

This morning (Iraq time), I participated in the *Solidarity Congress of Iraqi People* in Diyala Province, Iraq (just north of Baghdad). This conference brought together thousands of Iraqis from various sects and affiliations (Shiites, Sunnis, Kurds, Turkmen, Christians, Iranian exiles, etc.) to express a message of unity and hope for their troubled nation. Above all else, the participants wanted to convey the fact that they are tired of Iranian meddling in their nation and want to see their imperialist neighbor to the East expelled from Iraqi territory. In that regard, a message of solidarity was expressed with the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI or MEK), which has its base in Ashraf City, Iraq.

On the sidelines of this conference I had the chance to meet with several leading Iraqi politicians, government figures, tribal leaders, and sheiks. Details of those meetings and others will follow at a later date.

The following is a press release from the conference accompanied by some photos of the event:

## **Declaration by 3,000,000 Iraqi Shiites**

### **Expulsion of Iranian Regime from Iraq - Removal of Restrictions from the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran**

On Saturday, 14 June 2008, the Solidarity Congress of Iraqi People held its fourth gathering of its annual session in the Ashraf city. In this annual meeting, representatives of 135 parties, societies, institutions, and associations as well as political, cultural and guild centers participated with a thousand of their representatives.

Dr. Saleh Mutlaq, leader of the Arabic Front for Iraqi National Dialogue and a number of members of the Iraqi National Accord Movement political bureau were guests to this congress. Other guests included representatives of parties and political entities of Iraqi National Parties Coordination Committee, Conference of Ahal al-Iraq, Islamic Party, Iraqi Council for National Dialogue, Iraqi Turkmen Party of Justice, Islamic Unity Party, as well as parliamentarians, tribal sheikhs and political, social and religious personalities. On behalf of the European Parliament, Mr. Paulo Casaca, Co-Chair of the Friends of a Free Iran, participated in this congress.

In this congress, the declaration of over 3 million Iraqi Shiites on the need for expulsion of the Iranian regime and its agents from Iraq, and the removal of restrictions from its strategic counterbalance, the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran, was read.

This declaration has been endorsed by 135 Iraqi parties and political and social currents and has been circulated for gathering signatures from January to June 2008. The legal team in its report to the congress, while presenting all documents, reported that the signatories to the declaration are all above 18, with definite and available names and addresses verified by Iraqi tribal sheikhs, jurists, lawyers and local trustees. The signatories include more than 110 sheikh councils and civil society organizations, 197 unions, syndicates and guild associations, 164 general sheikhs, more than 8800 tribal sheikhs and trustees, 5814 lawyer and jurist, 23030 physicians and engineers including university professors, 353 clergies and preachers, and over 374000 freedom-loving Shiite women. Presenting figures and statistics, the legal team and representatives of different provinces elaborated on how the signatures have been gathered. They invited the United Nations, international organizations, and the International Jurist Organization to observe and investigate the documents.

**More than three million Shiites stressed in their declaration:**

“Today, it is beyond a shadow of doubt that all these crimes and atrocities are planned by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corp (IRGC), the terrorist Qods Force, the Intelligence Service, and the embassy and the consulates of the Iranian regime in Iraq. Iranian rulers explicitly announce that slaughter and terror in the “streets of Baghdad” is their “superiority” over the United States, and at the same time they accuse their opposition in Iraq, the PMOI, of terrorism, explosions, targeting civilians and murder and abduction with US forces assistance.”

**The signatories of declaration underscored the following demands:**

1. Expulsion of all members and agents of the Iranian regime’s IRGC, Intelligence, and the terrorist Qods Force from all governmental or non-governmental institutions of Iraq, especially the security systems and the police,
2. Closure of Iranian embassy and consulates that support terrorist operations and the imposition of Iranian regime’s dominance in Iraq.
3. Removal of restrictions from the Ashraf residents and return of the PMOI’s properties according to The Hague Conventions.
4. Enforcement of verdicts by the European Court of Justice and the UK Court by the European Union, and the annulment of terrorist designation of the PMOI by the U.S.





**Co-Chairs of the Solidarity Congress**

Sheikh Walid Jassem from Ad-Diwaniyah—Sheikh Muhammed Sudani from Najaf--  
Sheikh Fa'eq from Karbala--Emir Yousef Badan, the Emir of al- Ba'eej tribe--Sheikh  
Harsan Ajmi Balawi  
Dr. Nouraddin al-Moussawi, the Secretary General of Iraqi National Front

## **A number of Sponsors of Iraqi Shiites Declaration**

Iraqi National Front  
Council of Tribal Sheikhs of Baghdad and southern provinces  
Assembly of Independent Democratic and National Tribes  
Anti Fundamentalism Center  
United Iraq Democratic Movement  
Intifadieh Movement of Shaabania-General HQ.  
Iraqi Tribal council- Shiite  
Naiim Dignitaries Leadership  
Independent Freedom-Loving and Intellectuals Association  
Iraqi National Front for dialogue- Babil  
Association of National Iraqi Tribes- Wassit  
Dhiqar Farmers Association  
Basra Residents Association  
Iraqi National and Freedom-Loving Tribes Association- Maysan  
Iraqi Environmental Watch Group  
Society for Reverberation of Freedom  
Social Progress Society- Salahaddin