

FEDERATION



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On 08 Sep 2015 the Kurdistan branch of the IFIR organized a press conference at Rand Gallery for IFIR secretary Dashty Jamal.



In respect for the lives of the refugees who lost their lives in the recent tragedies, Ari Jalal representing the Sulaimaniya branch commenced the conference with one minute silence. Following this Dashty Jamal highlighted the reasons and the factors that have caused mass migration to Europe. Dashty suggested possible ways out of the crisis and highlighted the IFIR obligations and contributions.

He stated:- “ Yet again we see mass migrations that force people to travel through treacherous routes in order to seek asylum abroad. This has been a familiar phenomenon recently and unfortunately has led to the deaths of many people. The causes of these events directly correlate to the crisis of politics, economics and the insecurities facing these people. It is a situation that has been forced upon the people living in Kurdistan. This phenomena known as the ‘refugee crisis’ moved the worlds consciousness following the lifeless body of the three year old ‘Alani washed up onto a beach’ as a direct consequence of the closed borders policy. This is the result of the superpowers struggle to gain power and divide the world for their own interests. It is also about military support to the Middle Eastern and North African tyrants directly affecting people’s livelihood and welfare that makes them flee from their homes and seek refuge in another country. Dashty Jamal also commented on the local issues and stated that The Kurdistan Regional Government is taking people hostage by taking advantage of the current crisis and prolonging their power by dramatizing the threats facing the region. , <<<continued on page 7

11 Refugees bodies arrived at Erbil International Airport



Amanj Abdulla representative of the Kurdistan branch IFIR confirmed that 11 of the 19 Kurdish victims from the lorry found in Vienna were received in Erbil International Airport.

Further to this he reported that he was informed that there were 71 victims in the lorry of which 19 were Kurdish. The KRG Department of Foreign Relations transported the victims bodies back to Kurdistan.

IFIR has cooperated with the victims’ families and the KRG Department of Foreign Relations to return their bodies to Kurdistan.

Amanj offered condolences to the victims’ families on behalf of IFIR.

The name of the 11 returned victims:

Ebrahim Hassan Salih. , Aso Hama Salih, Mohammad Salih Kader, Azad Rahem Ahmad(From Garmyan) Saed Osman Mohammad, Shwan Jamal Hussen, sardasht Mohammad Ebrahim, Abull xalq Mohammad Ebrahim, (From Sulamaniya). Alen Hazim Gili, Aland Hazim Gili, Hersh Gili Ali(From Dhok)

**Keep the borders open for
Refugees**



Dashty Jamal Secretary of IFIR sends a Message of Solidarity to Jeremy Corbyn MP



Dear Jeremy

The International Federation of Iraqi Refugees and its Kurdistan branch wholeheartedly congratulate you and send you our full solidarity.

We wish you good luck and best wishes as the new leader of the Labour Party and the opposition to David Cameron's Conservative Party.

We have great hopes for your success and optimism for the real difference you will be able to make to the lives of all refugees fleeing wars in the Middle East or elsewhere.

Your victory in the Labour Party leader elections is a triumph for women, workers and progressive and freedom-loving people in Kurdistan and Iraq.

IFIR looks forward to working with you as the new leader of the Labour Party.

Defending the lives of refugees is the responsibility of all civilised humanity of which we are a part and we are proud to have you with us.

In solidarity

15-9-2015

IFIR call upon the UN to take responsibility for the lives of the displaced people

IFIR calls upon the UN to take responsibility for the lives of displaced people. The UN must provide daily necessities of the refugees. We also request that the UN ask countries where refugees have sought asylum to recognise them as refugees. At the same time we ask the humanitarian and refugee defending organisations to aid the displaced people financially and morally. The IFIR, through its representative offices in Kurdistan and European countries together with other humanitarian and refugee organisations try to supply the displaced people in Kurdistan with their basic needs. Your aid and support (financial, food, medicine, and clothing.) will ease the pain of the displaced people.

