

# FEDERATION



May 2009

Happy May day

PAPER OF INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF IRAQI REFUGEES-IFIR ISSUE 8

**“No to the Forcible return of Iraqi .  
Asylum seekers”  
Two days demonstration in Geneva to  
defend Iraqi and Kurdish refugees  
Rights**



IFIR started an International campaign in February 09 to defend the rights of Iraqi and Kurdish asylum seekers. As part of this campaign IFIR held a 2 day lobby outside the United Nations building in Geneva on the 16 and 17 April 09. There were also support demonstrations in London and Cardiff outside the KRG offices. This campaign is supported by many human and refugee rights organizations, trade unions, MP's, MEP's and political parties and writers and journalists.

The lobby was attended by many asylum seekers from Zurich, Bern, Geneva attended the demonstration and chanted the following slogans:

Iraq is Unsafe Kurdistan is unsafe; Iraq and Kurdish asylum seekers are victims of the war and Occupation; No to deportation No to detention; Asylum Rights are Human Rights; forcible deportation against Geneva convention.

At the end of the day Jamal Koshish IFIR secretariat member and Dashty Jamal IFIR secretary made speeches about the political situation in Iraq and Kurdistan and forcible deportation policy by EU Government On the 17 April at 11 am IFIR representatives Ahmad Ali, Jamal Koshish, Dashty Jamal met Andrew Harper coordinator for Iraqi Support Unit >>>>*continued on page 4*

**It is the task of all of us together to  
fight for the creation of a free society,  
in which all citizens can live in equality  
and dignity.”**



**Dashty Jamal Speech for Stop Deportation Network 25 April 2009**

On behalf of IFIR I warmly welcome you all. I would like to thank stop deportation network for inviting me to speak to you tonight. IFIR is proud to be part of this network we strongly support its aims to defend the universal rights of refugees to be treated as human beings, together we are stronger.

The world needs to change into a place where humanity and equality are put first. Our task is to fight for the right to remain and to End deportation and detention. It is the task of all of us together to fight for the creation of a free society, in which all citizens can live in equality and dignity.

We must fight for the creation of an open, free and equal society in which people can live their lives in dignity. To achieve this we must bring to the fore freedom loving and progressive humanity against the barbarity of this world.

I do not want talk a lot about what is going on in Iraq today however, following 6 years of an illegal war under the slogan of 'regime change' If you were to ask the people in Iraq what is going on they will tell you how the war has destroyed society, >>>>*continued on page 5*

**Solidarity with Kurdish and Iraqi Asylum seekers**

**Jean Lambert MEP  
London's Green Party Member of the  
European Parliament message of sup-  
port for IFIR Geneva demo 16-17  
April**



**To the International Federation of Iraqi Refugees,**

I am writing today to send a message of support for your protests in London and Geneva. Unfortunately I am unable to attend in person as I have other commitments in the European Parliament in Brussels.

The ongoing and increasing deportations to Iraqi Kurdistan are of great concern, as for many people the area is still not safe.

People are being forced to leave their families and return to an often desperate situation with no friends or other support. Despite making an agreement with the UK Government to receive failed asylum seekers, the Iraqi Government cannot provide security for their citizens. No more deportations should take place until their safety on return can be guaranteed.

Many of the returned asylum seekers are now living in hiding to avoid persecution. Some of those who have been deported have reportedly committed suicide, been kidnapped and killed in car bombs.

It is also important to remember all those Kurdish and Iraqi asylum seekers who are now living in destitution in the UK. They need to be allowed to work to support themselves and should have access to health services and education while they remain here.

There must be a constructive resolution for those who fear return to their country of origin and the UN has a role to play in this resolution.

**Bill MacKeith joint organiser, Campaign to Close Camps field secretary, Barbed Wire Britain Network to End Refugee and Migrant Detention support letter.**



The Campaign to Close Campsfield detention centre near Oxford in the UK, and the Barbed Wire Britain Network to End Refugee and Migrant Detention are delighted to support the IFIR organised lobby of the UN in Geneva.

We recall the demonstration at the Royal Air Force Base at Brize Norton in Oxfordshire two years ago when IFIR and Campsfield campaigners protested shoulder to shoulder against one of the first mass deportation flights to Kurdistan.

