapons and came under our protection as a result. It is imperative that the United States, along with the United Nations and the Government of Iraq, uphold its obligations to these residents, do more to ensure the security of Camp Liberty, and expedite the relocation of its residents to other countries."

Permalink: <http://www.mccain.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2015/10/statement-by-senator-john-mccain-on-attack-on-camp-liberty>