Camps in Kurdistan have had outbreaks of cholera and children are begging on the streets. There has also been an increase in prostitution in areas where the refugees are placed. This level of poverty just fuels the refugee crises and increases the likelihood of many more risking their lives in the pursuit of security and happiness in Europe.

25,000 citizens have abandoned Kurdistan heading towards Europe



Press Conference holds in Erbil City.

The press conference composed of IFIR, Department of Foreign Relations, Department of Migration & Displaced of Kurdistan Regional Government and Human Rights Organization.

Shadan Abdelkarim from the Department of Migration and displaced people from Kurdish region introduced the projects aims of:

1. To return all the dead bodies of refugees who have perished on their journeys to Europe.
2. To seek to find the refugees reported missing by their families.

To visit all the detention centre's which hold Kurdish refugees.

Further to this she named the organizations who have led the project: International Federation of Iraqi Refugees-IFIR, Department of Foreign Relations of the Kurdistan Regional Government, Department of Migration & Displaced of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) and Human Rights organization.

The next speaker was Dashty Jamal secretary of IFIR. Dashty said the aims of the project had been goals of IFIR for many years. In particular it was important to visit the many Kurdish people imprisoned in Greece and Turkey and other European detention centres.

For the project to be successful it must be funded and supported by the Kurdish Regional Government.

Dashty reported that in the last four months 25,000 people among these refugees are graduates, teachers and families. This exodus is a result of the result of people losing hope in the KRG's ability to provide a secure future in Kurdistan.

The press Conference was held in Choar Chra Hotel in Erbil.

Stop Violating Refugees Rights

The IFIR exposed the true factors of the current crises to the German Consulate in Erbil.

On 15 Sep 2015 at the request of the German Consulate in Erbil, representatives from IFIR visited their office. The representatives consisted of Dashty Jamal - The IFIR Secretary, Amanj Abdulah - IFIR, Kurdistan Region representative and Ari Jalal - Sulaimaniya Branch representative. At their meeting, The IFIR team met with The General Consulate of Federal Republic of Germany Mr Mark Eichhorn, Eike Hendrik Krebs Consul (Political and Humanitarian affairs), Ihsan Walzi advisor for Political affairs and Public Relations, and Aras Karim - Assistant Desk officer for political affairs and Humanitarian Aid..



At the meeting Dashty Jamal showed appreciation for all the support and help the German people have given to the refugees. He also spoke about the continuing political crisis in Kurdistan and the social crises that continue to face the Kurds, and why Kurdish citizens choose to live as refugees rather than remain in Iraq. Mr Jamal stated that after 24 years of the current administration in the Kurdistan Region people are still not sure about their security and future particularly the future of their children. They do not have the basic necessary services they deserve.

Mr Jamal continued to explain that the current administration and the forces ruling it are more concerned about their self interests and regional allies over the interests of

their own citizens. They are selling the concept of unification with the rest of the Iraqi mainland which is inundated with terror, killing and uncertainties. The five parties running the current administration claim to provide a good life for its citizens, however, what has been seen is that they are busy with their own struggle for power ignoring the needs of the people, as well as allowing the clouds of the ISIS crisis to take over the security of people's livelihood.

The IFIR secretary also explained that people see the current parties and administration favoring their own kind over the general public and how people are disenchanted with the current ruling elite. The ruling elite has not only prevented people from free demonstration, they have killed and arrested young demonstrators who protest against them.

The consulates view is that there are free press and newspapers in the Kurdistan Region. However, Mr Jamal explained that "we can't assume that there is security in Berlin if we have fight and unrest in Munich" He continued "Kurdistan Region is part of Iraq and the current administration has been killing journalists and students who were against them and thirty five thousand women have been murdered in the last twenty four years. Hence these are the reasons why people migrate and leave their homeland seeking refuge elsewhere.

During the discussion, The IFIR secretary elaborated on the activities the federation had undertaken and how they are collaborating with other international organizations helping refugees. The discussion also covered the asylum seekers deported from the EU countries, and Mr Jamal explained that so far there have been 6000 deportees to the Kurdistan Region and many reports and demands have been sent to the parliament for their welfare, however to date there has been no response.

