

FEDERATION



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The IFIR Branch in Kurdistan protested at the airport of Sulaymania against the forcible deportation policy of the UK Government.



On the 7 April the same day as a UK deportation flight was due to land at Sulaymania airport the IFIR Branch in Kurdistan held a picket at Sulaymania airport against the forcible deportation policy of the UK Government. The picket was attended by a number of returned Iraqi Kurds and their families. At the same time as the picket Amang Abdulla the IFIR representative held a press conference in front of the airport condemning the flight calling on the KRG not to grant this flight or any future flights containing forcibly returned Iraqi Refugees.

The 7 April charter flight from Heathrow to the Kurdish Regional Government area (KRG) of Northern Iraq did not take off. Initial reports suggest that several coaches took around 70 detainees to the airport, but ended up returning them all to UK Immigration Removal Centres. There are rumours that the KRG authorities have refused to agree the deportations with UK Border Agency.

Not allowing airports in Baghdad, Erbil & Sulaymania to be used for the purpose of returning forcibly deported Kurdish & Iraqi refugees

IFIR & IOIR debated Representatives of the Moderate party, Social democrat, Green party, Left party, Social Justice, Christian Democrat party regarding refugee rights in Sweden prior to the September elections.



On the 8 April 2010 IFIR and IOIR invited representatives of Moderate party, Social democrat, Green party, Left party, Social Justice, Christian Democrat party to talk about refugee rights in Sweden. Tofigh Mohamadi opened the debate by talking about the lives of Swedish refugees and their anger at their treatment by the Swedish Government. "Tofigh Mohamadi talked about the refugee issue part of the Swedish society, it's about the life of 100 thousand people. Everyone in Sweden is annoyed about the torture and the human right policy of the Swedish government. He was asking when we go to the next elections what sort of changes can they bring for the refugee rights in Sweden. I want all the politicians in Sweden to be honest with us and tell us what sort of changes they can bring" Dashty Jamal secretary of IFIR speaking on behalf of IFIR and IOIR spoke about the current political situation in Iraq. Leading on from this Dashty explained what led people to leave Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan and other unsafe countries to come to Europe and Sweden. >>> continued on page 6

Working together towards a better future

Deportees hold large demonstration in Sulaymania



On 29 February IFIR-Kurdistan branch held a large Demonstration in Sulaymania. The demonstration was attended by families and returned Iraqi Refugees from all parts of Kurdistan.

The demonstration made the following demands:

- An end to all agreements between European Governments and the KRG accepting forcibly returned Iraqi refugees;
- Guaranteed work and protection for all forcibly returned refugees;
- All deportees who do not have jobs to be given unemployment benefits;
- Non acceptance of any deportees from Europe;.
- Not allowing airports in Baghdad, Erbil & Sulaymania to be used for the purpose of returning forcibly deported Kurdish & Iraqi refugees;
- All refugees with children and family in Iraq to have the right to family reunion;

The KRG to arrange for the transfer of the deportees' belongings (for example, money in the bank, vehicles) following deportation.

Dashty Jamal an IFIR secretary spoke to the demonstrators about the situation of Iraqi Refugees in Europe and the inhumane policy of forcible deportation carried out by some European countries' right wing Governments.

Dashty blamed the Iraqi and KRG Government for supporting the forcible deportation policy by agreeing to accept returned Iraqi's.

Amang Abdulla IFIR Kurdistan branch representative read out support letters written to the Iraqi and KRG Presidents asking for the demands of the demonstrators to be met.

The demonstrators chanted the following slogans:

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We want jobs or unemployment benefit;
stop agreements with European countries;
Stop playing with the lives of Iraqi refugees;
Do not accept any flights with returned Iraqi's on board;.



A number of IFIR representatives and human rights organizations and political parties wrote support letters for the demonstrations inside and outside of Kurdistan. It was widely covered in the Kurdish media.

For more information about IFIR in Kurdistan please contact Amanj Abullah on 07702204844 email: amanjabdola@yahoo.com

Nigerian death is a Victim of the Swiss Asylum Policy

IFIR has received information from our branch in Switzerland that an unknown 29-year-old male Nigerian refugee who had been on hunger strike to protest his expulsion from Switzerland has died while being deported to Lagos.

