



11 September 2008

General David H. Petraeus  
Commanding General  
Multi-National Force-Iraq  
Baghdad,  
Iraq

Dear General Petraeus,

As chairman and members of the *Dutch Committee for peace, freedom and democracy in Iran*, it is with utmost concern that we have been informed that the United States Government is in the process of handing over the protection of Camp Ashraf to Iraqi security forces.

The Al-Arabiyah television network quoted you as saying, "The United States military is engaged in transferring the security file on Camp Ashraf to Iraqi forces after being assured and given guarantees about the protection of members of the organisation."

We assume that you have been aware of the pressures that the Iranian regime has been exerting on the government of Iraq to demand the transfer of Ashraf protection as well as Tehran's terrorist schemes against the residents of Ashraf. These coupled with the directive issued by the Iraqi Council of Ministers on 17 June 2008, which emphasized, "The Mojahedin Khalq Organisation which is present in the Iraqi soil must come under complete control of the Baghdad government until the time it is expelled from Iraq and dealt with according to the national law," seriously bring into question any assurance or guarantee by the Iraqi government.

As you, other senior military commanders and relevant international organisations have underscored, the residents of Ashraf are protected persons under the Fourth Geneva Convention and provisions of international humanitarian law, international law and the non-refoulement principle.

Given the serious risks with which those Ashraf are faced, transferring their protection would constitute a blatant violation of IHL as well as the principle of non-refoulement.

Under the circumstances, I urge you to ensure that no such transfer will take place and that the Multi-National Force-Iraq will continue to provide protection to the residents of Ashraf consistent with the relevant provisions of the Geneva Conventions and IHL.

We are vigilantly following this issue and thank you in advance for your due attention to this extremely important humanitarian issue.

Sincerely,

Ferry Wever,  
*Chairman Dutch Committee for peace, freedom and democracy in Iran*