The IFIR team submitted the signatures and support of 26 organizations in support of the refugees fleeing to Europe asking the EU parliament to open their doors to avoid death and struggle. The consulate thanked the team and confirmed that they will send their requests to Berlin and will soon visit the Sulaimaniya Branch for further discussion.

Dashty Jamal wrote a Letter to Ms Ewa Kopacz (Prime Minister of Poland)

Urgent attention Nazam Kazam and his family must be released

Date:18-9-2015

My name is Dashty Jamal Secretary of International Federation of Iraqi Refugees. I am writing to you on behalf of the International Federation of Iraqi Refugees (IFIR) on behalf of Nazam Kazam and his family. (Full details above).

Nazam is from Sulaymania in the Kurdish part of Iraq. Nazam with his wife and three children have been arrested and are being held in (Strzezony Osrodek) detention centre in Poland. Nazam's life will be in danger if he is returned to Iraq.

The International Federation of Iraqi Refugees believes if Poland does not Release Nazam and their family from the detention centre or forcibly deports them it will be breaking the Geneva Convention.

Northern Iraq where Nazam is from is currently under attack from the terrorist forces of ISIS. Iraq is at war again. ISIS has taken control of a large number of cities and villages across Iraq.

We appeal to you to, to release Nazam and his family from detention and stop any action against Humanity immediately
Kind Regards

Don't let our Children be a victims of your War Human rights are Universal



Demonstration held in Sulaymaniyah in support of refugees

On Sunday 13 September the following organizations International Federation of Iraqi refugees kurdistan branch , Center to defend children rights in Kurdistan and Kurds refugee council in Suleymaniya held a Demonstration at mid-day in barika camp in Sulaymaniyah. The demonstration was attended by the refugees held in the camp.

Dashty Jamal secretary of IFIR opened the demonstration with one minutes silence for the refugees who had died in tragic journeys and also those killed by ISIS.

Dashty Jamal spoke about the refugee crisis and the situation of the refugees in the camps surrounding Syria. He called on European governments to open their borders in order to prevent more deaths.

Following Dashty's speech Salar Mahmood a member of Kurdistan Parliament, Houzan Afran and Sheraz Hafearo also spoke about the situation of the refugees and said that the UNHCR are responsible for the death of refugees. At the end of the demonstration we handed a letter to UNHCR

The slogans of the demonstrators were: -

'save our children'

'UNHCR responsible for the deaths of refugees'

'refugee rights are human rights'.

UNHCR ignoring core mandate – not helping refugees resettle,

Human right are Universal,

UNHCR must help refugees resettle,

UNHCR leaving refugees in crisis, Refugees are fleeing, while UNHCR are watching,

Refugees need action not words from UNHCR,

Refugees abandoned by UNHCR, UNHCR abandoning refugees

IFIR representative with Salar Mahmood a member of Kurdistan Parliament on behalf of the refugees in a Barika Camp held a meeting with Mr Marco Rotunno Camp Management Manager from International Rescue Committee. We talked about the situation of refugees in the camp including the recent outbreak of Cholera and the bad situation.

“The International Federation of Iraqi Refugees support any Progressive organization who campaign and work for a better future in Kurdistan & Iraq”

Iraqis apply for asylum in Finland

By the end of September 2015, a total of 12 329 Iraqis applied for asylum in Finland, 9000 of them in September alone. They have been placed in different reception centres and emergency accommodations around the country.

No to Detention ! No to Deportation !

IFIR & number Organizations send an urgent letter to the European Union and European Parliament

Keep the borders open for Refugees!

The death of refugees on the borders of Europe and in the Mediterranean Sea is a tragedy. That is a direct consequence of the policy of closing the borders to people whose livelihoods and place of residence has been turned into a battlefield of civil war, unrest and insecurity.

The disaster facing refugees has placed a tremendous responsibility upon all European governments but also upon democracy, human rights, civil rules and regulations. It is also a great disgrace to European Governments.

