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IFIR press release:

Iraqi Refugee assaulted on Turkish airline flight 4 May

Qaraman Mohamed Amin an Iraqi refugee arrived in the UK 8 October 2004 and has an English partner and daughter of 22 months.

Qaraman was accompanied from Colnbrook detention centre with 4 security guards. As he was taken out of the van they put handcuffs on him. Prior to boarding the plane the security guards bound his arms with a thick belt. As other passenger boarded Qaraman tried to talk to them to explain his situation regarding being separated from his daughter and that he had no known relatives in Iraq to help him on his return. The security Guard grabbed hold of him with such force; they lifted him off the ground and raised him to the ceiling that his trousers fell down. Qaraman very frightened and shocked started to shout you cannot separate me from my baby daughter please help me. One of the other security guards started punching him. An alarmed passenger went and got the captain of the plane. The Captain told the security guards to release Qaraman and on seeing his injuries insisted he was removed from the flight.

Qaraman was removed from the flight and returned to Colnbrook detention centre. He is currently very distressed at his experience and very badly bruised. Please see pictures of Qaraman's injuries.

Unfortunately this is not the first incident of an Iraqi being assaulted whilst being deported. On the 11 April Araz Ismael was deported on a Royal Jordanian air line. Araz was handcuffed and placed in the toilet for 5 hours. Araz was only released when the flight landed and he was transferred onto another flight bound for Baghdad, Iraq.

Dashty Jamal, secretary of the International Federation of Iraqi Refugees says: "those security guards responsible for physically assaulting Qaraman and Araz must be investigated. We are asking all the human rights and progressive people in the UK to stop this barbarism and demand an end to this inhuman forcible deportation policy."

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