

FEDERATION



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PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF IRAQI REFUGEES-IFIR ISSUE 15

IFIR representatives met the leader of the Kurdish Parliament in Erbil



On 17 December Dashty Jamal, the secretary of IFIR, Are Jala ,Amanj Abdulla, Kawa Qaradaxy from IFIR Kurdistan branch met Salar Mahmood MP and representative of the Social community in Kurdistan parliament with 7 other MPs. On the same day the IFIR delegation met Yousif Muhammed speaker leader of parliament. The following points were raised at the meeting i) forced repatriation of deportees from Europe ii) Not accepting forcibly returned people. The delegation also passed again the IFIR resolution which was first passed to MP's in 2011. The resolution called on the Kurdish Regional Government to stop accepting forcible returnees, to compensate all returnees and offer assistance to rebuild their lives. The MP's promised to answer the resolution demands soon.

On the same day the IFIR delegation held a press conference in a Chwar Chra hotel in Erbil .



Support IFIR campaign to stop forcible deportation

On World Human Rights Day a rally was held to protest against human rights violations committed in Kurdistan



Commemorating the 66th World Human Rights day, in front of the representative office of Kurdistan Parliament in Suleimany, a protest rally was organized by a large number of civil society organizations and human rights activists, against the gross violation of human rights in Kurdistan.

The protesters called for better treatment of the refugees who fled areas occupied by the terrorist armed group of ISIS, as well as the rights of women, children, and disabled people. They also asked for the independence of the courts, safer work place, jobs for unemployed people or social security for those are unable to work or can't find employment, and a fairer distribution of the country's wealth. The protesters considered business with terrorist groups, honour killing of women, and the killing of journalists and human rights activists are clear examples of human rights violation in Kurdistan.

: The protest started with a minute of silence in respect of those who sacrificed their lives to protect human rights, followed, by speeches from the organizers of the rally and representatives of civil society organisations. It is important to mention that, four MP's joined the rally to showed support for the demands and solidarity with the protesters. The MP's promised to support the demands of the protestors in the parliament. ,<<<<continued on page 5

International Federation of Iraqi Refugees meeting to express solidarity with the civilized people of Shingal and Kobani



Hosted by John McDonnell MP ,Date: Tuesday, 28.10.2014,Time:18:30-20:30

Committee room no10, House of Parliament, Westminster, London

Chair: Karen Johnson

Speakers: Dashty Jamal Secretary of International Federation of Iraqi Refugees, John McDonnell Labour Party MP, Jean Lambert MEP, Dr Alan Semo PYD representative in UK , Beth Redmond From AWL, Gona Saeed from Kurdish and Middle Eastern Women's Organisation in Britain, Mauyed Ahmed Secretary of the central committee of the Worker Communist Party of Iraq
The Chair opened the meeting by calling for a minutes silence for all the victims of ISIS. The Chair then laid out the following topics that would be covered by the speakers:

- The ISIS threat against the future of Iraq, Kurdistan and the Middle East.
- Genocide against the people of Shingal both Yazidis and Christian.
- The situation of displaced people and women kidnapped by ISIS forces.
- The brave Resistance of the citizens of Kobani and finding a way out of this blazing hell.

The Chair introduced Dashty Jamal to open the meeting and lay out the background to the current situation in Kobani and the wider area. The Chair then introduced the other speakers.

John McDonnell spoke about the history of Iraqi Kurdistan and other campaigns he had been involved with and promoting human rights in the region.

At the meeting there was an announcement regarding the launch of a campaign by the Kurdish Women's Organization to protect and support Yazedi and other minority women and children.

Following the speeches The Chair introduced two short films made by International Federation of Iraqi Refugees activists in Iraq regarding the plight of displaced people.

The Meeting discussed and passed unanimously the following resolution:

- 1-Call on the UK and International community to support the people's resistance in Kobani.>>>

2- Immediately help all who have been displaced regardless of their religion or race. Take every measure to rescue and protect the lives of the women and children from Yazadi, Christian and all minority communities.

3- Demand that the British and European countries grant asylum to Yazidis, Christians and every one forced to flee from ISIS.

4- Any country who have supported ISIS for example Turkey must not only be condemned; but also be interrogated

5- Any activities and demonstrations by IS supporters must be opposed by trade unions, community groups and political organizations. What they do does not constitute freedom of political thought; they advocate hatred and killing. Tolerating these groups may give justification to other racist groups to flourish and spread hostility towards people on the basis of religious beliefs



6- The ruling parties across Iraq propagate racist and ethnocentric sentiments among the people, causing tension between Arabs and Kurds, as well as Sunni and Shia. This is catastrophic and has brought about high levels of ethno-sectarian hatred in Iraq and Kurdistan. Pressure should be exerted on the political parties to stop this.

