



Special Report with Brit Hume

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Iranian Opposition Group in Limbo in Iraq

Brian Wilson: An Iranian opposition group was given safe haven in Iraq for decades by former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein in order that it might launch attacks against his enemy Iran. Now with Saddam no longer in power, the U.S. considers the movement to be a terrorist group. A year ago, the U.S. ordered them to give up their weapons. Today, roughly 4,000 people remain detained and in legal limbo. Fox News' Teri Shultz takes a look at their situation in the new Iraq.

Teri Shultz: Whether you call it protection or detention, there's one group of people in Iraq that is not complaining about being confined by American soldiers, members of the Mujahedeen-E Khalq, or MEK, in Camp Ashraf.

This Iranian exile movement has fought Tehran with mortar attacks and radio messages for decades, hosted enthusiastically by Saddam Hussein, but is also labeled as terrorist by the U.S., citing attacks on Americans many years ago.

After Saddam's defeat, the group signed a cease-fire with the U.S. military agreeing to remain holed up in their main location, Camp Ashraf, about 60 miles north of Baghdad.

The Iraqi Governing Council, predecessor to today's Iraqi government, abruptly ordered the MEK to be deported many months ago.

That order passed unfulfilled and now they await a decision by the new government who has not said anything so far. And neither has the U.S. Adam Erle: "What we have said previously about that situation remains the case today." That works for the MEK because what Washington has said they cannot be sent back to Iran where they would face certain persecution.

But American relatives of the Camp Ashraf detainees are taking nothing for granted and in April collectively retained a well-known law firm to petition the U.S. government to let the MEK stay in the Camp with U.S. protection. The lead attorney says he has heard nothing back from the administration. But he does not consider that a bad thing as the status quo keeps his clients safe.

Meanwhile, events on the ground have given more optimism to MEK supporters that a new Iraq will welcome them. A couple of weeks ago, thousands of local Iraqis, including a governor, came to the camp in support of the MEK. And an Iraqi doctor recently shared

with Fox News a petition signed by more than 300,000 Iraqis asking their government to grant Camp Ashraf dwellers a permanent legal residency.

Alireza Jafarzadeh: “There is a growing understanding both in Iraq and outside of Iraq that the real threat for Iraq is actually the Iranian regime.”

But despite that assertion from the former spokesman for the movement, the State Department says the Iraqi government has given no indication so far that it wants the MEK to stay. The Pentagon, which is officially responsible for Camp Ashraf, will only say negotiations are on going.

This is Teri Shultz, the State Department