

FEDERATION



Papar of International Federation of Iraqi Refugees-IFIR

ISSUE 1

The International Federation of Iraqi Refugees First Congress In Stockholm



Members of the International Federation of Iraqi Refugees, Human Rights and refugee rights campaigners and an MEP making up over a hundred people gathered from around the world to attend the International Federation of Iraqi Refugees (IFIR) first Congress held in Stockholm on the weekend of 25/26 August 07. This Congress made steps towards a strong and an organised movement around refugees' rights.

Undoubtedly, organising and unifying refugees against the European countries' policies along with the solidarity and support of freedom loving people and human rights organisations could be an effective factor not only in preventing deportation of asylum seekers, but also in imposing our demands. Therefore, we need to make a clear stand on a human rights agenda.

The Congress was called by Dashty Jamal the Secretary of IFIR to discuss the current crisis which has caused 4 million refugees (UN estimate) to leave Iraq. The problem is so acute that neighbouring countries Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Turkey are struggling to deal with the floods of refugees leaving Iraq. Unfortunately whereas Iraqi refugees' throughout the 1990's following the Second Gulf war and during Saddam Hussein's regime were granted refugee status easily, now many European Governments are refusing Iraqi refugees asylum. In fact the UK has forcibly deported 87 Iraqi refugees since 2005.

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Report on Journey to Kurdistan by Dashty Jamal Secretary of International Federation of Iraqi Refugees September 2007



During his visit to Iraqi Kurdistan Dashty Jamal visited Kirkuk, Arbil and Sulaymaniya. The Americans are still proceeding with their failing strategy in the continuing occupation of Iraq. Whilst Dashty was in Iraq two journalists were killed in Mosul and kidnappings are continuing to rise. Honour killing is still practiced in Iraq there have been at least two cases in the last three months. The PUK and KDP the ruling parties in Northern Iraq making up the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG). The KRG continue to violate Human rights and persecute anyone who disagrees with their policies. The PUK and KDP are struggling without success to control the terrorists that operate within the Kurdish region of Iraq. Inflation is very high across Iraq and there is a very high rate of unemployment. The Iranian Government has been bombarding Kurdish villages. The US Congress continues to talk about federally splitting Iraq into 3 parts between shia, kurdish and sonny. The US continues to support the tribal sonny agents of the Al Qaeda group, If Iraq is split the Turkish Government has threatened to attack Northern Iraq. Terrorist groups and Islamic parties are intimidating the people of Kurdistan on a daily

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Asylum Rights are Human Rights

>>>from page1 IFIR Congress

Also Goran and Karen Johnson chaired the first day of the conference. Aso spoke in Arabic and Kurdish, Karen in English and Jasim translated into Sorani. Aso Goran opened the conference by calling for a minutes silence for all the Iraqi refugees who had died while crossing the Iraqi border looking for a place of safety. Karen welcomed everybody to the conference and summarised the current problems facing Iraqi refugees today in Europe and the history of IFIR.

Karen and Aso also read out the following messages of support to the conference;

Coalition to Stop Deportations to Iraq (CSDIraq); Arun Kandnani from the campaign against Racism and Fascism Sarah Parker Refugee Rights campaigner and chair of CSDIraq, Workers Liberty, No Sweat, DCLG DFT PCS London Branch. Kurdish Communities Federation-Kirklees Kurdish Women's Organisation- Kirklees, Kurdish Culture Centre- Kirklees. Kurdistan Refugee Women's Organisation, Middle East Organisation of Women's Rights. Falah Alwan Secretary of Federation of Worker Councils and Unions in Iraq, Saman Karim from Worker-Communist Party of Iraq. Aso Zamyar IFIR representative in Syria, Alayzadi in Kurdistan,

IFIR solidarity message in Australia, Nico from Solidarity Iraq in France, Shapol Saed from Wolverhampton Kurdish Community Association.

The Secretary IFIR Dashty Jamal opened the Congress with the following statement: "This congress is of the greatest importance. Not just because European countries have started implementing the policy of forcibly deporting Iraqi asylum seekers and not because thousands of Kurdish and Iraqi asylum seekers are being kept waiting without their cases being decided. This Congress is crucially important because Iraq is going through one of its most violent cycles in which war, death, and displacement of refugees are a daily matter. This conference coincides with the displacement of more than 4 million Iraqi civilians because of lack of security and the continuing violence in Iraq. The plight of displaced persons and refugees being forced into tented accommodation has been imposed on the Iraqi people they have been deprived of their most basic needs both inside Iraq and neighbouring countries. He urged all advocates of human rights to join IFIR and strengthen the campaign to end the discrimination faced by refugees and asylum seekers."

Doug Houlton from the UK campaign Stop Deporting Children and committee member of the UK CSD Iraq followed Dashty. Doug spoke of the good work of the CSD Iraq campaign in the UK and the policies of the UK Home Office and the importance of campaigning.

Jean Lambert, Member of the European Parliament for the Green party spoke to the conference of her fight to raise the plight of Iraqi refugees at the European Parliament, in particular to counter the idea amongst some European countries that any part of Iraq was safe and a suitable place to return refugees to.

Faris Mahmoud, representative of the Iraqi Freedom Congress (IFC) spoke of the importance of IFC and IFIR working together to improve the situation inside and outside Iraq.

Tofiq Mohammed from the International Organisation of Iranian Refugees spoke of the problems Iranian refugees faced and the similarities. He pledged his full support to IFIR and looked forward to joint campaigning on the issue of refugee rights for Iraq and Iranian refugees.

The last speaker was Sherzad Fatih representing the Centre to defend the rights of Children.

