

EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE



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Brussels, **05 MARS 2013**
D(2013) 217256

Dear Petitioner,

The EU follows the issue of resettlement of the former residents of Camp Ashraf very closely. As a humanitarian issue, it requires that the international community do what it 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 Martin Kobler, the Special Representative of the Secretary General. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is proceeding as foreseen with the verification and "refugee status determination" of the residents who are staying at the temporary transit location - Camp Hurriya. It has to be noted that according to the assessment made by the United Nations monitors, the provision of life support systems, such as water, electricity and food supply continues to be well in excess of basic humanitarian standards.

It is crucial to support the ongoing resettlement efforts to find a solution to this complex issue. The mortar attacks of 9 February on Camp Hurriya, condemned publicly by the EU, remind us of the urgency to accelerate the UN-facilitated resettlement process, with the cooperation of both the residents and third countries that are ready to receive them. Resettlement to third countries is the only viable solution.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.