

The Kyrgyz Committee for Human Rights – UPR submission – Iraq – February - 2010

During the violent attack by Iraqi Army and Police against Camp Ashraf residents in Iraq on 28 & 29 July 2009, Iraqi forces killed 11 residents, severely wounded 500 and forcibly removed from Ashraf a further 36. Of the 43 seriously wounded, 14 residents suffered gunshot wounds, 13 had been run over by armored cars and a further 16 had suffered all sorts of other injuries, including serious head injuries. This report is prepared first by thorough investigation and direct contact with residents of Ashraf, reviewing the Iraqi press affiliated with government and verified by video - footages available on public internet sites or broadcast by CNN or CBS and other TV channels from Ashraf.

On the morning of Tuesday 28 July 2009, hundreds of Iraqi forces from the standard police force, trainee police, riot police and Scorpion Special Forces had gathered outside the main entrances to Ashraf and begun their attack in the afternoon. They had with them dozens of humvees, other armored vehicles, police trucks, bulldozers and fire engines carrying water cannons. Many were armed with all sorts of firearms, as well as sickles, axes, planks of wood (some with nails and other pieces of metal embedded), metal bars, chains and other weapons.

Iraqi forces systematically targeted the heads of Ashraf residents using their weapons. A very high proportion of those wounded suffered head injuries. There are many shocking scenes of the Iraqi forces beating residents in the head with planks of wood. What is striking is that the Iraqi forces deliberately used the thinner, and therefore sharper, side of the planks of wood, rather than the flat side. Invariably, the attacker is seen raising a weapon (usually a plank of wood or metal bar) above his head and partly behind his back, and then coming down with full force to strike the Ashraf resident on the top of the head resulting in seriously injury and in a few cases, death. It is clear from the footage that the intention of the Iraqi forces was to seriously wound and/or kill.

By late evening the number of wounded had reached 385, 24 of whom were female residents.

Ashraf's hospital could not treat the critically wounded. At around this time, representatives of Ashraf made contact with Diyala province hospital and other doctors. However, those doctors who appeared at Ashraf were turned back by Iraqi Army and police. Ashraf representatives therefore made contact with the US forces stationed at Ashraf and made a request that 13 critically wounded residents be transferred to the US hospital in Balad (20km from Ashraf). The US forces refused to help as well.

At 04:30 on Wednesday 29 July, Amir Kheyri passed away after having fallen into a coma the day before due to repeated blows to the head by Iraqi forces. Had doctors been allowed into Ashraf by the Iraqi forces or had the US forces provided medical attention to the seriously wounded, Amir Kheyri and other critically wounded residents might not have died.

Another resident, 44 year old Shaaban Souri who had been badly wounded as a result of repeated blows to the head, died at 21:30 on Thursday 13 August while being transferred to Balad hospital.

At 10:50, on 29 July, Iraqi forces in humvees opened fire on residents at the northern wing of Ashraf. They also drove at high speed deliberately targeting residents, running many over. Killing and injuring more people.

Make up of the Iraqi forces

Gen. Damouk Shemri, chief of Diyala police commanded the assault and ordered troops to open fire.

Forces that took part in the assault included:-

- 2nd battalion of the police
- 3rd battalion of the police
- Trainees from the police training academy north of Ashraf
- Riot police
- Prime Minister, Nouri al-Maliki's Scorpion special forces unit.
- Many residents of Ashraf are giving testimonies that among the most vicious forces attacking residents many of them spoke Farsi(Iranian language) amongst themselves and they belonged to the Iranian Revolutionary Guards' Quds Force, operating in Iraq.

It is worth noting that on the day that the attack and massacre begun (28 July 2009), the representatives of Ashraf residents were negotiating with the Iraqi forces' commanders and Iraq's prime minister's envoys at 12 o'clock noon on how to station the police. In this two-hour negotiation, the residents of Ashraf reiterated once again that they had no problem with the police forces taking position at the Camp's entrance, and if the police needed more facilities at the camp's entrance, they would provide them and would pay all necessary expenses and provide full facilities. However, the Iraqi side turned a deaf ear to these words, having resolved to attack and massacre on behalf of the Iranian regime. In the course of negotiations, the prime minister's representative was called from Baghdad three times and was ordered finally to cut off the negotiations and launch the attack.

The severity of attack, the number of Iraqi forces, the type of forces, and their brutal behavior are indications of devastating goals of the operation and clearly show that the problem is not implementation of sovereignty, rather the issue is the destruction of Ashraf at the behest of the Iranian regime.

Muwaffaq al-Rubaie, who was in charge of Ashraf's dossier in the Iraqi government till May 2009, had said one year ago on 13 July 2008:

“this dossier will be wrapped up soon. ...the only solution is that the Iraqi armed forces take the responsibility of Camp Ashraf; they are the ones who should hold the administration of the camp; only Iraqis should have control over it. Those who have committed crimes against the people of Iraq should be tried here. Any other country that supports them can take them, and majority of them should return to their country. Except for 56 of them, the others are probably granted amnesty. They can return to their country.”

Therefore, the Ashraf residents had no objection to stationing Iraqi police forces at Ashraf’s entrance, and their representatives underscored in their several meetings with both the Iraqi forces and the U.S. forces that they had no problem and objection with stationing the police at the camp’s entrance, but stationing the police in the Ashraf residents’ residing area in the middle of the camp, where 1,000 Muslim women including young girls with Islamic culture and traditions live, pursues other known goals that the Iraqi officials have announced and repeated time and again. On 1 April 2009, Muwaffaq al-Rubaie said on Al-Forat TV,

“Iraqi security forces will enter the camp gradually and will set up control posts and will run patrols and will start searching, and then they will launch attacks...”

On July 19, 2009, the residents of Ashraf informed the American officials, and through them, the Iraqi officials of their decision to return to Iran under international supervision and under the conditions that they will not be arrested tortured or executed and they will enjoy freedom of speech. This was done ten days before the criminal attack by the Iraqi forces. On July26, two days before the attack, this decision was relayed to the Iraqi forces face to face in the presence of the US officials in Camp Ashraf. A day before the attack, on July27, Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, President-elect of the Iranian Resistance, issued a statement “on the return of the residents of Camp Ashraf to Iran under specific conditions” announcing the decision of the Ashraf residents. The statement was relayed on the same day to the international bodies and organizations as well as the US and Iraqi officials. Thus, the attack took place when the residents of Ashraf had already announced their decision to leave Iraq and go back to their country under specific conditions.

No doubt, the attack on Ashraf and murder of its residents on July28 and 29 were carried out at the behest of Ali Khamenei, Supreme Leader of the Iran regime, faced with the uprising of the Iranian people. This was aimed to suppress the Iranian opposition by using Nouri al-Maliki.

KYRGYZ COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (KCHR)

Ramazan Dyrlydaev / Chairman

=====

The Kyrgyz Committee for Human Rights

Kyrgyz Republic, Bishkek, Jumabek Street,. 123 / 87

Phone : +996 312 304 798, Facsimile: +996 312 304 799
E Mail : kchr@kchr.org Web : www.kchr.org