The European Union's reaction so far has shown no practical response towards saving the lives of these human beings. The death toll is increasing. The influx of refugees from the Middle East and North Africa is increasing too. European countries and the West talk about human rights but they have not provided a realistic solution to prevent the waves of death among the refugees. European countries and America have ignored the fact that they are one of the main reasons for the catastrophes that have led to the refugee exodus in the Middle East. The majority of the refugees from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Libya are victims of direct political, military involvement of the US and European countries. It is due to their support of these inhuman, repressive, and militia systems in the Middle East which are covered with the dress of democracy. However, they are nothing more than nationalist, Islamist and murderous groups. The system that is run by these groups are taking no responsibility towards the livelihoods of the citizens and in reality they have turned the society into a hell of confrontation and conflict between different religious, nationalist and Islamic groups such as ISIS. The reality is that they have turned the society politically and economically into an insecure and unsafe society and has left no chance for a decent life for their citizens. This chaos is a product of the inhuman policies of the ruling political parties. Therefore, from the position of responsibility upon the death of refugees and catastrophes that move our human conscience every day, we are sending you this letter, as you are holding a meeting on 14 September about the refugee crisis. We are asking you to deal with this matter from your political and human responsibility and take steps to achieve the following:

- 1/ Open the borders to refugees to rescue and protect them from disasters, racist and fascist aggressions.
- 2/ Prevent the wave of asylum and destitution as this phenomenon depends primarily on putting an end to the fighting and military involvement of the US and West on the one hand and Russia, China and other forces and regimes supporting the two main fronts on the other hand. The European countries and west must give up the policy of supporting the repressive regimes which resulted in social unrest and insecurity.
- 3/ Condemn the countries supported the ISIS especially Turkish and Saudi regimes. They should be held responsible for their financial and military support to ISIS and should be questioned too.
- 4/ Activate the UNHCR, in countries currently encountering war and political turmoil, in order to come to the rescue of the refugees and to put pressure on governments to grant them asylum and support them.
- 5/ Swift steps need to be taken to provide, all the people who are displaced and destitute regardless of race and religion due to the war against ISIS, Al-Qaida, and other militia groups, with food, clothes, medical support, and accommodation.
- 6/ Provide decent and convenient facilities to all refugees to enable them integrate as quickly as possible in their new communities and to take advantage of all social and economic facilities equally.
- 7/ Support all organizations and associations striving for a secular and progressive system in the Middle East and North Africa.
- 8/ European governments must share responsibility towards meeting the needs of the refugees.

International Federation of Iraqi Refugees-IFIR
 Kurdish and Middle Eastern Woman's Organization
 Green Homeland Organization
 Intemationella Kamp for kvinnors rattigheter Sweden
 International Federation of Iraqi Refugees-Canada
 International Federation of Iraqi Refugees- Switzerland
 Kurdistan Human Rights Association
 Azmun Organization For Community Development
 Federation of Workers' Council and Unions in Iraq

Shar Organization for Human Development
 Future Organization
 Worker-communist Party of Kurdistan- Abroad Organisation
 Iraqi Women's organization in Helsinki
 Worker-communist Party of Iraq- Abroad Organisation
 Council of Iraqi refugees in Helsinki
 International federation of Iraqi refugees Kurdistan Branch
 Iraqi Union of Unemployment in Finland
 Peoples development Organization-PDO
 Center to defend children rights in Kurdistan
 Kurdistan construction workers Organization
 Kurdistan Secular centre
 Iraqi Refugees organization in Norway

International Federation of Iraqi Refugees– Activities of Kurdistan branch



IFIR works to support Iraqi and Kurdish refugees returned from EU countries to build their lives in Kurdistan and Iraq and integrate again into society.

IFIR is a democratic, human rights organisation. We consider that human rights are universal and they can not be limited by geography, gender, culture, religion, race, age or place of birth.

