



H.E. Hon. Nickolay Mladenov,
The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq,
unami-information@un.org

Brussels, 8 May 2014

Dear Hon. Nickolay Mladenov,
Your Excellency,

Pax Christi, the International Catholic Peace Movement active worldwide, has been following the situation in Camp Liberty for some time. The movement is very concerned about the humanitarian situation and has been informed about ongoing violations of human rights in the camp.

Since US forces handed over the protection of Camp Ashraf to their Iraqi counterparts in 2009, there have been a series of attacks against Camp Ashraf and then Camp Liberty, leaving 116 resident refugees dead and hundreds of others injured.

Repeated calls from the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Amnesty International, Human Rights Organizations, the UNHCR, two UN working groups on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and Arbitrary Executions, four UN Special Rapporteurs (9 December 2013) and various governments for independent and transparent investigations into these massacres, have all been met with neglect by the Iraqi government and silence from relevant UN officials.

According to its 25 December 2011 Memorandum of Understanding between UNAMI and the Iraqi government, the Iraqi government is responsible for the security of Camp Liberty residents. In the past two years, Camp Liberty has been targeted on four different occasions, leaving 14

residents dead and many others injured.

Pax Christi International has learned Camp Liberty's residential areas were covered with 17,500 protective concrete T-walls when US forces were stationed here. In 2013, despite the residents' continuous protests, protective T-walls were rushed out of the camp under orders of the Iraqi government. This has left the residential areas completely defenceless against repeated missile attacks.

We also have been informed that the re-installation of protective T-walls in Camp Liberty is facing repeated obstacles created by the Iraqi government, and, despite the fact that the residents have accepted the expenses, to this day only a limited number have been installed. Currently, most of the residential areas are lacking protective T-walls. This has put the residents' security in serious danger. Given the possibility of future missile attacks, further lives are at stake.

Given the commitment of the UN to provide protection for these refugees that are covered by the UNHCR, Pax Christi International is calling on His Excellency to take the necessary and appropriate actions to prevent the Iraqi government's obstructions to the installation of protective T-walls in Camp Liberty.

Pax Christi International works for peace, reconciliation and justice. It researches root causes of war and violent conflict; speaks up for disarmament and human dignity through its consultative status with international governmental bodies such as the UN Human Rights Council and is committed to nonviolent means of resolving conflict.

We thank you in advance for His Excellency's attention to this humanitarian issue.

Yours Sincerely,

José Henríquez
Secretary General
Pax Christi International