

AEUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE



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Brussels, **27 MARS 2012**
Ares(2012)

Dear Petitioner,

The EU follows the issue of the residents of Camp New Iraq (formerly known as Camp Ashraf) very closely. Their future continues to be a cause for concern. As a humanitarian issue, it requires the EU and the international community to do all we can to help the Government of Iraq to pursue a peaceful and orderly solution.

This is why the High Representative/Vice President has repeatedly stressed her full support to the ongoing process facilitated by the United Nations and to the Special Representative of the Secretary General Martin Kobler himself. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is proceeding as foreseen with the verification and "refugee status determination" of the first residents who have arrived at the temporary transit location – Camp Hurriya – pending resettlement.

The challenges arising during and after the first moves of residents from Camp New Iraq to Camp Hurriya serve only to underline the importance of supporting these efforts. The residents and the government of Iraq must seek to bridge any differences through dialogue. UN SRSG Kobler and his staff have been doing all they can to facilitate this, and to help the parties resolve problems in a constructive manner. We must all do our utmost to promote and encourage a cooperative approach from all sides.

Every individual and group who can bring any influence to bear on this matter has a responsibility to place the security and safety of the residents as their utmost priority.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Ashton', with a horizontal line underneath.