He is another victim of the forcible deportation policy .It is a shame in a democratic country like Switzerland, which is supposed to respect human rights but does not allow people from other countries to stay in it. We consider that human rights are universal and cannot be limited by factors of geographic territory, gender, culture, religion, race or age.Our movement must stand against this barbarism and for universal human rights. Home is the country where one lives and works.

IFIR condemns this action by the Swiss authorities. The Swiss Government must put the people responsible into the court. Further to this IFIR calls on the Swiss authorities to cease all forcible deportations and to respect the human rights of all refugees living in Switzerland.

It is a great tragedy that this outrage has happened here of all places in the world.**IFIR25-3-2010**

Freedom of Movement is every body's right

“It is not good that a country like Sweden which is known for democracy and human rights causes people to commit suicide to avoid deportation”.



Dashty Jamal speech in the Debate with reprehensive of Swedish political party and MPs

Dear Friends,

Representatives of parties and political organisations

Dear members of parliament

And Representatives of organizations to defend Refugee's rights

On behalf of the International Federation of Iraqi Refugees and the International of Iranian refugees Organization, I would like to welcome you all to this important meeting. In particular I would like to thank the party representatives and members of the Swedish parliament for coming today. We must remember that refugee rights not only affect refugees but are important for democracy and human rights in Sweden.

It is not good that a country like Sweden which is known for democracy and human rights causes people to commit suicide to avoid deportation. Why should human rights, social justice and freedom be given to people according to geography, skin colour, or language? Are the lives of those who were born by chance somewhere outside Sweden valueless? Are the lives of people like Soran Bapir and Miwan Omer who are the victims of this inhumane policy less valuable than other citizens in Sweden? What has happened to the human rights in Sweden? Unfortunately the right to live and stay has become a means to increasing interest and power

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of Iraqi and Iranian refugees and their families in Sweden, Kurdistan and across the world to express our deep concern about the Swedish government's policy towards refugees. We did not expect from Sweden, which has given refuge to many Kurdish people, to join the list of countries across Europe forcibly deporting Iraqi refugees.

What is going on in Iraq now? Iraq is ruled by Tribal, religious and nationalist militia groups in Kurdistan; it is the same sharing of power between political militia parties.

We have all seen the absurdity of the elections. I was there as a political observer. I was arrested during the elections for giving out leaflets calling for a boycott of the elections.

There was not a single party that did not put people's lives at risk; they used children for political propaganda, kidnapping candidates, threatening to cut the wages of both civil servants and others if they did not vote in the elections, as well as Physical attacks on journalists. Seven million Iraqis boycotted the elections for the following reasons they did not believe that the slightest change would take place, that the same religious sect would stay in power and the constant daily catastrophes will continue. There is no state to protect security, provide jobs, prevent terrorism and criminals are not arrested. What they call the new constitution in Iraq is used to divide the Iraqi people between religious groups.

Iraqi refugees have no rights and are mistreated in the most inhumane way by both European governments and the neighboring countries of Iraq. Their own government in Iraq as well Kurdish political parties use them as a political card to serve their own personal political and economical means.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is clear that after eight years of war that Iraqi's did not choose to be refugees. This is their fate following the war. Insecurity and terrorist attacks and the general instability in the country have forced many to flee. All of you can see the dramatic situation in Iraq on your TV screens, for instance the car bombing on 4 April in Baghdad where 40 people have been killed and 250 injured. I would like to bring to your attention to the plight of the many victims of the war. >>>continued on page 4

Stop Deportation Flight to Iraqi

<<<from page 3

Many women have been raped, the continuing insults of beating and imprisonment. Checkpoints have been inflicted on people by the Americans, the conflict between Shia and Sunna, the fighting by the Baathists party, all of which put the lives of the people of Iraq in danger.

I don't want to dwell on the statistics of the killings of university teachers, journalists, and human right activists, the killing of women and the lack of rights for workers. This is the reality of Iraq after the collapse of the Baathist regime.

Kurdistan, which is known to Swedish and other European governments as a stable area for 19 years is a place of 4 million people, ruled by the US policies and by the two militia parties who do not care about anything except lining their pockets and looting national resources. The PUK and KDP do nothing to help ordinary people.

When people in Kurdistan demand a better life through protest by holding demonstrations, they are under the risk of being attacked or shot by the security forces of the KDP and PUK. People's situations are getting worse on a daily basis.

