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To **The UN Secretary General Mr. Ban Ki-moon**

Your Excellency,

Warm Greetings from JANANEETHI, Kerala, India.

For last several months we have been receiving horrendous reports from Camp Liberty in Iraq regarding endless atrocities and violence on refugees in Camp Ashraf. We are shocked to understand that the gruesome sufferings of the helpless and hapless people are simply ignored by authorities including the UN Functionaries. This is rather disastrous than disappointing. The latest report from the victims' camp reads as follows:-

On the morning of 1 September 2013, Iraqi forces under the command of Prime Minister Maliki massacred 52 defenceless residents of Camp Ashraf. Many of those killed had their hands handcuffed and tied behind their backs. Several of those injured residents were mercilessly gunned down at a medical centre inside the camp, and they were thus executed in *coup de grace* fashion. This amounts to war crime against residents who are 'protected persons' under the Fourth Geneva Convention, and according to the UN High Commission for Refugees, recognized as asylum-seekers and 'persons of concern'. Seven of the residents, including six women, were kidnapped by Iraqi forces. The UN must strongly demand from the Iraqi government to provide for their safety and release of the hostages.

We express our deep condolences to the families of the victims. We join those who have voiced concerns over the fate of the seven hostages (six women and one man), taken from Ashraf. The Government of Iraq must immediately release them. Under no circumstances should the government of Iraq hand them over to the Iranian authorities, as we know that they will face torture and execution in Iran. They are all 'protected persons' and asylum seekers and therefore they are entitled for protection under international law. The international community must take steps necessary to ensure their release.

We the members of the Board and Executive Committee of Jananeethi look forward to your Excellency's urgent action in this humanitarian crisis and to save the lives of residents of camps Ashraf and Liberty. Silence at this point will only be deemed as a green light for further bloodshed against the defenceless residents of camps Ashraf and Liberty.

With respectful regards and good wishes,

For and on behalf of Jananeethi,


George Pulikuthiyil

Executive Director

