



The Law Society

## From the President

Mr Haider al-Abadi  
Prime Minister  
Republican Palace  
Baghdad  
Iraq

4 April 2016

Dear Prime Minister

### Iraq - Camp Liberty

The Law Society is the professional body representing more than 166,000 solicitors in England and Wales. Its concerns include upholding the independence of the legal profession, the rule of law and human rights throughout the world.

The Law Society has been concerned for many years for the safety of the residents of both Camp Liberty and Camp Ashraf and had occasion to write to the Secretary General of the United Nations twice in the past when attacks on them had occurred. We believe copies of those letters were provided to your office.

On 29 October 2015 a barrage of at least 80 rockets, manufactured in Iran, were fired into Camp Liberty, which is located adjacent to Baghdad International Airport. 24 residents were killed and nearly 100 others injured and a large portion of the Camp's facilities and infrastructures were destroyed. This was the fourth such attack. The residents of the Camp are unarmed. The fact that such an attack could be mounted adjacent to Iraq's busiest international airport could not have occurred without at least the tacit approval of the Iraqi government bearing in mind that Iraqi forces are permanently posted outside the perimeter of the Camp. Additionally, its location would mean that such an attack would be identified by the Iraqi government's airport protection system. Further the Iraqi government has permitted Iranian intelligence agents posing as relatives of the residents of Camp Liberty to harass the residents.

On 24 and 25 January 2016 the Iraqi Military responsible for the safety of Camp Liberty Colonel Sadeq Mohammad and Major Ahmad Khozir allowed personnel from the Iranian Intelligence force (MOIS) and the Iranian Quds Force to enter Camp Liberty pretending to be relatives of those in the Camp. They were allowed to take photographs and then the personnel started shouting slogans against the residents and took film of the interior of the Camp. The websites of these two Iranian forces carried news and pictures of the visits. Further the erection of the "T" walls, which would give the residents a measure of protection from outside attack, was halted by the Iraqi government. Similar visits have been a precursor for and attack on the Camp. The Iraqi government have promised that they would protect Camp Liberty and its residents.

We recall that Iraq ratified the **UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights** (1966) on 25 January 1971 and is bound to uphold its provisions. Article 6 provides:

*Every human being has the inherent right to life. This right shall be protected by law. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life.*

On behalf of the Law Society, I respectfully urge that you hold to your promise to ensure that the residents of Camp Liberty are protected and no harm comes to them. Further that the incidents referred to above are fully investigated to establish what needs to be done to ensure that those who intend harm to the Camp Liberty residents are not allowed access to the Camp and any further attacks on the Camp are prevented.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Smithers', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the name.

Jonathan Smithers  
President

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