**Solidarity with Shangal &
Kobani**

ISIS is the Product of New World Order Strategy of US and its Allies

Dashty Jamal Secretary of IFIR speech in Parliament 28 October

Thank you to John Macdonall for arranging this important meeting. Thanks to you for attending. You may all know that John is a socialist who has always fought for freedom, stood against the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. He has always defended the right of asylum seekers in general and Iraqi and Kurdish asylum seekers in particular. His works and solidarity is highly appreciated. Thank you also to Jean Lambert, from Green Party, and member of the European Parliament, who has also defended the rights of asylum seekers and freedom of women. She has taken part in our demonstrations against returning Kurdish asylum seekers and in our conferences. Thank you of course to all the speakers.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am sure you are all aware that after the takeover of Mosul, Shengal and other Sunni- inhabited areas by the terrorist group of ISIS, and other pro-Arab Nationalism Sunni militias, that the whole area is now facing catastrophe. We have seen the displacement of thousands of people many of whom are women, children and the old and vulnerable.

We have witnessed the barbaric beheading of people, many more prisoners were shot dead. The catastrophe of the Yazidi and Christian girls being sold is a big shame in today's world community. We have heard from the girls who have survived ISIS.

How the underage and unmarried ones amongst them were given as gifts to Emirs, were raped and obliged to convert to Islam. Many of these girls were taken from school yard and have being compulsorily undergone Jihad Al-Nikah (sex jihad)- mass rape so to say.

According to initial reports from the Zhyan Group, a group well known for advocating and defending women's rights in Iraqi Kurdistan, "the total number of abducted girls or women are 519 from age 13 to 70. 191 children are registered- infants under 12 years old." How can we forget the scene of people besieged in Shengal Mountain, without food and water. This was just a part of the whole scenario shown to the world. It was like another Halabja repeated to stir humanity's heart.

Now the barbaric forces of ISIS have besieged Kobani and imposed a devastating war in Anbar, Heet, and Kirkuk in Iraq. Hundreds have been killed and thousands have been displaced.

The threat of conquering other areas by ISIS is increasing day after day. We cannot stay motionless. This situation concerns us all: we have to show our responsibility towards the future of society and even our destiny as human beings.

Dear attendees,>>>>>



ISIS has not come from the ruined graves of the dark centuries. This black, Islamic, terrorist force was first founded when USA and some of its allies, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Qatar supported every savage Islamic and nationalist force to topple Bashar Assad's regime. ISIS is the product of the strategy of USA and its allies. It was enforced and it is now menacing the whole area.

After the Baath regime was toppled by USA, they promised that they would bring democracy to Iraq and the whole area and will bring peace and security for the people of Iraq. But look how the hurricane of ethnocentric and religious wars has blown the Iraqi society which caused deaths of thousands.

We have seen bodies scattered and children's legs and arms dispersed into the air. The society is burning every day before our eyes. ISIS and its war against people of Kurdistan and Iraq is a part of the social and political mess devastating our society.

Ironically enough, it seems that it has been necessary to see all those dead bodies to believe that the result of USA policy and strategy is destruction.

In the perpetuation of USA strategy, starting another war is none but changing power balance and showing its power to the world: it has nothing to do with eliminating ISIS.

We have seen how in the war in Afghanistan they enforced Al-Qaeda and Taliban; they did not remove them.

This is clearly to compete with the other economic, political and military poles in today's world capitalism, not to remove ISIS and terrorism. Look how such a kind of terrorism is going on in the name of "eliminating terrorism".

The current situation cannot only be solved by bombarding, but it needs the involvement of the mass and the freedom-loving people across the world.

It is our duty to end terrorism. It is the duty of working class movement and civil humanity. It is the duty of that movement which protests >>>*continued on page 8*

An update on work carried out by IFIR to support returned asylum seekers from Europe to Iraq



The Kurdistan branch of IFIR has been active for the past 4 years. IFIR Kurdistan has been a source of help, guidance and aid for both the forcibly deported and those who have been forced to return voluntarily to Iraq. The branch has helped the deportees to reintegrate into Kurdish society and restart their life.