IFIR was established in 1993 by Iraqi and Kurdish refugees who fled from the Saddam Hussein's regime and the consequences of the first gulf war. Since then Iraqi refugees across the world have joined and IFIR currently has active members in the UK, Sweden, Finland, Germany, Switzerland, Canada, Turkey, Iran and Iraq. This application is for IFIR's work in Kurdistan and Iraq. With the rise of the brutal and inhumane ISIS, Iraqi has become more insecure and dangerous and more people are leaving the country and trying to live abroad. And the Iraqi and Kurdish governments continue to act in a sectarian and unjust manner, persecuting individuals or communities they perceive as threats.

IFIR has seen first-hand the terrible effects of the recent violence. Last year the International Federation of Iraqi Refugees launched a campaign to help the people, including more than 5,000 Yezidi Christians, displaced by ISIS. However, humanitarian responses are not enough and a political solution is needed

IFIR is currently working with more than 5,000 returnees in our offices in Sulemaniya . 1,200 of these returnees have come back from the UK since 2005.

We provide essential support for refugees, the majority of whom fled Iraq after the first Gulf War and the collapse of Saddam Hussein's dictatorship regime in 2003, but who have since returned to Iraq.

Some people have been living in the EU for as many as 20 years and the fates of some on returning are severe. People who have returned have been killed and kidnapped; they have committed suicide and suffered severe mental hardship. Many have gone into hiding or left Iraq again. People suffer from separation from the families, friends and communities they have made in the EU.

All returnees find it difficult to restart their lives in a country that is no longer their home and that has often changed significantly. Many people's families no longer live in the country. Work is hard to find and unemployment benefit non-existent. Those who have left Kurdistan when they were young have built up skills in the EU that are of no use in Kurdistan. A recent returnee for example, used to work in a food factory in the EU. His skills are non-transferrable to Kurdistan, where such factories do not exist. Those who have been treated for medical illnesses both physical and mental, find similar support hard or impossible to find. The support they receive from the Iraqi or Kurdish governments on their return is minimal and there is an urgent need for an organisation whose principal activity is providing support to returning refugees. Iraqi refugees continue to return, some by choice, others not.

We are building on many years of work. Most recently, IFIR was allowed to work in the Kurdish part of northern Iraq. IFIR has been given legal permission by the Kurdistan Regional Government to organize and help deportees in the north of Iraq and hopes to receive similar permission for the rest of the country. We have been a prominent voice for the rights of Iraqi refugees. We are contacted daily by refugees requesting support or wanting to join and take action with us. It is very difficult for us to cope with the volume of work and we need funding to increase our capacity, especially in Iraq.

It will help us to keep in contact with people who have been deported and support them through the psychological trauma they often go through after deportation.

Contact us at this email address ifir@hotmail.co.uk or on 07501730707 or 00447856032991

Our office Address in Kurdistan:

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IFIR Press Release
10 October 2015

UKBA starting deportation to Iraq

Ali Kareem from centre of IRC The Verne, Portland, Dorset detention centre contacted IFIR to report that he has been given a ticket to be returned to Iraq on 23 October 2015. Ali has been given a ticket from Royal Jordanian airlines to be flown to Amman and then onto Baghdad. Ali said "I came to the UK in December 2012 to do my MSc degree in Teesside University. I achieved my degree in 2014. In August 2014, my family was threatened and then was attacked by militias and now they are displaced. Also the threat included me as I was wanted by militias. I don't want to go back. It is not safe for me in Iraq"

Ali said "I made an application for asylum and my application was refused. Then I made an appeal at court but my case was dismissed. In the refusal both the home office and the judge stated that I could go and live in Baghdad ignoring the fact that the militias in Iraq at the present time control everything in the country and they could find me easily in any place in Iraq. I believe my name and details are now held at all the air ports and once I get deported they would arrest me at the airport and I will definitely face death.

I came to the UK to study and I achieved my degree. Also I spent more than 20,000 pounds to cover my fees and living. If I had planned to stay in the UK I would have applied for asylum on the day I arrived.

Dashty Jamal Secretary of the IFIR said "ISIS occupy nearly one third of Iraq and the government has lost its control over the country. The role of the militias and ISIS is becoming more active and Brutal. The decision to resume deportations at this time is against all principles of Human Rights. The UKBA must stop forcible deportation.