They do not have the simplest thing, like clean drinking water. People are given stale food. If you resist in any way, you will be accused of being a spy or traitor and sent to jail. Sometimes they abduct people for speaking out. That is the social reality in Kurdistan and the policies that people are faced with. This is the reason why they are forced to take the path of leaving and becoming refugees.

This horrible situation which I have just described has become the daily headlines of the media in the west. Unfortunately the media stories have no effect on European government's policy. They still continue to forcibly deport Iraqi refugees back to the situation that the USA with the help of several European countries has created in Iraq. These governments should take responsibility for the circumstances that have led thousands of people to flee from Iraq. When they talk about human rights they should think about the plight of Iraq and treat Iraqi refugees with respect. Their politics and strategies have led to thousands of Iraqi refugees being forced out of their own country. Iraqi refugees are literally running away from killings and massacres taking place on their door steps on a daily basis >>

The crisis for Iraqi people does not end here, especially at a time when they face forcible deportation. As you are aware in recent years some European countries have been carrying out arrests and have filled detention centres with Iraqi refugees. As a result huge numbers of Iraqi Kurdish refugees have been forcibly deported.

Many have been handcuffed and deported by military planes. 4300 Iraqi refugees have been deported back to Iraq. Forcible deportation of refugees continues until today.

Iraqi refugees are given warrants to sign saying they agree to return to Iraq they are told if they do not do so they will be kicked out of their shared houses. This situation has led to splitting of families, children from their parents, separating wives and husbands. Huge numbers of them have left their homes due to the threat of being deported back to Iraq.

Of those who have been returned some have committed suicide; some have been kidnapped by the Kurdish parties and disappeared. The Kurdish government has not shown the slightest responsibility toward these people. Some have left behind families in European countries.

Despite this IFIR has held several protests in Kurdistan and have handed the proposals and petitions of the deportees to the government. Yet they have not shown any sign of responsibility or an answer to these dilemmas.

First of all we have to recognise that the cases of Iraqi Kurdish refugees are political cases. The U.S and the allied forces should take responsibility for the war, it was them who set up the government that divided the Iraqi society into different religious sects. Instead of citizenship Identity they created religious and sectarian identities for Iraqi people.

If European governments want to stop migration to their countries then they need to support a form of government that is secular and can guarantee equal rights and services for all Iraqi people regardless of their nationality and religion, not continue to support the current government which is based on sectarianism.>>>continued on page 5

Stop agreement with EU countries that plays with the lives of Iraqi refugees

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Until a secular state is formed in Iraq that will bring back civil society to the Iraqi people, then the problem of Iraqi refugees in the European countries will not be solved.

In Kurdistan support is needed for a mass referendum amongst the Kurds and the right to self determination, in order to prevent fear of oppression from the central government.

We have a program that we are laying down. If we all come together and propose it to the Swedish and other European countries it can become the base of a humanist strategy to answer the dilemma of Kurdish and Iraqi refugees.

The plight of Kurdish refugees will not be solved without the support and help of humanist organisations, MPs and others.

Your contributions to this cause will make a greater impact on that struggle in Iraq for secularism and humanism

We can all have a great affect to end this tragedy which is facing those people who happen to be born in a country, they did not choose to born.

Dear members of parliament and representatives of political parties in Sweden. Many Iraqi and Iranian refugees have built new lives in Sweden many are teachers, doctors, students, civil servants and workers. They are part of Swedish society their children have been born in Sweden. I appeal to you to not add Sweden to the list of the countries that violate human rights by forcibly deporting Iraqi refugees.

I am asking you all here today to support my resolution making the following demands:

1. To stop any secret agreements between the European governments with the Iraqi and Kurdish governments. 2. Immediate release of all arrested refugees and stopping the mistreatment and harassment of Iraqi & Iranian refugees by the police and the state.

3. Granting the right to stay to all Iraqi and Kurdish refugees under the grounds of insecurity and war



4. Opening and reviewing the cases of those who have been refused asylum and grant them refugee status.

5. Giving back all services to the refugees that they deserve

6. Granting the right of work and education for all refugees

7. Stop the deportation of all refugees back to countries that are insecure and affected by war

To Human rights Campaigners, Trade Unions and Refugee Organisations,

International Federation of Iraqi Refugees-IFIR needs your help and support in order to continue our activities and campaigns to stop forced deportation to Iraq we are appealing for your help.