We are proud to work alongside the IFIR against the detention of over 20,000 migrants in the UK each year and the forced deportation of thousands of people to unsafe regions in defiance.

***“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”***

**Stop Deportations to War Zones**

## Demonstration in solidarity in front of KRG



### Thursday 16 April, 1pm

On the 16th - 17th April the International Federation of Iraqi Refugees has called a demonstration outside the UN office in Geneva against policies that victimize Iraqi asylum seekers in Europe. On 16<sup>th</sup> IFIR-UK branch and Network to Stop Deportations had the a demonstration in solidarity outside the offices of the Kurdistan Regional Government, the slogan were “stop agreement with EU country with the live of Iraqi asylum seekers, Do not accept deports from EU, Asylum rights are Human right”

Samera Ahmad from IFIR spoke about political station in Iraq and Kurdistan and IFIR campaign around the world to defend the rights of refugees. The demonstration was covered by the media.

### Stuart Crosthwaite, Secretary, South Yorkshire Migration and Asylum Action Group protest letter to Ban-Ki-Moon

Dear Secretary General

It is unfortunate that I must write to you about my Government's treatment of Iraqi refugees, despite the UK Government being a signatory to the Geneva Convention.

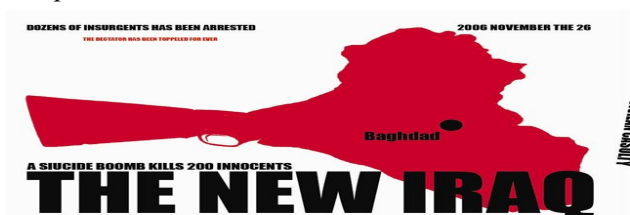
I work with, and personally know, many Iraqi asylum seekers who are in need of sanctuary and protection from persecution. Despite warnings about the dangers they face if deported from the UK to any part of Iraq, the UK Government has forcibly deported hundreds of Iraqi asylum seekers.

We know, from reports from the International Federation of Iraqi Refugees, that many of those forcibly deported are persecuted by the Kurdish Government, its political parties and by those who discriminate on religious or ethnic grounds. Under the rules of the European Council >>>>>

on Refugees and Exiles, governments which deport asylum seekers against their will have a duty to monitor what happens to them after deportation. Yet UK Government Immigration Minister Phil Woolas recently said – at a recent meeting organised by the British Refugee -Council that those deported were “not his responsibility”.

On April 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> the International Federation of Iraqi Refugees will be demonstrating outside the United Nations office in Geneva and outside Kurdish and UK Government offices around Europe to demand:

1. An immediate end to the policy of enforced deportation of Iraqi Kurdish refugees by all European countries.
  2. Require all European governments to recognise that previous agreements , between the Iraqi Kurdish governmentand European countries regarding the deportation of refugees, as invalid because their safety simply cannot be guaranteed.
  3. Require the release of all Iraqi refugees from prisons and detention centres, who have been detained because of illegal entry or their leave to remain, has expired. Those who have committed a crime should be charged and tried in the country where the crime was committed not forcibly deported.
  4. Demand that Kurdish and Iraqi asylum seekers, be allowed to work to support themselves and have the right to family reunion.
  5. Those asylum seekers who are disabled, ill, or destitute and cannot work should be treated with compassion.
  6. Asylum seekers who are destitute in countries outside Europe should be supported with health services and education or transferred to a European country.
  7. The United Nations should require European countries to fulfil the above demands and stop enforced deportations of refugees.
- These demands are supported by many British people and organisations like our own. We ask to use your influence to persuade the UK Government to comply with its obligations under the Geneva Convention and UNHCR guidelines, concerning the lives of people seeking asylum from persecution in Iraq.



**No to Detention No to Deportation**



>>>>from page 1Two days demonstration



and Switzerland representative of UNHCR.

At the meeting IFIR representatives spoke about the forcible deportation policy by EU countries and the situation of Iraqi asylum seekers. Several 100 Iraqi refugees have been forcibly deported to Northern Iraq and more recently to Baghdad. The returned asylum seekers have been separated from their friends and families – many have partners and children in Europe. Many asylum seekers from Iraq have been made destitute or detained like criminals. Once returned many of the failed asylum seekers are forced to live in hiding to avoid persecution. IFIR has also received reports of returned asylum seekers who have committed suicide.

