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August 6, 2012

Abraham H. Foxman
National Director
Anti-Defamation League
605 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10158

Dear Mr. Foxman

I am deeply concerned about ADL's trivializing the murder and suffering of a people that is due to their opposition to the dictatorship in Tehran and their possible assistance to Israel to end Iran's nuclear weapons program. Your denigration of my statement in their support shows that you do not comprehend or are uninformed about the MEK.

The MEK were among the first to warn us of the Iranian nuclear program. Last February, NBC News reported that sources within the US government had informed them that the MEK was working with Israel to sabotage the Iranian nuclear program, including involvement in the assassination of Iranian nuclear scientists. To quote from the NBC story, "Two senior US officials confirmed for NBC News the MEK's role in the assassinations, with one senior official saying, "All your inclinations are correct." The article also quoted Mohammad Javad Larijani, a senior aide to Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader, as saying "They (Israelis) are paying ... the Mujahedin. Some of their (MEK) agents ... (are) providing Israel with information. And they recruit and also manage logistical support." "The relation is very intricate and close." Moreover, he said, the Mossad, the Israeli secret service, is training MEK members in Israel on the use of motorcycles and small bombs." Several Iranian nuclear scientists were killed by such methods.

The intent of the Iranian dictatorship, working in cahoots with Prime Minister Malaki, is that the residents of Camp Hurriya/Liberty be systematically murdered. If it were not for pressure from the Congress, the destruction of the MEK would have already taken place. The residents of Camp Ashraf suffered a massacre in April of last year where 34 unarmed civilians were killed by the Iraqi Army and the US Army was ordered to do nothing. Even now, the US has failed to hold a single person responsible for that brutal act.

Doing the bidding of the mullahs in Iran, Camp Hurriya/Liberty is surrounded by security troops with heavy weapons – the same troops which massacred them last year. Iranian agents and special operations units are deployed at or near the Camp, posing the threat of another massacre even worse than the one that took place at Ashraf in 2011. If these are not the conditions of a concentration camp, what would you call it?

Furthermore, Camp Hurriya/Liberty was not, as you wrote, “established by the US military to deal with refugees,” it is a dilapidated abandoned military base that lacks adequate electricity, water and sanitation. People are forced to live in metal containers intermittent air-conditioning while the outside temperature tops 140 degrees. Camp Liberty was established as a base for US combat units, logistical support and headquarters. When the US left Iraq last year much of the critical infrastructure that made the base habitable was removed. It was the Maliki government that has forced the residents of Camp Ashraf to relocate there and to live in substantially worse conditions than they had in Camp Ashraf.

The mullah regime in Tehran deserves comparison to the Nazi regime in Germany. Earlier this year, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's strategist Alireza Forghani called for the removal of the “corrupting material” of Israel - and that it would only take nine minutes to wipe out the Jewish state. Forghani's diatribe was run on most state-owned media sites. If Iran develops nuclear weapons, Israel will be the prime target. Iranian President Ahmadinejad may be a Holocaust denier, but he has made it clear that he would like nothing better than to finish the work Hitler started. Ahmadinejad has called Jews, “the most detested people in all humanity.” Indeed, the ADL website has a year to year compilation of Ahmadinejad's verbal attacks.

So what was the point of your letter? To shield the anti-Semitic Iranian dictatorship from the criticism it deserves? Or to trivialize the pain and suffering of those civilians, who after suffering a massacre, are being forced out of their homes and into Camp Hurriya/Liberty? The MEK are being persecuted in large part possibly because they have worked on Israel's behalf and oppose a radical Islamic regime with a genocidal worldview that includes the extermination of the Jewish people.

I agree with you that it is vital not to forget the past but don't let it blind you to the harmful repercussions you will create by alienating people who have seen their relatives die because of their organization's possible work with Mossad against Iran and who themselves may soon suffer the same consequences.

To be fair, I don't think you heard or were told the larger context of my remarks to the Iranian resistance group to which I was speaking last week. I trust now that you do know my context, you will withdraw your misdirected and misinformed remarks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dana Rohrabacher". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dana Rohrabacher
Member of Congress