At the end of the first day IFIR held a press conference at which Dashty Jamal, Aso Goran, Jasim and Jean Lambert answered questions from conference delegates and the press.

The second day of the congress focused on motions from IFIR activists as laid out in the Conference Paper 'Towards Congress'.

Dashty Jamal gave a report on the activities of IFIR over the previous year and the campaigning challenges ahead. Rebwar Arif previous secretary of IFIR gave a report about IFIR

Dashty Jamal - Introduced the Declaration of Refugee Rights which was an attempt by IFIR to update the Human Rights Charter in the Geneva Convention. Delegates discussed amendments to the paper. After some discussion the paper was passed. However IFIR representatives were given one week to send amendments. The secretariat would discuss all the amendments received and report back to IFIR members.

Xsraw Saya - Introduced the new IFIR constitution. It is a political non governmental, Human rights organisation that advocates the rights of refugees. The paper was passed by majority vote.

Jasm Ghafur introduced a paper addressing the current situation in Kurdistan, laying out IFIR arguments and evidence that Kurdistan is unsafe. There was much discussion regarding the way the motion was laid out some delegates argued it was too long and should be made simpler for all to understand. In the end the paper was passed.

The final part of the conference was given over to elections. Dashty Jamal was elected as Secretary of IFIR and Baban Osman, Rebwar Arif, Jasm Ghafur, Jamal Koshish, Aso Goran, Zuzan Husen, Omar Amin and Baker Hamad were elected onto the secretarial committee.

To make refugees' rights substantive, bringing a strong and an organized movement forward is of vital importance.

Dashty jamal Speech at the IFIR Congress



I would like to welcome and thank you for attending the congress today.

This congress is of the greatest importance. Not just because European countries have started forcibly deporting Iraqi asylum seekers and not because thousands of Kurdish and Iraqi asylum seekers are being kept waiting without their cases being decided. This conference is crucially important because Iraq is going through one of its most violent cycles in which war, death, and displacement of refugees are a daily matter. This conference coincides with the displacement of more than 4 million Iraqi civilians because of lack of security and the continuing violence in Iraq. The plight of displaced persons and refugees being forced into tented accommodation has been imposed on the Iraqi people they have been deprived of their most basic needs both inside Iraq and in neighbouring countries

This proves that the phenomenon of asylum is a political phenomenon an outcome of the violence, of the US and Western countries policies. Iraqi Refugees have been to forced to leave Iraq due to lack of security, poverty and violent conditions which they have not chosen but have had imposed on them. It is widely accepted that the US, UK and other European countries supported the Saddam regime which devastated the whole Iraqi society. The US and western capitalist bloc armed the Saddam regime. This brutal policy has contributed to the deteriorating conditions of the Iraqi people. The combination of Saddam's dictatorship and the support of the US, and western states around the world has caused much suffering to the Iraqi people. It is very important not to forget that the US and UK who claim they have helped Iraq towards democracy, have been involved in creating the past suffering of the Iraqi people. The New World System which is led by US and its allies, which invaded Iraq illegally.

The people of Iraq have paid the price of a brutal and bloody war. The occupying powers in Iraq are currently responsible for the daily suffering of the Iraqi people. After waging an illegal war under the slogan of the Liberation of Iraq, they have mishandled the political, social and economic situation in Iraq. Many Iraqis have been killed in the last four years and the Iraqi government is incapable of ending the suffering of Iraqi people. At present, USA and its allies and terrorist groups implement brutal and inhumane policies in Iraq by killing civilians indiscriminately. The quality of life for the Iraqi people is deteriorating daily. Thus, the Iraqi people are trapped and the only solution is escaping the country. The restoration of law and order is impossible in Iraq.

The situation in Kurdistan is relatively stable compared with other parts of Iraq. However, Iraqi Kurdistan is not an independent state and is not part of a stable state. Thus, the Kurdish people are in limbo and the future of their lives is uncertain. The de facto status in Iraqi Kurdistan is the outcome of the policies of the US and the Iraq war by changing the US agenda, the lives of Kurdish people would change. The two ruling parties in Kurdistan the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan-PUK and the Kurdistan Democratic Party-KDP are authoritative and undemocratic. The experiences of their administration in the last 16 years demonstrate their incompetence. The Kurdish authorities (PUK and KDP) are not inclusive and many suffer from their biased policies. Many people are unemployed in Kurdistan and public services are very poor. The persecution of human rights campaigners and journalists is clear evidence of the inhumane policies of the Kurdish authorities in Iraqi Kurdistan. Terrorist groups and Islamic parties are intimidating Kurdish people on a daily basis. Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and US Secretary state reports all indicate violations of human rights in Iraqi Kurdistan and show that the life of the Kurdish people in Iraqi Kurdistan is at risk due to the policies of Kurdish authorities. Thus, the Kurdish people are victims of international, regional powers and the Kurdish authorities. The KDP and PUK are not able to protect Kurdish people and provide public services, which has lead to many Kurdish people leaving Iraqi Kurdistan.

What is the solution and what can be done to end the suffering of Iraqi refugees and asylum seekers?

Dear participants of this congress:

1-Many European countries have pressured Iraqi and Kurdish asylum seekers in the last few years. Many asylum seekers from Iraq have been made destitute

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Seeking Asylum is not crime

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not being able to work or given support whilst awaiting the results of asylum claims.