The IFIR representatives asked the UNHCR representative to not be silent and call on European countries to fulfil the demands below:

1. An immediate end to the policy of enforced deportation of Iraqi Kurdish refugees by all European countries.
2. Require all European governments to recognise that previous agreements, between the Iraqi Kurdish government and European countries regarding the deportation of refugees, as invalid because their safety simply cannot be guaranteed.
3. Require the release of all Iraqi refugees from prisons and detention centres, who have been detained because of illegal entry or their leave to remain, has expired. Those who have committed a crime should be charged and tried in the country where the crime was committed not forcibly deported.
4. Demand that Kurdish and Iraqi asylum seekers, be allowed to work to support themselves and have the right to family reunion.
5. Those asylum seekers who are disabled, ill, or destitute and cannot work should be treated with compassion.>>>>>

6. Asylum seekers who are destitute in countries outside Europe should be supported with health services and education or transferred to a European country.



At the end of the meeting IFIR representatives gave a number of protest and support letters that they had received from MP'S, MEPs, political parties, refugee and human right organisations to Ban- Ki-Moon General Secretary of UN.

At 1PM around 250 asylum seekers from different cities in Switzerland arrived at the lobby.

Ahmad Ali IFIR Secretary in Switzerland opened the program by reporting back about the IFIR meeting with the UNHCR representative.

Nelly Buntschu leader of the Switzerland labour party and former mayor of Geneva spoke of solidarity with Iraqi Asylum seekers and demanded rights for all refugees.

Aso Goran IFIR Secretariat from ASOTV spoke about the continuing dangers of Iraq and Kurdistan. Jamal Koshish read out solidarity message from the worker communist party of Iraq –Switzerland branch.

Khalid Hama read out solidarity message from the worker communist party of Iran – Hekmatist

.Shamal Ahmad an asylum seeker who had been released from detention spoke about detention centre and unity of refugees and the work of IFIR.

The demonstration was covered by a number of media stations in Iraq and Kurdistan.

**'Hope And Fear' Human rights in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq**  
New report

Amnesty International: Posted: 14 April 2009

[http://www.amnesty.org.uk/news\\_details.asp?NewsID=18152](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/news_details.asp?NewsID=18152)

>>>>from page 1 Dashty speech



, how occupation troops have killed children and civilians and has brought terrorism. They will tell you how the Iraqi nation has been separated along religious and tribal lines. They will tell you they have installed a puppet government who has taken the Iraqi nation back by 200 years. They will tell you about the reintroduction of sharia law and the removal of rights for women and the removal of freedom of expression and the removal of workers rights.

They will tell you they have created a swamp in Iraq with innocent civilians caught between the USA-led violence on the one side and the Islamists on the other. Thus, the Iraqi people are trapped and the only solution is escaping the country.

Today Many European countries are saying that Iraq and Kurdistan is safe which is not true but please do not take my word for this Amnesty released a report on Tuesday 14 April regarding violations of human rights in Iraq and Kurdistan.

Millions of Iraqi refugees are living in very bad conditions in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Iran and Pakistan, and Europe. Many countries have frozen Iraqi asylum claims. After the failure of their policy saying Iraq has been 'liberated' so Iraqi asylum seekers must return.

European countries do not want to take responsibility for their failing policies of supporting the new world order system of America. They are using the asylum card for their own political agenda. Many European countries have pressured Iraqi and Kurdish asylum seekers over the last 3 years. Many asylum seekers from Iraq have been made destitute or detained like criminals and accused of being bogus asylum seekers. Several 100 Iraqi refugees have been forcibly deported to Northern Iraq and more recently Baghdad. The returned asylum seekers have been separated from their friends and families – many have partners and >>>>>

children in Europe. Once returned many of the failed asylum seekers are forced to live in hiding to avoid persecution. IFIR has also received reports of returned asylum seekers who have committed suicide.

The Iraqi government and Kurdish authorities are in favour of the forcible deportation of Iraqis and provide facilities for European countries to deport Iraqis. 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 asylum seeker and refugee issues and attempt to convince European countries that Iraq is safe for returned Iraqis. It is time to demand that all people who are fleeing from this barbarity in Iraq created by the war must have the right to asylum.

