

JUSTICE FOR IRAQ'S REFUGEES

“They came in the house, at night. I heard a noise and three or four men were there. They held a knife to my throat. We were scared they would rape us. “This is a warning,” they said. We decided that night that we had to escape. It was either stay and be killed or leave, that was the choice.”

– Amira, aged 31, Iraqi refugee (Daily Telegraph, 18 August 2007)

Dear Prime Minister,

According to the UN High Commission for Refugees, over 3 million Iraqis have been forced to flee their homes since the 2003 invasion [1]. Nonetheless, the two countries most responsible for this crisis – the US and UK – have done almost nothing to alleviate it.

Although at least 1.7 million Iraqis are now living in Jordan and Syria, under increasingly desperate conditions, these two countries have received next to nothing in the way of help from other countries [2], and are now closing their borders [3]. Meanwhile, the UK has accepted only a tiny trickle of refugees and continues to deport people to Iraq [3].

We demand:

- * immediate and adequate financial support to Jordan and Syria to help them provide for Iraqi refugees
- * a major programme to resettle Iraqi refugees here in the UK
- * an immediate end to all forcible returns to Iraq, and the restoration of benefits, housing and the right to work for all rejected Iraqi asylum seekers.

WE DEMAND JUSTICE FOR IRAQ'S REFUGEES.

SIGNED _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

[1] 'Statistics on Displaced Iraqis Around the World', UNHCR, Sept 07, <http://tinyurl.com/24g3ny>

[2] 'Iraq displacement: Generous host countries left in the lurch', UNHCR, 06/09/07, <http://tinyurl.com/24hfrg>

[3] 'Millions in flight: The Iraqi Refugee Crisis', Amnesty International, 24/09/07, <http://tinyurl.com/ytjqx6>

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