2- The Iraqi government and Kurdish authorities are in favour of the forcible deportation of Iraqis and provide facilities for the EU countries to deport Iraqis. Obviously, the Iraqi government and Kurdish authorities have been using every channel to legitimize their powers in Iraq and are working hard to show that they can run the country successfully. Thus, they misuse the asylum seeker and refugee issues and attempt to convince the EU countries that Iraq is safe for deporting Iraqis. Instead of supporting the Iraqi refugees and asylum seekers, the Iraqi government and Kurdish authority are in favour of the inhumane policies of deportation and have done their best to provide facilities and signed agreements with the EU countries. The International Federation of Iraqi Refugees has uncovered a secret agreement between EU countries and Kurdish authorities to deport Kurdish asylum seekers.

3- The United Nations have also been playing a role in dealing with Iraqi asylum seekers in the last few years particularly, the recent UNHCR conference which was attended by 60 countries. However, most countries present at the conference were in favour of US policies in Iraq and most of them have been involved in the deteriorating lives of Iraqi people. We should be looking for another solution which will end the suffering of Iraqi asylum seekers. The question is: what is the realistic solution to end this catastrophe. I think this congress will be able to answer this question and will find important solutions.

First of all, let me say something about the background of the Federation.

Members and organisers of this congress have gathered under a humanitarian agenda. The Federation has achieved a lot for Iraqi asylum seekers and refugees since its foundation. In 1993, the Federation has helped many Iraqis who have fled Iraq from the nationalist and Islamic parties. The Federation has passionately supported the claims of Iraqi asylum seekers since 1994 by providing services and other facilities in countries where Iraqi refugees have settled. Also, in the camps of neighbouring countries, the Federation was the only organization that was there to advise and support Iraqis and did its best to help Iraqi refugees to reach safe countries. The Federation has provided services in countries such as: Greece, Italy, Russia and Turkey. The Federation has organized many demonstrations and campaigned in those countries for the rights of Iraqi asylum seekers and refugees. The Federation has opened offices in Scandinavian countries, Turkey, Canada, Australia and Greece. When we look back to the history of the Federation, we are able to see many achievements and successful experiences of the Federation organizers.

Friends and Participants of the congress

This congress is planning to challenge the myth that Iraqi Kurdistan is safe and stable. The KDP and PUK are not democratic they are incompetent and responsible for the suffering of the Kurdish people. The many Kurdish people leaving Kurdistan on a daily basis is the obvious evidence of the corruption of Kurdish authorities.

Jean Lambert invited me and other International Federation of Iraqi Refugees to the European Parliament in Brussels to meet European MEP's responsible for deciding the European parliament's policies towards Iraqi refugees. I explained to the European MEP's if EU countries are serious in stopping the flow of Iraqi asylum seekers, instead of deporting them, they (the EU countries) should help in establishing a modern and secular state in Kurdistan and, also the EU countries should offer every help to those political groups who are in favour of establishing a modern and secular state in Kurdistan. Thus, establishing a new political system in Iraqi Kurdistan is the only solution to stop flow Kurdish asylum seekers and refugees. At the end of the visit I met the European president and handed to her a petition protesting the forcible deportation of Iraqi asylum seekers in the UK.



Refugees are a world political phenomenon and the Geneva Convention is not sufficient to tackle the suffering of refugees today. An active and powerful organization and movement to campaign for the rights of refugees is necessary and urgently required. This organization should include all human rights campaigners and humanistic activities to challenge the inhumane policies towards asylum seekers and refugees.

Refugee status should be redefined and new guidelines should be issued regarding the rights of refugees and asylum seekers. This conference believes that everyone is entitled to travel and live wherever he or she wants to live.

Friends and delegates of this conference

We believe that there are many people who have high expectations of this conference and its outcomes. Let's work together to defend the rights of asylum seekers and refugees across the world. We encourage all MPs, trade union activists and human rights

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campaigners to come forward in order to organize a new and strong front to defend and challenge the inhumane policies toward refugees and asylum seekers. By this kind of front and adopting a new agenda, we will be able to end the suffering of many vulnerable people across the world. The Federation is willing and determined to work for refugees across the world, the Federation is not alone in this struggle we have the support of everyone who is here today Refugee rights campaigners, MP's MEP's Trade Unionists. We urge all humanitarian advocates to join us and strengthen our campaign to end the catastrophe of refugees and asylum seekers.

I hope in the next two days, we will be able to outline a new agenda and produce new policies in order to empower the Federation and do our best in the future to change and improve the lives of many.



Doug Holton Speech at the IFIR Congress

National Coordinator Stop Deporting Children
retiring member of Management Committee of
National coalition of Anti-Deportation Campaigns
Organising Committee European Social Forum
I am a Theatre Practitioner. As well as other professional commitments I especially value my work with refugees and minority communities on theatre projects aimed at promoting understanding of the issues faced by these communities.

I am please and privileged to by speaking to you. I apologise for my lack of language skills and it is ironic that we are in Sweden at a meeting largely comprised of Sorani speakers I am addressing you in English. It is a sign of the times we are living in that everyone seems required to speak in English. I should I say, American.

I heard Dashti Jamal say that asylum is a political issue. That is absolutely correct. Of course it always has been political but the scale of it and the cynical use of asylum as a means of oppression and an instrument of racism and in furtherance of the political agenda of imperialist nations requires recognition. What it seems to me is required is a campaign that appreciates this and can reach and relate to the working class and progressive forces. Capitalism and imperialism are international and so

must we be. I believe that it is important to wage a campaign that draws the maximum support and understanding and that we do not exclude potential supporters by pursuing a narrow agenda. The best way to convince someone that your analysis is right is by fighting with them against their oppressor. The oppressor is never a true friend or ally. Any advantage anyone gets from an association with imperialist forces is coincidental and short lived and in the long term interests of the oppressor. If we fail to support others in their fight for liberation they will not be there to support us when we need it.