IFIR started an International campaign in February to defend the rights of Iraqi and Kurdish asylum seekers. As part of this campaign IFIR held a 2 day demonstration in Geneva in front of United Nations. As part of this action there were also support demonstrations in London and Cardiff outside the KRG offices. This campaign is supported by many human and refugee rights organisations, trade unions, MP, MEPs and political parties

We need also to start a net work around the EU countries to stop the forcible deportation policy to close down all detention centre to open the borders so all people have A right to stay right and work wherever they choose.

We need to continue blocking detention centre's when they threaten to remove asylum seekers. This has been done successfully by IFIR in Gottenburg and by other campaigners in Belgium. I would like to congratulate the campaigners who tried to block Tinsely House to stop this inhuman policy.

However to win this campaign it is essential for all human and refugee rights campaigner to work to join together across the EU countries to build a strong net work also with trade unions and political parties to support human and refugee rights together for a better life and better future.

Long live our solidarity and struggle!

**Asylum Rights are Human Rights**

**Stop Violating Refugee Rights**

## Cardiff Protest against deportations to Iraq – Friday 17 April 09



At 1pm today people gathered outside the UK Border Agency (UKBA) on Newport Road in Cardiff to protest in solidarity with the [International Federation of Iraqi Refugees](#) who have been holding a two day protest outside the United Nations office in Geneva, there was also a [solidarity protest in London yesterday](#).

Over twenty people braved the drizzling rain, hung banners, held placards and distributed over 150 copies of [a leaflet against deportations to Iraq](#) to people passing by. Several refugees from Iraq and elsewhere joined the protest and the reaction from the public was one of the most positive we've experienced, with a number stopping to express their support and beeps of support from passing cars and trucks.

A number of Police officers were waiting outside the UKBA offices and according so some people who has passed by earlier, they had been there for some time. Nevertheless, they barely acknowledged the demonstration, and beyond requesting a copy of our leaflet, left everyone alone, previous issues around where we can hang banners or where we can stand on certain bits of public land have been forgotten.

We are opposed to the entire process of deporting people due to their place of birth, but the injustice is more clear when it is to places like Iraq, a country the British government has a key hand in turning into the unsafe place it is.

For more information please see link for the report: <http://noborderswales.org.uk/2009/04/17/cardiff-protest-against-deportations-to-iraq/>

[www.federationifir.com](http://www.federationifir.com)

## Karen Johnson Branch Secretary of PCS CLG HQ Branch protest to Ban Ki Moon



The PCS CLG HQ Branch has supported the International Federation (IFIR) of Iraqi Refugees calls for an end to deportations to Iraq for two years. The Branch's members have discussed the issue of forcibly deporting Iraqi refugees twice at branch meetings, both times the members passed motions condemning Government policies of forcibly deporting Iraqi refugees back to a country still scarred by the effects of war.

The Branch fully supports the aims of the IFIR demonstrations outside the United Nations offices in Geneva calling on Ban Ki Moon Secretary General of the United Nations to honour the following demands:

1. An immediate end to the policy of enforced deportation of Iraqi Kurdish refugees by all European countries.
2. Require all European governments to recognise that previous agreements, between the Iraqi Kurdish government and European countries regarding the deportation of refugees, as invalid because their safety simply cannot be guaranteed.
3. Require the release of all Iraqi refugees from prisons and detention centres, who have been detained because of illegal entry or their leave to remain, has expired. Those who have committed a crime should be charged and tried in the country where the crime was committed not forcibly deported.
4. Demand that Kurdish and Iraqi asylum seekers, be allowed to work to support themselves and have the right to family reunion.
5. Those asylum seekers who are disabled, ill, or destitute and cannot work should be treated with compassion.
6. Asylum seekers who are destitute in countries outside Europe should be supported with health services and education or transferred to a European country.

Regards

**Stop Deportation Flight to Kurdistan**



## **Iraqi asylum seekers are a symbol of the lack of human rights in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.**



### **Dashty Jamal's speech in Geneva Demo on Saturday 17 April 2009**

On behalf of IFIR I warmly welcome you all. I would like to thank everyone who is gathered here today to support the human rights of Iraqi, Kurdish asylum seekers around the world.