IFIR has organized a project for the purpose of resolving the difficulties of those who have been deported to both Kurdistan and Iraq. The Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) as well as the Central Iraqi Government have both been presented with this project. However unfortunately IFIR are yet to receive a response from either party.

Whilst we await a response from the KRG and the Central Iraqi Government, IFIR supported by deportee's continues to hold protests in cities and towns across Iraq.

The Kurdistan branch of IFIR strives to work with local and international organizations to continue to offer help to deportees

Please see below a list of the achievements of the IFIR Kurdistan branch:

1. Archiving 5000 detailed forms for all the deported and returnees. Categorizing the lists in the order of areas, recording and saving their details in electronic data as well as designating personnel to investigate and/or completing their files by making regular visits.

NB The Slemani branch has representatives in the following areas of Kurdistan: Chemchemal, Kerkuk, Derbendikhan, Kelar, Khaneqin, Sharezuor (Seiid Sadiq, Helebje, the new Helebje resettlement and penjwen), Raperin(Ranie and Qeladze) and Dhok.

2. IFIR has assisted the deportees in searching for employment opportunities in both public and >>>

the deported refugees. We have so far have been able to help gain employment for 45 people in the private sector and 25 people in public sector.

4. IFIR has Organized 5 workshops for our representatives to help them gain organizational skills and abilities in different areas to enable them to assist the returned deportees.

5. IFIR volunteers have Identified the returned refugees' issues, problems and concerns and referred them to the relevant agencies and organizations. IFIR has also offered help, advice and guidance to deported refugees who are suffering from psychological issues, somewho have attempted to commit suicide. We are pleased to say that so far we have been able to directly help 4 people and continue to work with many more on a daily basis.

6. IFIR has made and assisted in making several films, documentaries and television programs to highlight the concerns of the returned deportees.

7. IFIR has Searched and found 3 missing refugees and returned them to their families.

8. IFIR has successfully fund raised and returned the bodies of 3 deceased Kurdish refugees from Europe to Kurdistan, helping their families financially as well as psychologically.

9. IFIR has Gained grants to remain for 67 Syrian refugees who are unable to return to Syria due to the current political and security instability as well as offering aid on several occasions to the Syrian refugees in Erbet camp.

10. IFIR continues to distribute general information forms, illness forms, employment opportunity forms and passport forms.

11. IFIR has successfully helped families who have financial difficulties and are suffering from long term illnesses...>>>*continued on page 5*

Report of the latest activities of IFIR and HANA group (which was formed from several other humanitarian Non-Governmental



Hana was formed to gather and obtain aid for the Syrian refugees who fled their country due to the war waged in that country by the terror organization ISIS. During this campaign IFIR and HANA provided food, medicine and clothing to several thousands of displaced people who are now in Arbat, Dukan, Bainjan, Darbandi Bazian, Darbandi Khan Camps.

The invasion by ISIS of several Iraqi and Kurdish cities, towns and villages has led to many people from Baghdad, Rummadi, Anbar, Tkril, Mousil and Shingal being forced to flee their homes and resettle in the main three Kurdish cities of Slemani, Hewler and Dhok.

In response to this IFIR with IDPS/IDPS: (group of different Non Government Organizations) organized a series emergency public meetings in order to form a campaign and action plan to assist the increasing numbers of displaced people. On the 10 August 2014 they held a 24 hour protest that lasted 22 days. As part of the protest they erected 22 tents in front of the office of kurdistan parlaimant in Suleymania. As a result of this campaign IFIR and IDPS assisted 1014 families including 230 children under the age of two. IFIR with other organization distributed Milk, milk bottles, clothing and toiletries to the families and children.

Human right are Universal

Hana Group Supports the children of the displaced people from Kobani

On 23 and 27 of December Hana Group representatives visited the Kobani School in Suleimanya. Hana representatives gave shoes to more than 400 children at the school.



FROM PAGE 4....An update on work carried out by IFIR ...

12. IFIR has Gained grants to remain for 67 Syrian refugees who are unable to return to Syria due to the current political and security instability as well as offering aid on several occasions to the Syrian refugees in Erbet camp.

13. IFIR has distributed food, clothing and medicine to hundreds Syrian families refugees who are now resettled in Kurdistan region.

From page 1.>>>**On World Human Rights Day ..**
The MP's promised to support the demands of the protestors in the parliament. The protest ended peacefully after passing a letter of demands to Dr. Sherko the head of Kurdistan Parliament Office in Suleimanya



Defend Freedom of Political activity, Press and Freedom of Thought in Kurdistan.