The fact that we engage in broad based campaigns is no reason to water down or conceal our view of the world or to suppress political debate but to put that debate into an active context.

Our struggle can take place on many fronts. All of tem are important. It is necessary to lobby governments and the European Union. The EU is not and never will be an instrument of the working class. It is designed to further the interests of the ruling class and it always will serve that function. Nonetheless there are defensive advantages that can be derived from taking our case to The European Parliament. There are many progressive and humanitarian voices there and we need to use those voices.

Sometimes we need to use the Courts. For no reason other than the governments often break there own rules.

We need to be aware of the importance of publicising our cause and counter the lies of the mass media.

Finally we need to work tirelessly in the Trades Union movement and inv mass progressive campaign such as Stop The War; to build understanding and solidarity.

And on that note may I pledge my undying solidarity with your cause and wish you success in your deliberations. I shall be honoured to have such discussions as my limited language skills permit. It is an honour to be here and whenever you need my help I shall always be there. Not because I am a great human being but because as a socialist I believe that it is in all our interests to work and to fight shoulder to shoulder.

Thank you.



No to Detention No to Deportation

International Federation of Iraqi Refugees

Constitution

1- Name: International Federation of Iraqi Refugees (Federation-IFIR).

2- Definition:

International Federation of Iraqi Refugees (Federation-IFIR) is a political none governmental ,humanistic organization that advocates the rights of refugees.

The Federation believes that the major reason for the displacement of people leading to millions of people becoming refugees and asylum seekers are Governments that drive their countries into war without regard for the welfare, equality and security of people.

The Federation believes the only way to stop problems with migration is by establishing a borderless world where all people live with equal rights in a peaceful and creative environment.

The Federation believes that home is the country where one lives and works. We consider that human rights are universal and they can not be limited by factors of geographic territory, gender, culture, religion, race, age or place of birth. Any belief or movement that restricts human rights for reasons of racism, fascism or cultural relative theory, is a reactionary belief and movement that stands against universal human rights.

The Federation is a radical organization that defends human rights and sees itself as a part of the socialist and progressive movement camp; it fights for the rights of Iraqi refugees and refugees from other country, it works to gain solidarity from trade unions, left, progressive organization and refugee's rights organization worldwide.

3- Aims and objectives

Unconditional defend of refugees' rights regardless of political, race, religious, gender, and age differences.

Organizing and unifying refugees to enable them to gain their rights.

To gain solidarity of individuals, refugees, human rights campaigner, progressive organisation and trade unions worldwide.

To struggle to end racism, fascism and racist attacks against refugees.

Absolute defence of women rights. The Federation intends to stand against all threats against women in particular domestic violence, and honour crimes. The Federation promotes equality and freedom for all women regardless of race or religion.

The Federation defends the rights of children regardless of gender and religion and promotes the right of all children to play together regardless of gender and religion.

The Federation strives to educate refugees with socialist, modern and humanitarian concepts, to free refugees from backward nationalist restrictions thereby helping them to adapt to the contemporary

norms and way of life to further integrate them with the host communities where they live.

The Federation strongly stands against any violation of human rights in Kurdistan and Iraq.

The Federation supports other humanitarian and refugee organization and campaigns that defend refugee rights world wide.

The Federation seeks to organize Iraqi refugees to support political and social movements in Iraq and Kurdistan that work to create a future in which freedom and human rights are respected.

4- Policy and Agenda of the Federation

First - Methodology of Work:

The Federation will use all of the following strategies to achieve the stated aims of the Federation; campaigning; demonstrating; public gatherings; seminars; exhibitions and building support amongst sympathetic organizations.

Second – Work Agenda:

Taking into consideration the war and US-coalition occupation, continued terrorist attacks, ethnic clashes and lack of security in Iraqi cities and at the same time the uncertainty of the future of Kurdish cities the Federation believes these are the main reasons for thousands of Kurds and Iraqis fleeing Iraq. The Federations purpose is to protect the rights of Iraqi refugees.

The Federation endeavours to support Iraqi refugees with claims for asylum in their chosen country and seeks to help Iraqi refugees' present detailed information such as evidence and documents regarding the violation of human rights in Iraq and Kurdistan to help them gain refugee status.

The Federation fights for the rights of women refugees in Iraq and Kurdistan against the control of political Islamic movements, tradition and patriarchal culture which bring women under threat.

Standing against any forcible return of refugees back to Iraq on the pretext of the stable situation in Kurdistan.

The Federation will act as a centre of information regarding all human rights violations in Iraq and Kurdistan and presenting the gathered information to international organizations such as the United Nations and Amnesty International.

The Federation calls for maximum support from labour organizations, political parties and liberal movements for Iraqi refugees.

In order to pursue its activities and objectives the Federation will endeavour to organize refugees and open educational and activity centres in the countries Iraqi refugees live.

The Federation will establish mass media centres to explain its position, attitude and goals regarding Iraqi refugees.

The Federation will document all received financial support and expenses in a clear manner.

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5- Hierarchy of the Federation:

The Federation is an international organization which is based on voluntary membership and activity. The units of the Federation generally composed of the “Base of the Federation”, organization of members consists of:

Conference, secretary, secretariat, international and national centres and offices in the cities of many countries.

First – Conference

The policy of work of the Federation will be decided at conferences held biannually (every 2 years). All changes in policy and goals and documents of the Federation will be done through conference.

The conference will choose the secretary of the Federation

The conference will inspect the secretary’s report and budget report.