IFIR started an International campaign in February to defend the rights of Iraqi and Kurdish asylum seekers. This campaign is supported by many human and refugee rights organisations, trade unions, MP, MEPs and political parties. Today we are here to say to the UN enough is enough. Iraqi asylum seekers are a symbol of the lack of human rights in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

In this building in August 1991 - 2003 agreed to put economic sanctions on Iraqi people 1000's of children and civilians died in the name of international stability

After 6 years of waging an illegal war under the slogan of 'change the regime', the American led coalition has mishandled the political, social and economic situation in Iraq. Many Iraqis have been killed in the last six years and the Iraqi government is incapable of ending the suffering of Iraqi people. Currently USA and its allies and terrorist groups implement brutal and inhumane policies in Iraq killing civilians indiscriminately. The new Iraqi government cannot provide security and safety for their citizens. USA and their allies divide the Iraqi people along national and religious lines. This is shown by an increase of sectarian violence. The quality of life for the Iraqi people is deteriorating daily. Many people are unemployed in Iraq and 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. The KDP and PUK are not able to protect Kurdish people and provide public services. Today in Iraq traffickers are crossing the borders from neighboring countries and buying Iraqi children and forcing them to work as prostitutes in neighboring countries. They have created a swamp in Iraq with innocent civilians caught between the USA-led violence on the one side and the Islamists on the other. Thus, the Iraqi people are trapped and the only solution is escaping the country.

Many European countries and even the U.N are saying that Iraqi Kurdistan is safe which is not true. The two ruling parties in Kurdistan the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan-PUK and the Kurdistan Democratic Party-KDP are authoritative and undemocratic. Kurdistan is also regularly bombarded by both Iran and Turkey, thus the Kurdish people are victims of international, regional powers and the Kurdish authorities. The de facto status in Iraqi Kurdistan is the outcome of the policies of the US and the Iraq war. The HRDB team in Iraqi Kurdistan recorded that in March 2009 53 women and 8 journalists were killed, also Amnesty released a report on Tuesday 14 April regarding violations of human rights in Iraqi Kurdistan.

The people of Kurdistan should be supported to establish a secular state, and to be free from ethnic and national oppression. Immediate steps should be taken in order to build the economy, provide social services and solve the problems of unemployment and poverty.

Instead millions of Iraqi refugees are living in very bad conditions in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Iran and Pakistan, and Europe. Many countries have frozen Iraqi asylum claims. After the failure of their policy saying Iraq has been 'liberated' so Iraqi asylum seekers must return. Many European countries have pressured Iraqi and Kurdish asylum seekers over the last 3 years. Many asylum seekers from Iraq have been made destitute or detained like criminals and accused of being bogus asylum seekers. Several 100 Iraqi refugees have been forcibly deported to Northern Iraq and more recently Baghdad. The returned asylum seekers have been separated from their friends and families – many have partners and children in Europe. . Many of the returned asylum seekers are forced to live in hiding to avoid persecution >>>>*continued on page 8*

**Support IFIR campaign against Royal Jordanian Air Line**

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>>>from page 7 dashty speech IFIR has received reports of asylum seekers who have committed suicide rather than be deported others who have been returned have been kidnapped or killed in car bombs.

The Iraqi government and Kurdish authorities are in favour of the forcible deportation of Iraqis and provide facilities for European countries to deport Iraqis. 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 asylum seeker and refugee issues and attempt to convince European countries that Iraq is safe for deporting Iraqis. Instead of supporting the Iraqi refugees and asylum seekers, the Iraqi government and Kurdish authorities are in favor of the inhumane policies of deportation and have done their best to provide facilities and signed agreements with the European countries. The International Federation of Iraqi Refugees has uncovered a secret agreement between the Iraq Government and some European countries to accept returned asylum seekers. It is time to demand all people who are fleeing from this barbarity in Iraq created by occupation and war must have the right to asylum. Yet the United Nations is silent on these issues. Finally the International Federation of the Iraqi Refugees calls upon the United Nations to comply with the following sixes demands.

IFIR Thanks you for joining us today, we are not alone a number of human and refugee rights organizations, trade unions and political parties support our campaign.

However to win this campaign it is essential for asylum seekers to join together with human and refugee rights organizations, trade unions and political parties to support human and refugee rights together.

Long live our struggle!

Long live universal rights of human beings!

**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.**