

News Release**Russ Hiebert**
Member of Parliament

Free Iranian Pro-Democracy Dissidents

(Ottawa)- Conservative Member of Parliament Russ Hiebert today called on the Government of Iraq and Iraqi President Maliki to act on the concerns of the people of the Iran Democratic Association (MEK) who are currently trapped in refugee camps in Iraq.

"The 3,000 pro-Iranian democracy activists, who are residents of Camp Ashraf and Camp Liberty in Iraq are being harassed by Iraqi security forces," said Mr. Hiebert. "It is time for President Maliki and his government to assist these Iranians in moving onward to western nations."

Five members of the Iranian Democratic Association have been hunger striking in front of the American Embassy in Ottawa for the past 58 days to bring attention to the plight of the refugees. The hunger strike started after the latest assault on Camp Ashraf by Iraqi security forces on September 1 in which 52 residents were killed by Iraqi forces and seven individuals, six of whom are women, were taken hostage.

"The world community has condemned the September 1st outrage, and Canada has called for those responsible to be brought to justice," said Mr. Hiebert. "As President Maliki meets with lawmakers and others in Washington, DC today, he needs to commit to peacefully resolving the situation."

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