The conference will approve the budget which is prepared by the secretary for the following two years.

Second – Secretary

The secretary of the Federation will be in charge of managing the work of the Federation and the agenda which will be approved by the conference.

The secretary is responsible for preparing reports regarding Federation activities in between conferences..

Third – Secretariat

The secretariat is in charge of administration of the Federation and applying the resolutions and recommendations that have been decided at the conference.

The secretariat will look into the political, educational and public information needs of the Federation globally and will implement them in the relevant countries.

The secretariat will establish and maintain relations with relevant organizations and monitor their activities.

The secretariat will manage the Federation’s media presentations and output.

Fourth – Branches of the Federation

Any new branch of the Federation opened will be under the name of Iraqi Federation of Refugees in addition to the name of the country, for example; International Federation of Iraqi Refugees – UK.

Individual branches of the Federation of Iraqi Refugees in cities report first to the Federation of Iraqi Refugees branch for the country who in turn report to the International Federation of Iraqi Refugees.

The frame work of the local Federations must be the same as the international Federation.

The international Federation secretariat will approve the frame work of local branches of the Federation however each branch is to administer their work in the framework laid down by conference.

The Federation’s attitude and organizational position in the cities and countries are also determined by the secretariat.

Fifth – Membership

All those who desire to work within the goals and documents of the Federation for the refugees, without considering their political ideas, gender and race can apply for membership.

The Federation are able to accept member locally and internationally.

Membership is fixed. Names of the members will be listed, and each member will have an ID card.

Applications for membership will be by filling in a Federation membership form, membership approval will granted by secretariat.

Members should give at least \$30 as membership a fee.

Human rights organizations can also apply for membership as individual organizations.

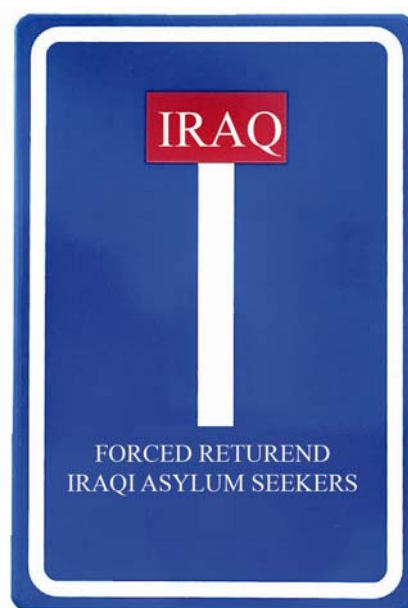
Duties and responsibilities of the members will be assigned by the secretariat.

6- Federation’s Budget

Includes membership contribution, assistance, and income from projects.

30% of the budget and incomes of all Federation branches is administrated by the secretariat.

“Anyone who may face detention, arrest or persecution if returned to her/his country of origin because of choices within her/his private life or if an asylum seeker joins a political party and takes part in political activities that would endanger them if returned to their home country must be granted refugee status”



First statement: Declaration of Refugee Rights

The Statement of Declaration of Refugee Rights was discussed and agreed at the 9th Conference of the International Federation of Iranian Refugees in 2002. The International Federation of Iraqi Refugees discussed and amended the Declaration of Refugee Rights at their Congress 25/26 August 2007. The version as agreed by the International Federation of Iraqi Refugees Congress is printed below:

State persecution of Refugees and asylum seekers is a phenomenon of modern state capitalism. Many of the problems which have forced refugees and asylum seekers today to leave their homes have been caused by the emergence of brutal; nationalistic and ethnocentric; political and religious wars which has lead to the suffering of millions of people. Poverty and war have been created by the policies of modern capitalism which lead directly to homelessness and hunger. Conditions are worsening for people all over the world. Refugees are being forced to leave their homes and countries and claim asylum in other countries. All Human Rights campaigners should be calling for an end to the criminalising and persecution of refugees and asylum seekers. People who believe in human rights and have a desire for establishing a free and equal society should challenge this barbarism to stop human suffering. All human beings are members of a human society however capitalist states and political systems have labelled people with identities which only serve to create barriers amongst people.

Unfortunately many European Countries have been responsible for the continuing attacks on refugees and asylum seekers. Many asylum seekers have been refused permission to work and state help forcing many to become destitute or work in the black market under terrible conditions. European countries also have a policy of detaining asylum seekers in detention centres where conditions are little better than prisons. A number of asylum seekers have been forcibly deported in the most inhuman escorted by security guards, forced to wear handcuffs and placed on military aircraft.

We believe, first and foremost, in the unconditional freedom of travel and movement and freedom to choose one's place of residence for all. Furthermore, we believe that eliminating the calamities of today's world is linked to the abolition of capitalism, a system that reproduces poverty, hunger, war and flight on a daily basis for billions of people and owes its survival to these very social inequalities. However whilst the refugee question remains we are duty-bound to continue our struggle to secure and guarantee extensive refugee rights.

Definition of a Refugee

A refugee is anyone who seeks refuge in another country for a safer and freer life as a result of

political, social, or economic pressures. While the causes of flight are numerous, reasons are similar in nature and indicative of despotic economic and social systems and regimes. Consequently, anyone who flees war, violence, discrimination, despotism, and the domination of repressive religious, nationalistic and rights violating states or groups - whether state or non-state - must be granted refugee status.

General Principles

Anyone who faces state or non-state discrimination, harassment, persecution, violence, intimidation, abuse, and rights violations because of race, ethnicity, sexuality, sex, religion, or political, social, and economic reasons must be granted refugee status.