Please write cheques to :Coalition to stop Deportations to Iraq

**Our Postal Address is:
PO BOX 1575, ILFORD, IG13BZ, LONDON, UK.**

Iraqi Refugees are victims of war and occupation

IFIR activity in Switzerland



Please see a summary below of some of the events Dashty attended whilst visiting Switzerland

26 March Ahmed Ali the IFIR Secretary of Switzerland invited Dashty to Zurich detention centre. Twelve Iraqi Kurds are held at the detention centre. At the centre Dashty spoke to the Kurdish detainees. One of the detainees Msod told Dashty of the court appearance which led to him being detained. The Judge asked Msod the reason for his refusal to return to Iraq? Msod asked that if he returns will he be guaranteed safety. The judge replied that the president of Iraq states that Iraq is a safe place now. Msod replied if that is true why does he travel everywhere with an armed bodyguard to keep him safe. The judge stated that if he does not agree to return he will be sent to a detention centre. Msod stated that he refused to return and as a result of this he is now detained there.

27 March Dashty Jamal General Secretary of IFIR was invited by Refugees welcome to speak at a meeting in Zurich. The meeting was attended by 35 activists

Dashty opened the meeting by speaking about the current political situation in Iraq and Kurdistan that has led to Iraqi refugees seeking asylum in European countries. Dashty spoke about the work IFIR has done to protect Iraqi refugees across Europe who are facing forcible deportation. Dashty spoke about a new network of anti deportation campaigners that has been set up in London 'the stop deportation network'. Dashty stressed the importance of setting up a stop deportation network across Europe.

Dashty finished his speech by inviting everyone at the meeting to join a European network. That will work with other stop deportation networks, refugee and human right organizations to close all detention centres

28 March The next day Ahmad Ali (Swiss IFIR secretary) invited Dashty Jamal to the Swiss IFIR committee meeting. At the meeting Dashty invited them to come to London to meet with activists from London's stop deportation network.

The IFIR committee agreed to this proposal and suggested organizing an EU stop deportation network conference in Switzerland or in Sweden to set up a European campaign against forcible deportation policy and imprisoning people in detention centre's

>>>>from page 1 **IFIR& IOIR debated**

Dashty asked the following questions of the Government of Sweden:

- who is responsible for the forcible deportation policy?
- Who is responsible for the agreement between Iraqi and Swedish government?
- Who is responsible for the death of those who committed suicide in Sweden because of the threat of the forcible deportation policy?
- Who is responsible for the right of the women children in Sweden?

Who is responsible to put Swedish country to the list of the countries who violated the human right?"

At the end of his speech Dashty asked the meeting to support a resolution demanding rights for all refugees.

Many Iraqi and Iranian refugees talked about their cases and situation in Sweden.

Rebwar Hussain IFIR Gothenburg representative handed a petition of more than a one thousand five hundred signatures demanding the right of Iraqi and Iranian refugees to remain in Sweden to representatives of the Moderate government in Sweden. At the end of the meeting Dashty and Tofigh were interviewed by the Swedish media

For more information about meeting see the following links below:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GKNW9KW7ICM>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sqcgsgidk8>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y4MMbYkqvwk>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iTWBwqedXQA>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZUrFmDlbHJ4>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q-xtRLgC07o>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0pEFT5K6yGg>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=36xtznzvsQsf>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=poDbgZrqd9M>
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ylQeA4P_DA
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PzmOPc1gJFU>

Solidarity with Iraqi & Kurdish Refugees

A report by Dashty Jamal of the International Federation of Iraqi Refugees, regarding his Journey to Kurdistan on February 2010

The purpose of Dashty's journey was to put pressure on the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) and Iraqi Government following the KRG and Iraqi Government signing a number of protocols with a number of European Governments agreeing to accept forcibly returned Iraqi refugees. To give a message from refugees outside of Iraq to the KRG and Iraqi Governments to suspend all agreements and stop accepting Iraqi's returned by force. To further this aim Dashty met with leading figures in the KRG Government, attended several press conferences and gave interviews to the Kurdish and European media. Please see a summary below of some of the events Dashty attended in diary form:

12 February IFIR Kurdistan Branch held a meeting with their members, deportees in Sulaymania and their families. Dashty Jamal Secretary of International Federation of Iraqi Refugees (IFIR) also attended the meeting.

