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To the world public opinion Iraqi refugees assaulted and injured on mass deportation flight to Baghdad 6th September 2010



On 6th September Iraqi refugees were assaulted by British security guards and Iraqi police on the mass deportation flight that left London for Baghdad on Monday night carrying more than sixty people.

The International Federation of Iraqi Refugees has seen photographs of the injuries inflicted

and has made a formal complaint to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR).

Sabah Saleh Saeed, who was on the plane, says:

“they took us from the detention centre by coach to Luton airport and put 62 of us on the plane guarded by more than 100 bodyguards. There was one Iranian citizen being deported to Baghdad with us. The flight left at 1.00 am.

When we arrived in Baghdad we refused to get off the plane. One Iraqi policeman came on and said if we did not come down they would make us go down by force but we said we are being forcibly deported: we will not come down.

We stayed where we were but the G4S security guards forced handcuffs on us and started to beat us when they were dragging us off the plane. They were swearing at us, beating us. Four of them grabbed me to force me off the plane. They grabbed my neck and punched me. My eyes went dark. I could not see any light. I saw many other refugees with blood running down their faces.

When I was on the steps on the plane they were still boxing me. There were a lot of Iraqi police there. They took over from the G4S guards when I had got off. Then the Iraqi police beat us with their sticks.

Those of us who had Iraqi ID were released. We had to get across Baghdad to get to the bus station. We felt very afraid: I do not speak Arabic and I had to get from the airport to the bus station. From there I took a taxi up to Kurdistan in the north. Now I can't sleep. I'm not safe here and all my body is painful after the beating.”

Lokman Hama Amin, who was also on the flight, says:

“four security guards grabbed when we landed in Baghdad. They pushed me down to the floor of the plane. They handcuffed me. I was shouting, asking them to let me go because they were breaking my hand but they carried on beating my shoulder. Now I cannot move my arm: I have put it in a sling.”

The International Federation of Iraqi Refugees believes many people on the flight are still being held in detention in Baghdad Airport due to problems with their identification.

Dashty Jamal, secretary of the International Federation of Iraqi Refugees says:

“those security guards responsible for physically assaulting the deportees must be brought to justice. We are asking for all the human rights and progressive people in the UK to stop this barbarism and demand an end to this inhuman forcible deportation policy.”

**IFIR:PO.BOX1575, ILFORD, IG1 3BZ, LONDON UK:CONTACT:00447856032991Or
0041313021966-0788532004 www.csdiraq.com www.federationifir.com ifir@hotmail.co.uk**