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Iraq authorities must investigate excessive use of force in Camp Ashraf

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Call on the Iraqi Prime Minister to investigate excessive use of force in Camp Ashraf

Since 1986, Camp Ashraf in Iraq has been home to around 3,500 members or supporters of the People's Mojahedeen Organization of Iran (PMOI), an Iranian opposition group.

Over the last year or so, several Iraqi government officials have publicly stated that Camp Ashraf residents must evacuate the camp and leave the country.

Nine Camp Ashraf residents were killed and hundreds more were injured when Iraqi security forces stormed the camp on 28 July. Another 36 were detained and subjected to beatings and torture.

Iraqi security forces used tear gas, water cannon and batons against camp residents who were trying to stop them. In video footage of the raid, Iraqi security forces can be seen beating people repeatedly on different parts of the body and, it would appear, deliberately driving military vehicles into crowds or protesting camp residents. Live ammunition is also said to have been used, resulting in some residents being shot dead or sustaining serious injuries.

The 36 detainees are currently being held at a police station in the town of al-Khalis, about 25km south of Camp Ashraf. Some are in need of medical treatment due to injuries, including as a result of torture and gunshot wounds.

The detainees are reported to have been told to sign documents in Arabic but to have refused. They have been denied access to lawyers of their choice and have launched a hunger strike in protest against their detention and ill-treatment. One of the 36 who had been shot in the legs and arm has been admitted to a hospital in the town of Baquba, north of Baghdad. He has undergone three surgical operations.

Amnesty International is concerned that the 36 Camp Ashraf residents are at risk of being forcibly returned to Iran where they could face torture and execution. It is calling for the detainees to be released unless they are to be tried promptly and fairly on recognizable criminal charges.

The organization has called on the Iraqi authorities to investigate the apparent use of excessive force by Iraqi security forces as well as all allegations of torture and beatings, and to bring perpetrators to justice.



Online-Petition

Call on the Iraqi Prime Minister to investigate excessive use of force in Camp Ashraf

Call on the Iraqi Prime Minister to ensure that the apparent use of excessive force by Iraqi security forces, as well as all allegations of torture and beatings, are investigated and that perpetrators are brought to justice.

Your Excellency,

I wish to express my concern that on 28 July Iraqi security forces used excessive force to seize control of Camp Ashraf resulting in nine camp residents being killed and many more injured.

I am also concerned that 36 people from Camp Ashraf were beaten and tortured, and are now at risk of being forcibly returned to Iran where they would face serious human rights violations, including torture and execution.

I urge you to order an immediate investigation into the apparent excessive use of force by Iraqi security forces as well as all allegations of torture and beatings, and to bring perpetrators to justice.

I also urge you to ensure that the 36 detainees from Camp Ashraf receive appropriate medical care, are given access to lawyers of their own choosing and are released unless they are to be promptly charged with a recognizable criminal offence.

I call on you to ensure that these detainees are not forcibly returned to Iran where they would risk serious human rights violations. Finally, please ensure that all Camp Ashraf residents receive all the humanitarian assistance they require.

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/appeals-for-action/call-iraqi-prime-minister-investigate-excessive-use-force-camp-ashraf>