

# URGENT ACTION

## CAMP ASHRAF RESIDENTS RELEASED

**The six Camp Ashraf residents arrested on 8 April were released on 14 April, and are now back in the camp. They have told Amnesty International that they were beaten while they were in custody.**

**Bahman Toloo, Mehdi Ghafouri, Hamid Makki, Hossein Eyni, Babak Karimi and Asghar Mehdizadeh** were released on 14 April and have been reunited with their families in the camp. The six men had been detained on 8 April when Iraqi security forces sought to take greater control of Camp Ashraf, home to some 3,400 Iranian refugees and exiles long resident in Iraq, using excessive and lethal force against residents.

All six were taken into military custody for two days, then shortly transferred to Baquba hospital for treatment before being moved to police custody in al-Khalis, near Baquba. The men told Amnesty International a few hours after they were released that they had been beaten and threatened with being deported to Iran. Bahman Toloo said he was beaten for the whole time that he was detained and has lost the hearing in his right ear as a result and is suffering from dizziness and needs help to go to the toilet. The men told Amnesty International that they were not shown any arrest order and that even though they asked why they had been arrested they were given no answer or explanation. The six men were on hunger strike for all their time in detention.

Mehdi Ghafouri told Amnesty international on behalf of the whole group: "We want to thank Amnesty International from the bottom of our hearts. We are touched by knowing that so many people around the world helped us."

**Thank you very much to all who sent appeals. No further action is requested from the UA network.**

This is the first update of UA 112/11. Further information: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE14/021/2011/en>

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