“If it wasn’t for the help and aid from freedom seekers and humanists most of the refugee rights would have been ignored”

Ari Jalal head administrator from the Kurdistan IFIR office - message to meeting at UK parliament.

Ladies and gentlemen I offer you my warmest greetings. I, on behalf of IFIR would like to take this opportunity to thank both John McDonnell and Dashty for organizing this meeting. I have not met John McDonnell or Jean Lambert before. I have however heard of the work they have both done to support refugees and asylum seekers in the UK. I’m sure without them deportation policies in the UK would have been far worse than they are.

Ladies and gentlemen

I do not want to repeat what has already been said about the current circumstances in Iraq and Kurdistan or the threat posed by I.S.I.S. neither do I want to speak about I.F.I.R. because you are familiar with its’ activities as a humanitarian organization which strives to help refugees everywhere in the world.

I would however like to draw your attention to the fact that many European countries have reversed their initial decisions regarding safeguarding refugees and asylum seekers rights. As a result refugees have been placed under pressure, due to the fact that they have no source income, be it state sponsored or from not allowing them to work legally. Many have been made homeless. Due to these pressures many refugees have become so desperate they have committed suicide. Also many have been placed in detention.

Since 2005 more than 6000 asylum seeker have been forcibly returned in a very inhumane manner to Baghdad and KRG by the British, Swedish, Norwegian, Dutch, German, Danish and Swiss governments. IFIR has tried to meet and record the details of all those who have been returned to KRG. Many of those whom we have spoken to made livelihoods for themselves in European countries, some have even married and have children. Others have left behind small businesses upon deportation or have sold what they owned prior to deportation. Upon return to Iraq they have no source of income, social and financial support. They have lost their former job which they had before leaving Iraq, they have, in some cases, become a burden on their family and friends. The number of returned people have put great pressure on KRG and central Iraqi government, as well as the local agencies and organizations, to answer their needs and help them to start a new life and reintegrate into the community. The IFIR has repeatedly presented projects to both the KRG parliament as well as the central Iraqi parliament to help the returned people but so far we have been ignored, even though we have met with government officials in Baghdad and Erbil.

Due to the negligence of the KRG, the central Iraqi government and the European countries that are unlawfully deporting refugees, we have been left with no option but to protest with the deported refugees on many occasions in the cities and towns in Iraqi Kurdistan.

...>>>>



Since the formation of the terror organization ISIS and the capture and destruction of many Kurdish and Iraqi cities, towns and villages but most importantly the fear which ISIS struck at the hearts of civilians, many left their homes in (Baghdad, Rummadi, Anbar, Tikrit, Mousil and Shngal) for all three Kurdish cities of (Slemani, Erbil and Duhok) which number over 2 million.

With the intention of responding to the cries of the IDPs, IFIR met with other civil organizations as well as known individuals, and formed Hana group and on 10th of August 2014 we announced (HSRCSO) and started to help the IDPs.

The campaign continued for more than 22 days and we were able to help our displaced brothers and sisters and share with them at the least of their feelings and make them forget their worries no matter for how short a time, we told them (you are not alone) and that the people of this country are here to help you. We must reiterate the fact that the IDPs are in need of continuous and consistent aid, therefore, the relevant agencies must have plans for rescuing refugees.

During (HSRCSO), we were able to get aid to thousands of IDP women and children in Slemani and its’ surroundings i.e.(central Slemani city, Darbandikhan, Qaradagh, Chemchemal, Arbat, Rania, Hajiawa, Chuarqurna, Raperin, Tasluja, Piramagrun, Sitak and Churta) who are from (Shngal, Makhmur, Diala and Kerkuk).

We gave the refugees essential items of food for themselves and their children. On other occasions we were able to obtain clothing for men, women and children as well as home refurbishment equipment i.e. carpet, matrices, blanket and pillows.

It is noteworthy in this meeting and call out to you to support the following demands to the KRG and the central Iraqi parliaments: The KRG and the Iraqi government must immediately respond to the demands of the deported refugees in form of a draft resolution which has already been presented to the governments by IFIR with the intention of resolving their issues.- All the deportees who were in employment previously to be offered the same job. And to secure job to unemployed people or granting them unemployment benefits

Not supporting the policy of forced deportation.

Support the war related IDPs. Thank you

Support Displaced people fleeing ISIS



4 October IFIR fundraiser to support displaced people in Iraq and Trade Unionists and socialists

IFIR hosted an evening social. Dashty Jamal opened the party welcoming everyone and called for one minutes silence for Alan Henning and all innocent victims of ISIS. Alan bravely left his family and friends in the UK to distribute aid to people affected by the civil war in Syria.

