

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 28, 2011 3:08 PM
To: H
Cc: Mills, Cheryl D
Subject: FW: Iranian exiles in Iraq agree to move camps (AP)

Looks like solid news.

From: OpsNewsTicker
Sent: Wednesday, December 28, 2011 3:07 PM
To: NEWS-Mahogany
Subject: Iranian exiles in Iraq agree to move camps (AP)

BAGHDAD - (AP) The head of an Iranian exile group holed up at a camp in Iraq says the first of the camp's residents are ready to move to a new location picked by the Iraqi government.

The announcement Wednesday by Maryam Rajavi averts what could have been a bloody showdown with Iraqi authorities if the group had refused to move.

The Iraqi government vowed to close Camp Ashraf, home to about 3,400 Iranian exiles, by the end of this year. The camp's residents favor the overthrow of the Iranian government.

The U.N. announced Monday a plan to move them to a new location in Baghdad, but until Wednesday, the camp's residents had not said whether they would go.

Rajavi said 400 residents are ready to move first as a sign of goodwill.

NewsTickers alert senior Department officials to breaking news. This item appears as it did in its original publication and does not contain analysis or commentary by Department sources.