No government has the right to close its borders to asylum seekers.

Children who flee under any circumstance either with or without their parents must be immediately granted refugee status. In addition children asylum seekers should be cared for by the state and given free housing, education, health care, sports and recreation equivalent to those provided to citizens of the country they are applying for asylum within. These rights should not be deferred or conditional upon the granting of refugee status.

Women who face; psychological; physical; cultural especially those under threat of 'honour' killing or other violence and harassment from misogynist and reactionary states and non-state groups; laws; customs and traditions must be granted refugee status.



In countries where military 'service' is compulsory and refusal to serve can lead to imprisonment. Any person refusing to take part in military service must be granted refugee status.

The criteria for breaking the laws of the country of origin is not determined solely by transgressions of discriminatory, misogynist, religious, and anti-children laws. Political, cultural and union activities cannot be deemed crimes under any circumstances. Universal rights laws in existence in the most advanced Western European countries must be the criteria used.

Anyone who may face detention, arrest or persecution if returned to her/his country of origin

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because of choices within her/his private life or if an asylum seeker joins a political party and takes part in political activities that would endanger them if returned to their home country must be granted refugee status.

War criminals, heads of states and those who have committed atrocities and murders must not be deported to their countries of origin as long as execution and torture exist. However, they must be tried and sentenced in accordance with the laws of a country where execution and torture have been abolished.

All women and girls and children under the age of 18 who have fled Islamic societies must be unconditionally granted refugee status.

Lack of identification or evidentiary documentation and or even use of fraudulent and illegal documentation by asylum seekers should not be classed as a crime and must not have an adverse effect on the granting of refugee status. Furthermore, having a passport and legally exiting country of origin cannot prevent someone from being granted refugee status.

Every asylum seeker has the right to have her/his claim reviewed in the country in which s/he has applied for refugee status. Passing through other countries cannot prevent the granting of refugee status in the country in which the claimant has applied for refugee status. Choosing one's city and place of residence is the right of all asylum seekers and must not be violated.

All asylum seekers must have the right to fair determination procedures. All asylum seekers must be granted free legal services namely attorneys and interpreters, and must be given access to comprehensive information on the determination procedures. Entitlement to existing social and welfare rights, including the right to work, education, health care, and unemployment is part of the basic rights of every asylum seeker.

No asylum seeker can be prosecuted or imprisoned for being an asylum seeker and or entering without proper or legal documentation. If an asylum seeker commits a criminal offence in the country where s/he has applied for asylum, s/he must be tried in accordance with the laws of that country in that country.

All refugees have the right to family reunification. The refugee's family has the right to obtain refugee status.

Former political prisoners and persons who have been tortured must be granted refugee status without taking into consideration whether they have a fear of persecution at the time when they applied for asylum. A certification letter from a political opposition party or group must be considered adequate by the

determining authorities in granting refugee status. In cases when the asylum seeker is unable to obtain a certification letter from the organisation or party s/he was active with in the past because of political differences, a certification letter from other opposition parties or organisations must be accepted by the determining authorities.

No asylum seeker can be detained or deported under any circumstances.

Freedom of speech, assembly and organisation and political and social activities equivalent to standards in the country of asylum for citizens must be granted all asylum seekers. Governments are duty-bound to protect the security of activists from any form of terrorist or racist attack.

All state or non-state racist and xenophobic propaganda against refugees and asylum seekers must be prohibited.

Governments must provide the necessary resources in a systematic and planned manner in order to expedite the assimilation of refugees and asylum seekers in society and ensure individual and social rights equal to citizens for asylum seekers and refugees. Refugees and asylum seekers must not be segregated and isolated from society and progressive culture under the name of cultural relativism based on nationality, culture and religion. The creation of ghettos for refugees and asylum seekers must be prohibited as must implementing a culturally relativist policy towards asylum seekers and refugees.

All asylum seekers must have the right to access to all facilities such as: education and health.

Religion should not be imposed and physical violence is prohibited in imposing of any kinds of religions. Children should not be taught religion at school and state funding to religious centres under the justification of cultural relativism should be stopped.

The International Federation of Iraqi Refugees asks all freedom loving people, human rights organisations, political parties, labour organisations and those supporting refugee rights to play a more effective role in the struggle for securing these rights by reiterating and actively defending the above demands and helping the Federation in their struggle for refugee rights.



Iraqi is Unsafe

Regarding Iraqi Refugees and our solution

The UN has reported that five million Iraqi refugees have left Iraq over the last decade. Iraqi refugees have sought asylum in countries across the world principally Canada, Australia, USA and European countries. The International Federation of Iraqi Refugees (IFIR) believes the causes of this exodus are:

The continuing interference in Iraqi internal affairs by Capitalist International powers from 1991 (following the fall of the Soviet Union) which lead to the Second Gulf War, forced many Iraqis to leave Iraq.

The illegal invasion of Iraq by the US and its allies in 2003 and the continuing occupation have had a devastating effect on the Iraq state, leading to a complete collapse of the infrastructure of the Iraq state. Which has meant sectarian violence and increasing terrorist activity from Islamic terrorists has gone unchallenged. Making life within Iraq precarious and chaotic leading to the current exodus of Iraqi refugees.

IFIR proposes the following solutions to the above problems:

To end the Occupation and withdraw all foreign troops immediately.

The current Iraqi Government that has been introduced by the occupation should be dissolved.

A new modern, effective, secular Government should be established in Iraq.