.IFIR ask that trade unionists and everyone who values human rights to write letters to the UK Home Office supporting IFIR's campaign to release Ali Kareem and all Iraqi's currently held in detention and immediately stop all deportations to Iraq.

<<<from page 1 IFIR Press Conference

Mr Jamal encouraged people to join various movements to force the authorities to listen to their concerns and provide necessary services. He said that migrating and leaving the country does not solve the current crisis, this mass migration does not change the dominant forces and we all should endeavor to challenge the status quo for the changes we want to make. According to the information IFIR received, 11000 people from Kurdistan Region have left, 80 per cent of them are young citizens and a further 20 per cent are families.

<<<from page 1 IFIR organized a press conference

Mr Jamal stated that we have no control over what people decide and despite not encouraging this mass migration, we will support people who do so and we will endeavor to work with them side by side to get to their destination by working with international organizations to recognize their rights as refugees. This is to help them to avoid been handed over to smugglers who play with their lives. Mr Jamal said that we are a radical movement and recognize that people have a right to have refugee status despite the authorities misleading statements towards this phenomenon.

At the end of the conference, the Federation confirmed that they are working with many other international organizations and they have drafted a letter outlining their concerns to the European Parliament.

Urgent appeal for funds to support refugees fleeing ISIS

This is an urgent appeal for funds to help Iraqi and Kurdish people fleeing the terrorist group ISIS. The International Federation of Iraqi Refugees is working in Iraqi Kurdistan to help support thousands of Yazidis, Christians, Arabs, Kurds and Syrians whose homes have been attacked by ISIS. In the last month we have provided food and shelter for more than 500 displaced families through the work of activists in Suleymania.

The International Federation of Iraqi Refugees is a grassroots group. We rely on donations to continue our work. We need to buy milk, food, provisions, clothes and mattresses for the families who are coming to our office in Sulaimaniya for help.

The International Federation of Iraqi Refugees is run by committed activists, we have no paid staff and our overheads are low. We have been working for twenty years for the needs of refugees and displaced people. If you are able to support, we would be happy to provide you with details of how your money has been spent.

Please send any donations you are able to give to:

Account name: International Federation of Iraqi Refugees (IFIR)

Account number: 21449591, Bank name: HSBC, Sort code: 40-04-07

Solidarity with Kurdish & Iraqi Refugees

IFIR representatives meet with Consulate General of the United States of America in Erbil



On Wednesday the 30th of September 2015 at the request of Consulate General of the United States of America in Erbil, representatives from IFIR visited their office. The representatives consisted of Dashty Jamal - The IFIR Secretary and Ari Jalal -Sulaimaniya Branch representative. At their meeting, Dashty Jamal and Ari Jalal met with Julian Hanna (Political Section of the Consulate General of the United States of America in Erbil), and Nakashia (Kashia) Dunner (Political Officer of the Consulate General of the United States of America in Erbil).

Dashty Jamal spoke about the political crisis in Kurdistan and the social crises that faces the kurds. He also spoke about the terrible conditions in refugee camps. In particular the poverty which has led to children begging for money on the streets. He also mentioned how the camps in Kurdistan have had outbreaks of cholera. As a consequence of the very bad conditions in the refugee camps people are frustrated and risk their attempting the journey to Europe. IFIR representatives also spoke about the policy of the Iraqi Federal Government to pay the wages of the people of Mosul that is under the control of ISIS but not the people of Kurdish region.

The discussion also covered the asylum seekers deported from EU countries, and Mr Jamal explained that so far there have been 6000 deportees to the Kurdistan Region and many reports and demands have been sent to the parliament for their welfare, however to date there has been no response. IFIR representatives also asked what the USA's solution to this situation is. Julian Hanna said that they will report back to the USA government and will try to find a diplomatic way to intervene and change this situation.

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**IFIR in conjunction with
other Human Rights or-
ganizations aims to end
Racism & Fascism
against Refugees**