A 100 plus people filled the hall to listen to Kurdish political poetry and music provided by Yad Group and the partow Aet workshop (revolutionary musical group)

Towards the end of the evening attendees both English and Kurdish took part in traditional Kurdish dancing. Kurdish food was also served throughout the evening.

Support Shangal & Kobani



On 28 October IFIR held a street protest for famous artist Renas Arif. Renas drew a chalk drawing of the Statue of Liberty in front of the National Art Gallery, Trafalgar Square. Above the statue Renas inscribed 'Unite against ISIS'. The protest was attended by the Kurdish media and supporters of IFIR. Many people stopped to offer their support to the protest.

Report of activities to assist displaced people fleeing ISIS genocide



IFIR with other civil society organisations in Sulaymania are starting a campaign demanding the condemnation of ISIS's acts against humanity. We are against the victimisation of minorities and racism against the Yazidi, Arab and or Christian people fleeing the threats from ISIS. On the 13 August IFIR activists with other civil society groups in the city of Sulaymainia visited the encampments where the displaced people are staying providing the refugees with beans, rice sugar, tea, milk, biscuits, pillows and blankets. We repeated this on 14 August visiting some of the villages in Quardag. Activists spent eight hours talking to the displaced people. Listening to their stories and providing them with provisions. This work will continue but desperately needs International help and support!

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 grass-roots 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 Sulaimania 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

<<<from page 3..ISIS is the Product of New World Order Strategy of US and its Allies

daily in cities, factories, neighborhoods and universities for equality, prosperity, rights and dignity of people.

There is another alternative which can change the situation and that is the revolutionary will of the mass. USA, NATO and political Islam do not want this alternative to be improved and even the media do not want to show the reality. Now, resistance against terrorists' war is already organising itself in Iraq and Kurdistan.

To remove ISIS is a very humane and progressive demand that needs to be widely supported.

The strong resistance of the people of Kobani against ISIS, which drew the attention of the world community, is to be supported by everyone who believes in people's will and everyone who is against this disaster and against these savage murderers of political Islam- the very black force which practices slavery over women and men and which beheads people and proudly shows that on screens.

The model of endurance and resistance of Kobani people which saved thousands from being beheaded and raped must be repeated and supported.

Dear all,

We, whose hearts are with the Yazidis, Christians and all the people under the control of ISIS, will stay beside them and support them. When the Syrian Kurds were displaced, the IFIR in cooperation with other groups founded HANA Group to help them.

After the occupation of Mosul and other areas, we have been able to collect money and other aids for the displaced. We will continue to do this but definitely we need more help from freedom-loving people in the UK and Europe.

Today's meeting can be a start to have dialogues about what we can do against ISIS; about the future of Iraq, Kurdistan and the whole area; to help the displaced; about the tragedy faced the Yazidis and their women to which the international community has not shown much till now and finally about the resistance of Kobani against ISIS.

That is why I ask that in the name of everybody here we ask the British and European governments to do the following:

Immediately help all who have been displaced disregard from their religion or race. Now we are approaching winter and they live in tents and their lives are in danger. The scene of floods destroying some tents and children stay barefoot and helpless is a sign of that danger.

Any country which supported ISIS and especially Turkey must not only be condemned; but also be interrogated.

To ask the British and European countries to grant asylum to Yazidis, Christians and every one forced to flee from ISIS.

Any activities and demonstrations by IS supporters must be opposed by the trade unions, community groups and political organisations. .>>>

**Editor: Dashty Jamal : 4th January
2015**

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<<< What they do does not constitute freedom of political thought; they advocate hatred and killing. Tolerating these groups may give justification to other racist groups to flourish and spread hostility towards people from Muslim backgrounds. The ruling parties across Iraq propagate racist and ethnocentric sentiments among the people, causing tension between Arabs and Kurds, as well as Sunni and Shiites. This is catastrophic and has brought about high levels of ethno-sectarian hatred in Iraq and Kurdistan. Pressure should be exerted on the political parties to stop this. As a part of a maximal combat against ISIS, and its ideology, any financial support to the Islamic organizations and centers who work under the name of Islamic community must be cut. Their activities must be put under control. The religious schools must be shut down and mosques must not be allowed to be used as centers for nurturing terrorists....

Support Hana Group in Kurdistan