Amang Abdulla IFIR Kurdistan branch Representative welcomed everyone to the meeting and laid out the aims of the meeting. Dashty Jamal said we are here today to give a strong message to both the Iraqi and KRG Government that we will not let you play with the lives of the Iraqi people. Our struggle is the same as workers, women, youth and students for a better future and better lives for Iraqi and Kurdish people. We will not stop until we put an end to the inhumane policy of forcible deportations. We are not alone many progressive refugees and human rights organisations, trade unions, MPs not just here but around the world support our struggle. In the second part of the meeting Amang Abdulla talked about IFIR activity in Kurdistan to support deportees.

Many media and TV stations recorded the meeting.

15 February Dashty Jamal was interviewed for 45 minutes by Nawa radio station regarding the situation of Kurdish refugees in Europe and their struggles. 19 February Dashty Jamal & Amang Abdulla were interviewed by NRK (Norwegian broadcasting group) about the political situation in Kurdistan, and the situation for deportees in Kurdistan. Dashty Jamal appealed to the Norwegian Government to not repeat the policies of the UK, Denmark and Swedish government of forcible deportation

Dashty asked that the Norwegian government support Iraqi victims of war and occupation.

25 February Dashty Jamal spoke at a press conference in Erbil



The press conference was opened by Erfan Karim a member of the IFIR secretariat. Erfan welcomed every one.

Dashty Jamal spoke about the 4,250 Iraqi refugees who have been returned to Iraq from Europe over the last 5 years. Dashty also spoke about the situation of Iraqi and Kurdish refugees in European countries particularly the UK, Denmark, Germany, Finland and Sweden. Governments in these countries have put pressure on Iraqi and Kurdish refugees following the fall of the Saddam Regime in the following ways: cutting off support, refusing to let them work and effectively making them destitute. These countries have also imprisoned many Kurdish refugees in detention centres. Many Iraqis have been forced to sleep rough and have attempted suicide. Dashty condemned the policy of forcible deportation and blamed the Iraqi and KRG Governments for accepting the forcibly returned Iraqis.

28 February Amang Abdulla, Dashty Jamal, Ary Noori met Miss Herw Ibrahim Ahmad the wife of the Iraqi president. Dashty spoke about the situation of Iraqi and Kurdish refugees in Europe and asked the president's wife to support the following demands from the returned Iraqi refugees:

1. Stop accepting any refugees forcibly deported from the any European Country
2. Abolish all agreements with the UK, Sweden, Denmark, Norway and any European country which forcibly deports Iraqi and Kurdish refugees.

>>>>>continued on page 8

**Editor: Dashty Jamal : 14 April
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>>>from page 7

3. Not allow Kurdish airports to be used by European Governments to return Iraqi and Kurdish refugees.

5- To help forcible deportees to build new lives.

4 March Amang Abdulla & Dashty Jamal met two journalists Karin Leukfield and Michael Jansen. The journalists asked Dashty about the elections in Kurdistan. Dashty explained that he was calling for a boycott of the elections because the Kurdish people were not being given a proper choice. The only parties standing were representatives of existing militia groups that currently ruled Iraq.

5 March Dashty Jamal and Amang Abdulla met Peman Ezaden member of the Human Rights committee of the Kurdish parliament. Dashty asked for a ruling in the new Parliament to stop the KRG agreement with European Governments to accept deportees. Dashty also asked for support to be given to the returned deportees to build new lives in Kurdistan. At the end of the meeting Amang handed letters to Ms Peman to give to the members of the Kurdish parliament. Ms Peman promised to support the demands of the returned Kurdish refugees.

Dashty Jamal and Zmnaco Aziz met Dr Mhmood Sorany and Rafic Saber members of the Iraqi parliament in Sulaymania. Dashty and Zmnaco spoke about ways the Kurdish parliament could support returned refugees. Dr Mhmood Sorany and Rafic Saber both promised to support the IFIR campaign and the rights of Iraqi Refugees. At the end of the meeting Dashty handed letters to Dr Sorany and Rafic Saber to give to the MPs of the Iraqi Parliament.

Dashty met and spoke with lots of people whilst he was in Kurdistan. He met a number of young people many who have attempted to leave Kurdistan. They say there is no future in Kurdistan. A lot of people in Kurdistan are thinking of leaving Kurdistan because conditions are getting more and more difficult.