If the internal problems of terrorism and sectarian violence were stopped the internal situation in Iraq would improve and the refugee crises would be solved. However, until these measures have been introduced IFIR will continue to campaign for the following:

Support and help the refugees who are leaving Iraq now and are currently living in terrible conditions in the neighbouring countries to Iraq such as Jordan, Syria, Turkey, lobinan and Ejept.

For Iraqi refugees to be granted full refugee status in the country of their choosing whether that be Canada, Australia or in Europe.

IFIR will continue to campaign to help improve the quality of life for Iraqis both inside and outside of Iraq in this current crises. IFIR will work with all human rights campaigners and organisations to end the current suffering of Iraqi refugees in neighbouring countries to Iraq and those threatened with deportation in European and other countries.

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daily basis and the Islamic republic of Iran supports the terrorist group on the borders of Kurdistan.

The majority of cities within Iraq continue to be dangerous and the displacement of people both within Iraq and refugees flowing over the Iraqi borders continues to rise. Turkey returns at least three coaches full of Iraqi asylum seekers a week. Dashty reported whilst he was entering Iraq he saw two coaches returning full of failed asylum seekers crossing the Iraq Turkish border.

Dashty reported that he spoke at many press conferences whilst he was in Iraq. The aim being to put pressure through the media on the KRG to stop the policy of accepting people forcibly returned, and to voice the support of families of those asylum seekers who are facing deportation, NGOs, human rights organisations and individuals who support the campaign to change the policy. Dashty also reminded the KRG that 92 asylum seekers have been deported from the UK. All of them were beaten, made to wear flak jackets, and removed by military plane from Brize Norton airbase in Oxford to Arbil airport.

Dashty also met with a number of Kurdish MP's in parliament as well as the Secretaries of other political parties and NGO organizations to ask them to support the IFIR campaign to put pressure on the KRG to stop accepting planes of forcibly returned Kurdish asylum seekers from European countries.

At the meeting Dashty spoke of the continuing forced Deportations particularly from the UK. Dashty said the Kurdish people are very angered about the UK policy of forcible deportation and the consequent pressure put on many Kurdish asylum seekers

Dashty was also invited to address a Youth protest meeting of 250 young people in Sulaymaniya in the first week of his visit. The Young people were protesting about their lack of rights in Kurdistan and were threatening to leave the country. Dashty spoke to the young people of the situation of Iraqi Kurdish asylum seekers across Europe. Dashty explained to the young people that the situation was not good and they would be better staying in Kurdistan and joining in solidarity with the workers movement and women's to fight for rights for everyone collectively in Kurdistan.



STOP DEPORTATION FLIGHTS TO KURDISTAN

IFIR meet with KRG representatives in the UK

On the 19 September Aso Goran and Noori basher IFIR representatives met with the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) in London. At the meeting Aso and Noori spoke of the continuing forced Deportations particularly from the UK. The KRG said they had no arrangement with the UK Home Office to accept the forced returned asylum seekers and gave assurances about only accepting people who had returned voluntarily. The KRG promised to write a letter to the UK Home Office regarding the forced deportations.

Draft Resolution

In relation to unstable and unsafe condition in Kurdistan and compulsory repatriations of refugees from Europe:

Countries in Europe specifically the United Kingdom have been forcibly deporting Iraqi Kurdish refugees under the pretence that the Kurdish area of Iraq is safe and under democratic rule. The UK has forcibly deported Iraqi Kurds on three separate occasions. These deportations have been carried out in a demeaning and humiliating way. The Iraqi Kurds have been hand cuffed and escorted by security guards to Brize Norton a military airbase in Oxford.

In the mean time other Iraqi Kurdish asylum seekers have been put under enormous pressure. Many Iraqi Kurds have had their asylum appeals suspended which has lead to direct hardship, which has meant they do not have the right to work in the UK and cannot claim any welfare payments. The UK state has also forced many of the Iraqi Kurds to sign on weekly at police stations. This leads to a great deal of anxiety because the asylum seekers know that at any time they could be held and transferred to a detention centre. These actions against Iraqi Kurdish refugees in the UK are taking place whilst the war in Iraq continues

The United Nations High Commission for refugees (UNCHR) are aware of the forcible deportations and the dreadful way they have been carried out and have not acted against the policy of forcible deportation. The policy of forcible deportation undermines the basic rights of refugees as laid out in the Geneva Convention. The UK has signed the Geneva Convention.

The Kurdish authorities instead of refusing to accept forcible deportations from the UK have colluded with this policy by granting permission to land to the UK military planes full of forcibly returned Kurdish asylum seekers. The Kurdish authorities claim to be democratic and deny all the current catastrophes and continuing violence going on in both Iraq and Kurdistan. Insisting that Iraqi Kurdistan is safe and free

In response to the policy of forcible deportation and the false pretext that Iraqi Kurdistan is safe the

International Federation of Iraqi Refugees (IFIR) declares the following:

Kurdish and Iraqi refugees are victims of the current of war of terror and killing brought about by the continuing military presence in Iraq. These policies are the products of the new world order and American policy in Iraq. The war that has been imposed by USA and it's allies on the Iraqi people has left no place for ordinary Iraqi people to live peacefully in Iraq. What is happening in Iraq is apparent to everyone through watching television news programmes. We reject all bogus claims by the Iraqi Kurdish authorities that Iraq is peaceful and free.

The situation in Kurdistan may be relatively more stable compared to other parts of Iraq, but Iraqi Kurdistan is not an independent state and continues to be subject to the outcomes of the policies of the US and occupying forces whilst the Iraq war continues. The two ruling parties in Kurdistan, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) are authoritative and undemocratic. The Kurdish authorities continue to persecute human rights campaigners and journalists and anyone who speaks against them. Terrorist groups and Islamic parties are intimidating Kurdish people on a daily basis. Iraqi Kurdistan is also under constant threat of aggression from surrounding countries principally Turkey and Iran

The KDP and PUK are not able to protect Kurdish people and provide public services and utilities for example clean water and provision of electricity and so on. Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and US State Departments reports all indicate violations of human rights in Iraqi Kurdistan. All of the factors above lead to the continuing flow of refugees leaving Iraqi Kurdistan. This is a particular problem amongst the youth of Iraq.

We condemn all policies relating to the deportation of Kurdish refugees. We seek the support of freedom loving people and civilised people of Europe to stand against these policies towards refugees, furthermore the International Federation of Iraqi Refugees announce that we have got the ability to disprove all false claims regarding Kurdish refugees and we are ready to put forward our evidence in front of an impartial international court.

International Federation of Iraqi Refugees regards the UN as directly responsible for the inhuman treatments of refugees. We will also continue to put the UN under pressure to stand up for rights of refugees and perform its duties.

The International Federation of Iraqi Refugees condemns any assistance and co- operation of the Iraqi government and Kurdish authorities with European countries to forcibly deport Iraqi Kurdish refugees.

The International Federation of Iraqi Refugees will endeavour to mobilise the support of people across

Solidarity with Kurdish and Iraqi Asylum seekers

the world and in Kurdistan against policies of forcible deportation.

The International Federation of Iraqi Refugees supports any progressive organizations who campaign and work for a better future in Kurdistan. Finally we call on all refugees to gather as one power against the forcible deportation of refugees.

Media release: Home Office removes another three Iraqi asylum seekers back to Iraq

Since 2005, the Home Office has deported 92 Iraqi Kurdish asylum seekers. All have been treated in an inhuman way. Handcuffed on military aircraft flying from the RAF base at Brize Norton, these removals have led to resentment and frustration amongst Kurdish asylum seekers and refugee organisations.

Now, the Home Office has changed the way it removes Iraqi asylum seekers, using humanitarian rather than military flights. Last week, the Home office sent back two Iraqi asylum seekers using this method and yesterday another three Iraqi asylum seekers were flown to Iraq via Jordan.

The Leicester-based family of one asylum seeker now facing deportation, Ardalan Salih, has informed the International Federation of Iraqi Refugees (IFIR) that Ardalan doesn't have any family in Iraq – all are living in the UK and some have British citizenship. His solicitor said last week that he could not continue to support him because of insufficient legal aid funds on this case. A flight to deport him to Iraq is expected soon and will contain a number of Iraqis who have had their asylum claims rejected.

IFIR believes that the deportations could not be happening at a worse time – as recently there has been a cholera outbreak affecting Sulaimaniya, Arbil and Kirkuk in northern Iraq. More than 2,000 people have been infected so far. IFIR continues to contest the idea that Iraqi Kurdistan is a safe place to return Iraqi asylum seekers. The situation in Kurdistan may be relatively more stable compared to other parts of Iraq but Iraqi Kurdistan is not an independent state and continues to be subject to the outcomes of the policies of the US and occupying forces whilst the Iraq war continues. The Kurdish authorities continue to persecute human rights campaigners and journalists. Terrorist groups and neighbouring countries, such as Iran and Turkey intimidate Kurdish people on a daily basis. Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and US State Department reports all indicate violations of human rights in Iraqi Kurdistan. The two controlling political groups, the KDP and the PUK, are not able to protect Kurdish people and provide public services and utilities. All of the factors above lead to the continuing flow of refugees leaving Iraqi Kurdistan.

IFIR asks all human rights and refugee rights organisations and trade union branches to send letters to the Home Office condemning the UK

government's continuing policy of deporting Iraqi refugees back to Kurdistan.

We demand that the UK government:

stops the deportation of Kurdish asylum seekers immediately;

releases all Kurdish asylum seekers held in detention centre;

reopens the cases of those asylum seekers whose files have been closed and deals with them according to European human rights law; ends the process of destitution by allowing asylum seekers to work or to receive accommodation and public funds if unable to work.

Editor: Dashty Jamal

Deputy Editor: Karen Johnson

For more information on International Federation of Iraqi Refugees

Please contact:

Secretary: Dashty Jamal

Contact Details: 078560 32991

d.jamal@ntlworld.com

Secretariat: Aso Goran Contact Details

00447895636633

asobalabarz116@hotmail.com

Jasm Ghafor, Contact Details

00447872970807 jasimghafur@gmail.com

Jamal Koshish 0787557786

jamal-hasan@hotmail.com

Baban Osman – Stockholm, Contact Details

0046 704532270

Rbwar Arif -Finland

0440464905

fediraq@welho.com

Zozan Hussen Sweden

0736746701

Omer Amin Norway

omeramin8@hotmail.com

Baker Hammad Germany

bakir0107@yahoo.de

Details of International Federation of Iraqi

Refugees across the world:

Representatives:

Sweden: Baban Osman – Stockholm

Contact Details: 0046 704532270,

Email: baban-osman@hotmail.com

Karwan Latfe - Gothenburg

:karwanlatif@yahoo.se

Swaziland: Ahmad Ali : Contact Details

:0788532004

Germany : Erfan Karim

arfun96@yahoo.de

Netherlands: Kawa:

kawadebra@hotmail.com

Canada JalalSaed:iraqifederation@yahoo.ca

Kurdistan: Bshdar

Ali:bashdar_net@yahoo.com

Support campaigning against the forced deportation of Iraqi Kurdish Asylum seekers in Europe